

*Concept Paper*

**CLMVT Forum 2018:  
CLMVT Taking-Off Through Technology  
(Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand)**

Date: 16 - 17 August 2018

Venue: 22<sup>nd</sup> floor, Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld, Bangkok, Thailand

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**CLMVT: Asia's Growth Engine**

A region bustling with opportunities, the CLMVT countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand) have continued to welcome and enjoy rapid economic development. With a combined population of 240 million, average per capita income of 2,411 USD and average annual GDP growth rate of 6.28 percent in 2017, the CLMVT region has unceasingly emerged as a region packed with great potential and countless exciting opportunities. Against the backdrop of the global economic uncertainties, the CLMVT countries have continued to strengthen the unity to embrace any new challenges that threaten the development of the region.

**CLMVT: Preparing for Now and the Future**

With the great success of the CLMVT Forum 2016: Towards a Shared Prosperity, the Ministry of Commerce of the Kingdom of Thailand, in collaboration with the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, the Ministry of Culture, the Board of Investment of Thailand, Bangkok Metropolis, and the Mekong Institute are now excited to organize “**The CLMVT Forum 2018: CLMVT Taking-Off Through Technology**” from 16-17 August 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. The main objective of the Forum is to strengthen our shared prosperity in line with sustainable development principle and to build regional networks among top business people, new entrepreneurs, leading policy makers, academics and younger generations of the CLMVT countries relevant to this disruptive world.

Guided by the main theme “**CLMVT Taking-off Through Technology**”, the Forum will focus on areas which form the most pressing and relevant themes to future development of CLMVT.

**Technology to Change Trade and investment**

Among many considerable challenges, arguably the most momentous ones will come from the technological revolution, characterized by the rise of digital technologies, leading to unprecedented transformative and paradigm shifts in the economy, businesses and society. Inside of the above formidable challenges lie great opportunities in using digital technologies to enhance connectivity within the region. This is especially relevant to SMEs, startups, and young entrepreneurs who stand to gain considerably as they are very resilient and adaptive to changes. In this regard, to help businesses take advantage of the technological disruption, among the key issues that need to be explored are rapidly changing ecosystem for digital trade and the use of e-commerce.

**1. Digital Trade Ecosystem: What Needs to be Done?**

Traditionally, business ecosystem is a community of players operating within a particular business environment, who collaborate in an economic web of relations in their respective line of business. It is generally made up of the network of parties (players) involving in the activity of buying, selling, and delivery of products; namely, suppliers, distributors, as well as customers and competitors. With the rise of digital trade, a seamless operational flow of products and services transaction is enabled through electronic processes, or over the internet. As a result, each CLMVT countries must be well-prepared with physical and digital infrastructure, as well as digital literacy, in order to enhance an efficient and smooth operation of e-commerce, e-logistics, and e-payment.

**2. From Offline to Online: CLMVT Opportunities in Trade and Investment through Digital Platform**

Through digital platform, trade channels and pattern of trade will be shifted from offline to online and omni-channels. CLMVT countries must be ready to facilitate and support entrepreneurs at all walks of lives, particularly SMEs and young entrepreneurs, to leverage the digital transformation. In this session, prominent business leaders as well as ministers of Trade, Industry, Science and Technology (Or Digital Economy) from each CLMVT countries will thus present their views on (1) how the private sector can utilize e-commerce and digital platform in the fast-changing environment; (2) the looming impacts of the technology on the present and the future of trade; and (3) recent examples of best

practices in selling and marketing techniques in the digital era, as well as big data analysis, especially in relation to customer demand.

### **Technology to Change Life and Young Generation**

To realize maximum mutual benefits and achieve sustainable shared prosperity under the era of disruptive technologies, it is critical that the CLMVT countries exert more efforts to promote Inclusive Economy. Moreover, as the push for more inclusive growth gains momentum around the world, it is imperative that our young entrepreneurs are encouraged to adopt inclusive business practice at the outset of their career. To ensure that all CLMVT members are well adjusted to the fast-paced technological transformation, two key areas; enhancing technological capabilities of SMEs and startups as well as embracing digital technologies to promote creative economy, must be addressed.

#### **1. SMEs and Startups: Time to Reap the Benefits of Technological Transformations**

Today, business environment has changed as results of new wave of technologies. SMEs, startups, and young entrepreneurs, as the key drivers of the CLMVT economies, are increasingly under pressure to adopt new technologies, not only to enhance competitiveness and their integration into global market, but also to create value and better livelihood for all stakeholders in their value chains. This Roundtable Discussion features representatives from some of the most remarkable tech startups and successful SMEs from CLMVT and non-CLMVT countries who will share their experiences on how to successfully integrate new technologies into their businesses and production networks.

#### **2. Creative Economy: Creativity in the Digital Age for Economic Inclusion**

The role of culture and creativity in generating innovation and economic growth can never be overemphasized. Notwithstanding its disruptive impact on the creative industry, the digital technologies, when combined with creativity and cultural diversity, can potentially change the way creative industry generates innovation and growth and improve standard of living of millions of people at an unprecedented level. The Roundtable Discussion brings together some of successful businesses in the creative industry to share their ideas and inspirations on how creative industry can take advantage of digital technologies to emerge as the next engine of growth and economic development like never before.

### **Bringing Together the Top Minds of CLMVT**

The CLMVT Forum 2018 is an invitation-only event that will bring together prominent business people, “tycoons,” from each of the CLMVT countries together with young or new entrepreneurs, top policymakers in trade, investment and digital technology and leading academics. Most of the sessions will be conducted in the informal atmosphere to stimulate candid discussion and participation as much as possible. It aims to become an annual event where “the Top Minds” can meet, brainstorm, share ideas and network together for a better future of the CLMVT region and beyond.

### **Contacts**

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