

Statement on Annual Meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Technical Assistance Office in Thailand (TAOLAM)

The beneficiary countries of the IMF's Technical Assistance Office in Thailand (TAOLAM) continue to utilize capacity development (CD) resources effectively under technical assistance (TA) and training projects aimed at strengthening macroeconomic frameworks, monetary and fiscal operations, and macro-statistics in support of country reform priorities. In the five years since TAOLAM was established, overall progress in these areas has been strong, but looking ahead, CD needs are expected to remain significant in support of sustained economic growth and further economic integration.

TAOLAM's Advisory Committee Meeting highlighted these developments at its annual meeting on January 18, 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, hosted by the Bank of Thailand and chaired by Assistant Governor Chantavarn Sucharitakul (agenda attached). It brought together representatives from the core beneficiary countries (Cambodia, Lao P.D.R., Myanmar, and Vietnam, or the CLMV), main development partners (Government of Japan and Bank of Thailand), observers (Japan International Cooperation Agency and the European Union), and the IMF, including TAOLAM's expert advisors.

Committee members recognized the progress made in strengthening technical and institutional capacity in the region. Requests for new CD support were expressed by each beneficiary country through their representatives from central banks and ministries of finance, with a clear recognition of the importance of result-driven outcomes. To this end, members broadly endorsed an overall strategy for enhancing TAOLAM's traction through more systematic TA work plans and closer integration of CD with IMF surveillance recommendations. They also welcomed other new ways to enhance the effectiveness of CD delivery, including more customized training and skill-building for local trainers.

The Committee agreed to continue discussion on a possible name change to TAOLAM and new partnerships, reflective of the expansion of countries benefiting from CD projects and still sizable TA and training needs. It further endorsed the publication later this year of a summary report on TAOLAM's activities aimed at raising external awareness of both the resources provided for and the results achieved in CD in the region.

Background

TAOLAM, located in Bangkok, Thailand, was established in 2012. It provides capacity development in several core areas of expertise at the IMF: public financial management, monetary and exchange rate operations, macroeconomic management, and external sector and government finance statistics. TAOLAM's activities are supported by the Government of Japan and the Bank of Thailand.



**Fourth Advisory Committee Meeting
of the IMF Technical Assistance Office in Thailand
(TAOLAM)**



**Bank of Thailand, Bangkok
Meeting Agenda, January 18, 2018**

Thursday, January 18 (Main Meeting: Bank of Thailand)

8:30 am to 9:00 am	Arrival and Registration Venue: Bank of Thailand, Building No.2, Second Floor, Panya Phaisarn Room
9:00 am to 9:15 am	Welcome Remarks and Meeting Opening Mrs. Chantavarn Sucharitakul – Assistant Governor, Bank of Thailand, and Chairperson of the Fourth TAOLAM Advisory Committee Meeting
9:15 am to 9:30 am	Overview of the IMF’s Capacity Development Strategy in the Asia-Pacific Region Mr. Odd Per Brekk – Deputy Director, Asia and Pacific Department (APD), IMF
9:30 am to 10:30 am	Session 1: TAOLAM Activities and Performance in 2017 Mr. David Cowen – Director, TAOLAM, IMF (lead presentation) Mr. Holger van Eden – Regional Public Financial Management (PFM) Advisor, TAOLAM, IMF Mr. Teruhide Kanada – Government Finance Statistics Advisor, TAOLAM, IMF Mr. Jun Iwasaki – Monetary and Foreign Exchange Operations Advisor, TAOLAM, IMF Mr. Vladimir Klyuev – Macroeconomic Advisor, TAOLAM, IMF Ms. Angsupalee Wacharakiat – External Sector Statistics Advisor, TAOLAM, IMF
10:30 am to 11:00 am	Coffee break and group photograph
11:00 am to 11:30 am	Session 2: Partner Priorities for TAOLAM Mr. Toshiyuki Miyoshi – Director, International Organizations Division, International Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan Mrs. Alisara Mahasandana – Senior Director, International Department, Bank of Thailand
11:30 am to 12:30 pm	Session 3: Discussion Issue: Projects and Delivery Representatives from the beneficiary countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam) Lao PDR: Dr. Bounleua Sinxayvoravong – Director General, Ministry of Finance, and Mr. Viengkhone Khathoumphon – Director, Bank of Lao P.D.R. Myanmar: Ms. Thida Tun – Deputy Director General, Ministry of Planning and Finance, and Ms. Moe Moe Than – Deputy Director, Central Bank of Myanmar Cambodia: Mr. Narith Chan – Deputy Director General, Ministry of Economy and Finance, and Mr. Channarith Meng – Deputy Director, National Bank of Cambodia Vietnam: Ms. Nguyen Thi Tra Vy – Division Head, State Bank of Vietnam, and Ms. Nguyen Da Linh – Deputy Division Head, Ministry of Finance
12:30 pm to 2:00 pm	Lunch – Fifth Floor, Building 2, Bank of Thailand
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Session 4: Discussion Issue: Planning and Results Mr. Andrea Salerno – Technical Assistance Officer, Institute for Capacity Development (ICD), IMF (lead presentation) Ms. He Qi – Advisor, Statistics Department, IMF Mr. Rifaat Basanti – Project Manager, Statistics Department, IMF Mr. Hunter Monroe – Senior Economist, Monetary and Capital Markets Department, IMF Mr. Holger van Eden – Regional PFM Advisor, TAOLAM and Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF <i>Open discussion</i>
3:00 pm to 3:15 pm	Coffee break
3:15 pm to 4:15 pm	Session 5: Discussion Issue: Regional Focus and Partnerships Mr. Stephan Danninger, Director, IMF-Singapore Regional Training Institute (STI), ICD Mr. Siegfried Steinlein, Deputy Head, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (OAP), IMF Mr. David Cowen, Director, TAOLAM <i>Open discussion</i>
4:15 pm to 4:30 pm	Summary remarks and closing