Global South-South Development Expo 2018 Thematic Solutions Forum 8:
Private Sector Partnerships for Sustainable and Inclusive South-South Cooperation

29 November 2018, 13.30-14.50 hrs, Conference Room 1
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Co-organised by
The Asia Foundation, UN Office for South-South Cooperation (Asia-Pacific) and UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

Co-sponsored by
The Royal Thai Government and the Government of Singapore

High-Level Opening

H.E. Mr. Vitavas Srivihok
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations

Mr. Jorge Chediek
Envoy of the Secretary-General for South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

H.E. Mr Burhan Gafoor
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations

Mr. Elliott Harris
Assistant Secretary General, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

Members of the Panel

Mr. Cholanat Yanaranop
Executive Vice President, Siam Cement PLC (SCG) President, SCG Chemicals and Chairman of SCG Group Sustainability Committee

Ms. Hee Kyung Min
Executive Vice President, CJ Group, Republic of Korea

Moderator: Ms. Anthea Mulakala
Director for International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation

Mr. Roland Mollerus
Chief, Secretariat of the Committee for Development Policy, UNDESA

Ms. Linda Yang
Executive Chairperson, Yingke Global Board and Global Partner, Yingke International, China

Ms. Shanaaz Preenaz
Group Director on Women Advocacy, Mas Holding, Sri Lanka
Global South-South Development (GSSD Expo) 2018 Thematic Solution Forum 8

“Private Sector Partnerships for Inclusive and Sustainable South-South Cooperation”

29 November 2018, Conference Room 1, United Nations Headquarters, New York

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I. Introduction

The Second High-Level UN Conference for South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina in March 2019. A critical shift is the increasing recognition that achieving sustainable development requires multi-stakeholder partnerships for success.

As Asia-Pacific South-South cooperation expands in scale and scope, the private-sector has assumed a larger role, with significant impacts in addressing global regional, national and community development challenges. The GSSD Expo 2018 provides an opportunity to deepen understanding and expansion of the potential of these partnerships.

II. Objectives and Thematic Focus

Asian private-sector companies and corporations have played a significant role in Asian-led economic cooperation for decades. Public-private partnerships, often facilitated by Asian states, have supported partner countries in developing infrastructure and extracting resources.

Alongside the massive infrastructure investments, Asian-born companies have altered traditional ways of doing business, bringing new technologies and innovation to markets, and creating additional jobs and opportunities that have brought millions out of poverty.

The role of the private sector in Asian-led South-South cooperation has evolved. As Asian companies become part of the “development cooperation” equation with partner countries, they increasingly look for ways to improve the social impact of their investments. Business is no longer seen as peripheral to discussions on how to reduce poverty and create positive community impact. Rather, Asian companies have expanded their exploration of responsible investment, corporate social responsibility activities, and shared-value strategies through their foreign direct investment (FDI) and South-South cooperation. Shared-value strategies have both social and business value, advancing economic competitiveness while at the same time addressing social and development challenges.

Thematic Solution Forum 8 presents and analyses cases that reveal how the Asia-Pacific private sector is addressing sustainable development in the region, forging innovative partnerships and restyling the form and practice of Asian development cooperation as these partnerships evolve.
III. Format and Scope of Discussion

The 80-minute session will start with brief opening session led by high-level representatives from the Royal Thai Government, the Government of Singapore as Co-Sponsors, UNOSSC and UNDESA. The open debate will be Davos-style and private sector-led featuring panellists from Asia’s private sector and a UN representative. The discussion will be moderated by the Asia Foundation.

IV. Programme

13.30-13.40 hrs High-Level Opening Session

- Mr. Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General for South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
- H.E. Mr. Vitavas Srivihok, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr Burhan Gafoor, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations
- Mr. Elliot Harris, Assistant Secretary-General, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) (VDO Presence)

13.40-14.30 hrs Open-debate by the Panel:

Moderator: Anthea Mulakala, Director for International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation.

- Mr. Cholanat Yanaranop, Executive Vice President, Siam Cement PLC (SCG), President, SCG Chemicals and Chairman of SCG Group Sustainability Committee, Thailand
- Ms. Hee Kyung Min, Executive Vice President, CJ Group Republic of Korea
- Ms. Linda Yang, Executive Chairperson of Yingke Global Board of Directors, Global Partner, Yinke International, China
- Ms. Shanaaz Preenaz, Group Director on Women Advocacy Mas Holding, Sri Lanka
- Mr. Roland Mollerus, Chief, Secretariat of the Committee for Development Policy, UNDESA

14.30-14.45 hrs Questions and Answers

14.45-14.50 hrs Wrap-up and Closing

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