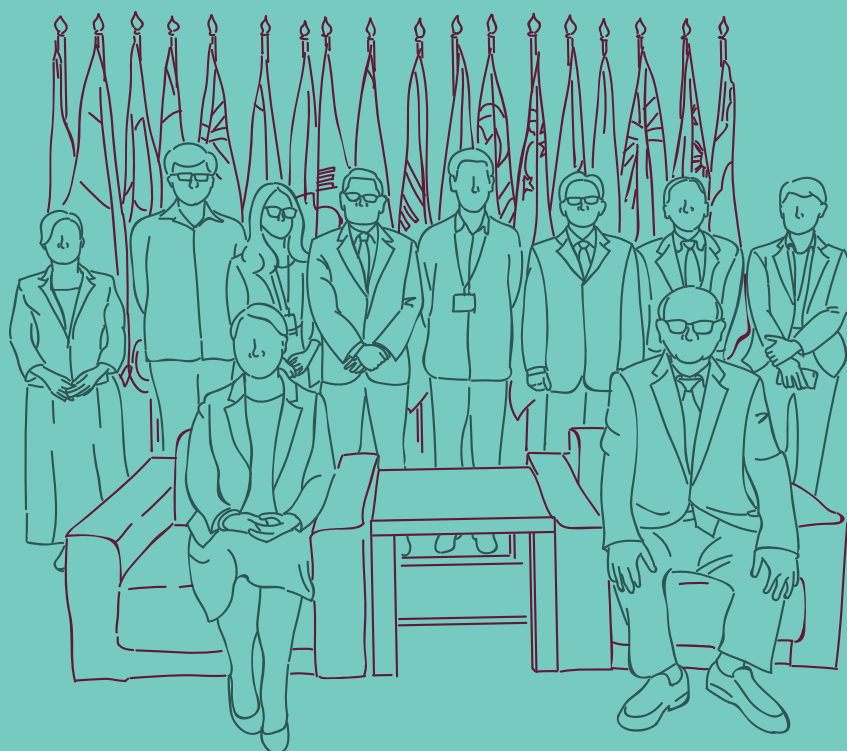




2018 Work Priorities

CHAPTER 3: LEVERAGING RESOURCES TO FOSTER REGIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



Since the official launch of its TA Program in 2016, AMRO continues to strengthen ASEAN+3 member authorities' macroeconomic surveillance capacities, facilitate knowledge sharing among member authorities and other international organizations, as well as capitalize on synergies with other TA providers. Making steady progress since the beginning, the TA Program has entered into full-fledged implementation stage. TA support, made possible by generous contributions from the Ministry of Finance of China (CMOF), the Ministry of Finance of Japan (JMOF), and the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Korea (KMOEF) into AMRO's TA Trust Funds, has been delivered to member authorities based on their requests and in consistency with AMRO's mission.

PROGRESS UNDER THE TA PROGRAM

Secondment Program and Expanded Secondment Program

In 2018, AMRO hosted a record-high number of secondees from member authorities through its Secondment Program and Expanded Secondment Program (ESP). Specifically, AMRO received 11 secondees from central banks and/or finance ministries of Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam for its Secondment Program. Meanwhile, under the ESP program, AMRO received four secondees from the Monetary Authority of Singapore, Bank of Korea, Hong Kong Monetary Authority, and Ministry of Finance of China. The programs have proven to be mutually beneficial as these secondees

were not only able to contribute their knowledge and expertise on macroeconomic surveillance and regional financial cooperation issues during their time in AMRO, but were also exposed to macroeconomic surveillance methodology, and given opportunities to experience and observe how missions are conducted from AMRO's perspective. This on-the-job training with AMRO in the areas of surveillance, CMIM support, and coordination related work enabled them to diversify their skill set.

The secondees were also encouraged to attend relevant training courses on macroeconomics and finance organized by the IMF-Singapore Regional Training Institute (STI) and other institutions as well as other seminars and conferences held both in Singapore and overseas.



