

MESSAGE FROM 2022 CO-CHAIRS OF AMRO'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



2022 Co-chairs of the Executive Committee

Ros Seilava, *Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Cambodia (top left)* | Sum Sannisith, *Deputy Governor, National Bank of Cambodia (top right)* | Dongwei Wang, *Vice Minister, Ministry of Finance, China (bottom left)* | Changneng Xuan, *Deputy Governor, People's Bank of China (bottom right)*

2022 has been a year of ups and downs for the ASEAN+3 region. After two and a half years of online meetings, the re-opening of travel borders enabled us to convene some meetings in-person and reunite. Even as we celebrated our ability to reconnect face-to-face again, we had to meet in a time of emerging structural challenges arising from climate change, ageing and financial digitalization, as well as grapple with headwinds from global financial tightening and geopolitical tensions.

Although the ASEAN+3 region remains a bright spot in the global economy, the inter-connected nature of the global economy means that we are not immune from these headwinds. This reinforces the importance of multilateral collaboration to ensure open channels of communication so that we can cooperate to tackle challenges together, especially in times of uncertainty.

The ASEAN+3 finance process, which serves as the key platform for regional financial collaboration, has been crucial in advancing cooperation and facilitating candid dialogue between ASEAN+3 finance ministries and central banks. Cambodia and China, as Co-chairs of the ASEAN+3 finance process in 2022, extend our deepest appreciation to AMRO for supporting us during our co-chairmanship.

As the region's macroeconomic surveillance unit, AMRO's mission is to monitor the ASEAN+3 economic outlook, as well as the economic and financial "health" of its member economies. This work takes on an added urgency as headwinds assail our region. AMRO's timely updates on key developments and topical issues have been helpful in informing us on key risks and vulnerabilities. We also commend AMRO's efforts to advocate for policy issues critical to the region, in particular its paper titled [Capital Flow Management and Macroprudential Policy Measures in the ASEAN+3](#). We encourage AMRO to continue formulating policy positions on issues of common interest to better project the ASEAN+3 region's voice onto the global stage.

Besides surveillance, AMRO is also tasked with supporting our RFA—that is, the CMIM. In this regard, we thank AMRO for providing intellectual and operational support to strengthen the CMIM, as a key component of the global financial safety net (GFSN). With AMRO's strong support, several achievements were made in 2022. These included our adoption of a new reference rate for CMIM liquidity support arrangements to align with global financial market conventions, the approval of the updated CMIM Operational Guidelines (OG) on the use of third-party local currencies for CMIM arrangements, establishment of a framework to assess peacetime LCY demand, the successful conclusion of the 13th CMIM test run conducted jointly with the IMF, the approval of a revamped CMIM-PL that allows for swap line renewability, and intellectual support to members reflected through knowledge products, such as staff discussion notes on RFA-related issues and CMIM bulletins.

This year, we welcomed the efforts of AMRO's expanded TA team to scale up its capacity-building programs, thanks to the new tranches of financial contributions from China, Japan, and Korea. In the face of emerging challenges, ASEAN+3 members will require capacity building in various new areas, and we encourage AMRO to continue to be nimble and adapt its programs to better cater to ASEAN+3 members' evolving needs.

We observed AMRO's tireless efforts to expand its networks and raise its visibility to establish itself as the region's authoritative surveillance unit throughout the year. Key achievements included the launch of AMRO's inaugural *ASEAN+3 Economic Cooperation and Financial Stability Forum*, the enhanced and formalized collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, as well as participation as an Observer in the *ASEAN+3 Leaders' Summit*, *G20 IFA Working Group*, and the *NGFS*. We expect AMRO to continue to build up its strategic partnerships network and leverage on these relationships to better support its members and the ASEAN+3 region.

We also witnessed the smooth transition of AMRO's senior management team in 2022. We welcome Dr. Li, who joined the AMRO family in May 2022. Following the assumption of his Directorship, Dr. Li has led AMRO in introducing a bold, new vision for the next decade. AMRO's SD2030, which was approved by its Executive Committee¹ (EC) in December, provides a blueprint to build a stronger AMRO to better serve the region in view of the evolving external environment.

In particular, it elevates AMRO's mandate to contribute not only to macroeconomic and financial stability, but also to the resilience of the region. It comprises an implementation plan to enhance AMRO's standing as a RKH for ASEAN+3 and the initiative to establish the AFTN. We are confident that under Dr. Li's leadership, AMRO will continue to cement its role as a trusted policy advisor to its members, elevate its profile as a thought leader with global influence, and play a pivotal role in the ASEAN+3 Finance Process.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of ASEAN+3 members, Cambodia and China would like to thank outgoing Director, Mr. Doi, for his service and unwavering commitment to deepen ASEAN+3 financial cooperation during his tenure. Despite taking the reins during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Doi demonstrated great leadership and competently pivoted AMRO's focus to address the COVID-19 situation and assist us in navigating the fallout from the pandemic.

As Co-chairs, we have worked to ensure that the flame of ASEAN+3 cooperation continues to burn bright, and we know that this flame will burn even more brightly as we pass the mantle of the co-chairmanship to the 2023 Co-chairs—Indonesia and Japan. Although dealing with the challenges ahead will not be easy, our ASEAN+3 region has proven resilient in the face of adversity. We have learnt from our past and have collectively built stronger fundamentals to safeguard our common interests. Together we are stronger, and we look forward to the continued deepening of our region's financial cooperation in the year ahead.

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¹The Executive Committee consists of the Deputies of AMRO's member economies and is responsible for maintaining strategic oversight of and setting policy directions for AMRO. Each AMRO member may appoint up to two Deputies: one finance deputy from its government with responsibility for finance and one central bank deputy from its central bank or its equivalent.