

JANUARY 2022

Monthly Newsletter

ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook (AREO) Update | Brunei Darussalam Annual Consultation Report | The ABCs of CBDCs and ASEAN+3 Developments | COVID-19 Pandemic Policies: Assessing the Vulnerability of ASEAN+3 Economies to Exit Risks



In January, AMRO published the quarterly update of the ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook 2022 and Annual Consultation Report on Brunei Darussalam. In addition, we also published three analytical notes on the policy challenges for China's carbon neutrality, central bank digital currencies in ASEAN+3, and on the recent divergence of China's PPI and CPI inflation.

AMRO is one of the supporting organizations of the SMU-IFA David R Tillinghast Global Taxation Conference 2022 to be held on February 17-18. Group Head and Lead Economist, Dr. Seung Hyun (Luke) Hong will be discussing the use of tax incentives in ASEAN to promote growth. Register here.

We wish you a fruitful 2022 and a happy year of the Tiger!



AMRO released the quarterly update of the ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook (AREO). AMRO's latest projections leave broadly unchanged GDP growth for China, Hong Kong, Japan and Korea; with the projections for 6 of the 10 ASEAN economies revised only slightly downward.

Read the AREO Update report <u>here</u>. Read the press release <u>here</u>.



Brunei Darussalam's economy should recover moderately by 2.1% in 2021, after a slower but still positive growth in 2020. Supported by higher oil earnings, the country's re-tightening of containment measures and extension of support measures should help cushion the economic impact of the current wave of COVID-19 infections.

Read the Annual Consultation Report $\underline{\text{here.}}$ Read the press release $\underline{\text{here.}}$



China has committed to peak its carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. This note analyzes the policy challenges in China's carbon neutrality transition, and explores the technological and economic feasibility toward a carbon-free economy.

Read the analytical note here.



Several central banks in the ASEAN+3 region have made significant progress on the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) front, and are at various stages of progress with their respective projects. This note examines the motivations behind central bank interest in CBDCs, and provides a comprehensive primer on the key features of this financial instrument.

Read the analytical note here.



China's producer price index (PPI) and consumer price index (CPI) inflation diverged in 2015-2016 and again in 2021. This note explores the main drivers behind the different trajectories of PPI and CPI inflation, and whether the divergence should be a concern.

Read the analytical note here.



As the pandemic becomes more manageable, smooth and orderly withdrawals from support policies will become a priority. This paper proposes a "vulnerability to exit risks" framework, based on seven key metrics, and assesses when ASEAN+3 economies could potentially start to unwind pandemic support to business and individuals.

Read the working paper here.

COMMENTARIES



Brunei Darussalam has identified fintech as a key driver in increasing the contribution of the country's financial sector to 8% of GDP by 2035. In this blog, AMRO Associate Economist Vanne Khut and Associate Yuthan Chea explore how the country can achieve this goal.

Read the blog here.



Brunei Darussalam's economy is less diversified than other resource-rich countries, and depends heavily on developments in the oil and gas sector. In this op-ed, AMRO Economist Dr. Andrew Tsang explains what the country can do to diversify its revenue sources and build economic resilience.

Read the op-ed here.

EVENT



AMRO is one of the supporting organizations of the SMU-IFA David R Tillinghast Global Digital Taxation Conference on February 17-18. AMRO Group Head and Lead Economist Dr. Seung Hyun (Luke) Hong will deliver a presentation on the use of tax incentives in ASEAN to promote growth.

Read more about the event and register here.

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