International Conference
“TOWARDS THE 2015 ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (AEC):
PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS”
13-14 June 2014,
UPH, Jakarta, Indonesia

Conference focus
Agreed by ASEAN Leaders at their 13th ASEAN Summit in 2007 and subject to an accelerated timetable since 2009, an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) aims to be established in 2015. ASEAN member States have registered considerable progress in implementing the AEC Blueprint. To date, members have implemented roughly three quarters of the steps agreed with a view to transform ASEAN into a region with free movement of goods, services, investment, skilled labor and the freer flow of capital. Implementation of the AEC Blueprint has contributed to significant trade- and FDI-led region-wide expansion, fuelling the region’s economic dynamism and inserting producers in regional and global value chains at a time of heightened global uncertainties. The ASEAN region remains the most trade-oriented among the major regional integration areas linking developing countries, with continued high reliance on foreign direct investment (FDI) as a driver of the trade and economic growth agendas in the region.

However, continued overdependence on uncertain external demand creates risks and vulnerabilities and policy-makers need to pay close attention to reducing development and income gaps within and between countries in the region whilst also ensuring that regional connectivity continued to rise through the adequate supply of regional public goods. With only two years left until the AEC is to be established, ASEAN Member States face the fundamental challenge of ensuring synergy between the AEC Blueprint and the pursuit of national economic reforms.

This conference, organized in partnership between the Universitas Pelita Harapan (Jakarta), the Foreign Trade University (Hanoi) and the World Trade Institute at the University of Bern under the framework of the SECO-funded academic cooperation project entitled “Regional competence centers of international trade law and policy”, offers a platform for informed scholarship and stocktaking from the region and beyond on the challenges, roadblocks and prospects that the ASEAN region faces on the way to realizing its 2015 AEC aims. The conference will be hosted by UPH in Jakarta on 13-14 June 2014 and an edited volume featuring the best papers presented at the conference will be published jointly by the three academic partners.
Submit abstract and full paper
• An extended paper abstract (up to 2 pages) must be submitted in English describing the paper’s research aims. All submitted abstracts will be peer reviewed by a dedicated team of scholars from the three host universities. Authors with accepted abstracts will be asked to develop their abstracts into full papers. Submissions must be made via email to aecconference@ftu.edu.vn.

Conference participation
We welcome conference participation from all authors with an accepted abstract.
• Accommodation and travel expenses will be funded for a limited number of participants.

Timeline
• Deadline for extended paper abstracts: 15 February 2014
• Notification of acceptance/ rejection: 7 March 2014
• Deadline for submission of first drafts: 26 May 2014
• Notification of presentation: by 1 June 2014

We look forward to your paper submission and participation at the conference.