MESSAGES FROM SECONDEES OF AMRO'S SECONDMENT PROGRAM IN 2018

Name: Mya Hnin Wai Pwint

Home Office Job Title: Deputy Director

Home Organization: Ministry of Planning and Finance (MOPF) of Myanmar

TA Duration: September 2017 to August 2018

The year at AMRO provided me with a valuable opportunity to upgrade my critical thinking, research methodology, communication, and time management skills. What I learnt went beyond my expectations. AMRO also equipped me with greater technical skills, enabling me to analyse a country's economy and evaluate a country's development, as well as sharpened my capability in policy implementation. Overall, my experience from this secondment had been positive – it enables me to serve my department better upon my return.

With a better understanding of risks and vulnerabilities assessment, formulation of relevant policy recommendations, and country economic growth analysis, I am confident that I will be able to apply what I acquired from AMRO to my current role, as well as my future career at the MOPF in an effective way.

Name: Truong Thanh Ha

Home Office Job Title: Principal Official

Home Organization: Ministry of Finance of Vietnam

TA Duration: September 2017 to October 2018

Thanks to AMRO and the Japanese Government's financial support of the AMRO's secondment program, I had a fourteen-month secondment at AMRO from September 2017 to October 2018. This was a great chance for me to work in an international organization. I had the opportunity to participate in macroeconomic surveillance activities as I joined the annual consultation visits to Brunei, Korea and Vietnam. This helped me better understand macro-economic surveillance, and risks and vulnerabilities assessments, as well as what provision of relevant policy recommendations for each economy is about. I was also able to enhance my critical thinking and analytical skills during my time in AMRO. These experiences will definitely help me to be more effective and professional in my work at the Ministry of Finance of Vietnam.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to AMRO Director, Chief Economist, Group Heads (especially Dr Luke Hong and Dr Sumio Ishikawa), colleagues and consultants for sharing their knowledge and experience and providing professional guidance. They helped me significantly in my conduct of research. My time in AMRO also provided me with a better understanding of the diverse cultures and lifestyles of each country in our ASEAN+3 family. What impressed me the most is the non-stop and professional working attitude of all AMRO staff, which I highly appreciate.

Ms Mya Hnin Wai Pwint (fourth from left) and Ms Truong Thanh Ha (fifth from left) pose with the AMRO TA Specialist Mr Kazuo Kobayashi and other secondees in joining AMRO in 2018.



Consultancy Program

In 2018, AMRO completed a project for the Ministry of Finance of Lao PDR, supporting its development of an English website. In addition, following a request from the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Cambodia, AMRO is currently working with the Ministry's officials to improve the collection and analysis of real estate transactions in the country. The project is making steady progress.



Research Collaboration Program

Since the launch of AMRO's Research Collaboration Program (RCP) in July 2017, several studies have been conducted. These projects included "Prospects of Local Currencies' Usage in Asia" and "Network of International Capital Flows and Shock Transmission: The Case of the ASEAN+3 Region". These studies, which have inspired deliberation among members, were made possible with AMRO's TA trust fund.

Other Training Programs and Conferences

In May 2018, AMRO hosted a Joint Working Seminar for CLMV members in Danang, Vietnam, with support from the Ministry of Finance of Vietnam, the State Bank of Vietnam, and the Ministry of Finance of Japan. The Seminar, joined by ADB and the IMF, aimed to provide an open platform for CLMV officials and experts to exchange views on important issues for CLMV members, particularly on how to maintain resilience and growth in a changing world, as well as ways to enhance collaboration with other international organizations.

In September 2018, AMRO hosted the AMRO Working Committee (AWC)/CMIM Task Force Members' Retreat in Seoul, Korea. At the Retreat, AMRO updated progress of the study on Local Currency Contribution to the CMIM, the Future Direction of CMIM and AMRO's Performance Evaluation and Communications Initiatives.

AMRO remains committed to manage its TA Program effectively and efficiently to further enhance ASEAN+3 member authorities' macroeconomic surveillance capacity as well as promote AMRO's surveillance, research and CMIM activities.

AMRO Lead Specialist Dr. Seung Hyun (Luke) Hong speaks at the Joint Working Seminar on "Capacity Building in CLMV Economies" in May 2018 in Danang, Vietnam. The seminar serves as an open platform for CLMV officials, experts from international financial institutions and academics, to exchange views on important issues for CLMV members.

