

**WELCOME REMARKS BY
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FOR
ASEAN FINANCIAL INTEGRATION FRAMEWORK (AFIF)
CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES:
2ND SEACEN WORKSHOP ON BEST PRACTICES IN LEARNING SOLUTIONS AND
IDENTIFICATION OF LEARNING NEEDS FOR 2014 AND BEYOND
*Sasana Kijang, Kuala Lumpur, 20-21 January 2014***

Mr. Shinji Kawai, Senior Financial Sector Specialist (Banking), Office of Regional Economic Integration, Asian Development Bank

Distinguished Subject Matter Experts (SME)

Participants from BCLMV Countries

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning!

On behalf of The SEACEN Centre, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you to the **'2nd SEACEN Workshop on Best Practices in Learning Solutions and Identification of Learning Needs for 2014 and Beyond'**.

First of all, please allow me to express our deepest appreciation to Mr. Shinji Kawai, Senior Financial Specialist (Banking), Office of Regional Economic Integration, Asian Development Bank for taking time away from his busy schedule to share with us AFIF Goals and Capacity Building Initiatives. We would also like to convey our gratitude to ASEC for funding this workshop.

We are fortunate to have with us a list of distinguished subject matter experts (SME) who have travelled from far and near to share their wealth of knowledge, expertise and professional experience with participants in this Workshop. With their assistance, I am confident that our participants would be able to achieve the objective of this Workshop. Our heartfelt thanks go to all our SMEs and their respective central banks for their unstinting support and invaluable contribution to this Workshop.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to share with you some of my thoughts on the importance of this Asian Financial Integration Framework (AFIF) workshop hosted by The SEACEN Centre. As we are well aware, SEACEN's AFIF customized learning programs are aiming at facilitating the process of building central banking capacity for new ASEAN members and this workshop serves as a starting point of such endeavors.

If we look back on the evolving roles of central banking in retrospect, early central banks were essentially a clearing house for gold. People placed their gold bullion on deposit and in return received a claim that could be redeemed upon demand. In other words, central banking system was based on people's credit on gold. By contrast, today's global monetary system has virtually no gold backing and depends entirely on people's faith that their central banks can successfully control the supply of paper money or, more broadly, liquidity and also keep the collateral assets in good shape in the medium-to-long-term time horizon.

From our monetary policy experience in the last century, we have found that the authority, autonomy and effectiveness of central banking have always depended upon people's credibility on their central banks. This means that without good capacity building, we cannot ensure to gain sustainable credibility from our people on our central banking policies. In this context, I believe that our workshop has one clear mission of strengthening our talent and knowledge assets in central banking.

SEACEN is proud of playing a supportive role by helping new ASEAN members to enhance capacity building of central banking in our region, particularly in this post-crisis era of ever-growing uncertainty and uncharted monetary policy experiment in many advanced economies. I hope that this workshop that aims to identify the learning needs and additional learning programmes for 2014 and beyond, will provide a great momentum that will sustain till we reach the ultimate goal of this initiative. I believe that we can fully achieve such goals through active participation and hard work of all participants and subject matter experts.

On that note, I hope all of you will find the workshop to be both fruitful and rewarding. Above all, I also hope the interaction among the participants and SMEs will not stop here but keep growing beyond this Workshop.

I also hope that you will be able to find the time to enjoy the culture and beauty of Kuala Lumpur.

I wish you a productive and rewarding workshop.

Thank you.