

# Financial Service Trade: RCEP Building Blocks

EABC RCEP Business Stakeholders' Consultations & Dialogue with the RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee  
Session 2: Market Access and Non-Tariff Barriers for Services and Investments

Thaweelap Rittapirom

Director & Executive Vice President, Bangkok Bank Public Company Limited  
and The Thai Bankers' Association Representative

Arnoma Room, Arnoma Grand Hotel Bangkok, Thailand: July 23, 2018



# Key Factors to Consider

- Prudential measures will still be an issue. Regulators are unlikely to loosen their grip on policy space.
- Capital market activities are gaining momentum. Opportunities are open for non-banking service firms together with competition.
- Technology disruption is impacting traditional finance. More challenges are for banks, some are reassessing their business model.
- Digital trade will soon occupy the top agenda of trade negotiation.



# Observations on Current Status

- ASEAN integration is still underway but more work need to be done. ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement or ATISA is encouraging and it needs a collective effort.
- For banking, Qualified ASEAN Bank or QAB scheme has made some progress but realization of benefits and perhaps, action is still a challenge.
- Common agreement on data economy is still needed.
- Engagement with stakeholders is still limited.



# Proposal to RCEP TNC

- Technology advancement is blurring certain sub sectors of finance – the negative list approach may face stronger headwind.
- Of all four modes, cross-border service may be the most optimal for many to operate – common and agreed policies on taxing and regulating should be discussed. Perhaps, a working group to study should be explored.
- Against the looming trade war, window is now open for RCEP to reinforce the multilateralism. Concrete results are thus expected.



Thank You

