



Joint Press Release
61st SEACEN Governors' Conference and the 45th Meeting of the
SEACEN Board of Governors
October 28-29, 2025
Bali, Indonesia¹

Bank Indonesia (BI) hosted the **61st SEACEN Governors' Conference** titled “**Asian Financial Integration to Navigate Geoeconomic Shifts: Unlocking Growth and Innovation**” and the **45th Meeting of the SEACEN Board of Governors (BOG)** on October 28-29, 2025, in Bali, Indonesia.

The global economic environment is increasingly challenged by disruptions in trade, finance, and climate efforts. Trade policies have moved from promoting openness to protectionism, with tariffs altering supply chains. Financial risks are growing, as high debt levels and monetary tightening reveal market fragilities. Although climate agreements exist, progress toward net zero remains inadequate due to limited funding and inconsistent standards. These issues are interconnected, intensifying each other's impact.

Asia has driven over 40 per cent of global GDP growth over the past two decades through reforms and openness. However, since the Global Financial Crisis, and especially after COVID-19, Asia's growth momentum has decelerated. The region now faces structural challenges, including geopolitical tensions, evolving trade policies, and climate risks. While domestic reforms and sound policies are crucial, they are insufficient on their own. Strengthening regional cooperation is vital, as it provides resilience and fosters innovation, paving the way for Asia's next phase of growth.

¹ SEACEN comprises the 19 member central banks and monetary authorities of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Hong Kong SAR, Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, and Vietnam. In addition, SEACEN has nine Associate Members and seven Observers.

Against this backdrop, the Governors' Conference on October 28, 2025, acknowledged the shifting global and regional landscape, a period of heightened uncertainty, marked by geopolitical tensions, trade policy shifts, extreme weather events, and emerging vulnerabilities. More substantial regional efforts must complement domestic reforms. Above all, this moment underscores the vital importance of regional co-operation, not only as the backbone of resilience, but also as a catalyst for innovation and the driver of Asia's next phase of growth. The conference was attended by the Governors and Managing Directors, delegates from SEACEN member central banks and monetary authorities, as well as strategic partners.

The Conference began with opening remarks from **Dr Perry Warjiyo**, Governor of Bank Indonesia, who outlined five key strategies for member central banks to strengthen resilience amid current global and regional challenges. These strategies include implementing an integrated policy framework; enhancing systemic surveillance through effective regulation and supervision of NBFIs; promoting digital payment systems and innovation; reinforcing fiscal–monetary policy coordination; and developing human resource capabilities. Together, these measures are vital to ensure that Asia's financial integration remains robust amid rapid geoeconomic shifts.

Dr Cynyoung Park, Executive Director of the SEACEN Centre, followed up on her opening remarks and highlighted the challenges Asian policymakers face, including rising protectionism, high public debt, volatile capital flows, and slow climate progress, all of which worsen macro-financial risks in the face of shocks. Resilience now depends on regional cooperation. Financial integration has improved, but intra-regional investment lags trade, showing a weak capital market ecosystem. She outlined five priorities: harmonise standards to reduce fragmentation, accelerate digital financial integration, reinforce safety nets, align finance with the green transition, and deepen capacity building. With coordinated policies and interoperability, Asia can turn uncertainty into opportunity and build a resilient, sustainable financial system.

Prof. Barry Eichengreen, Professor of Economics and Political Science at UC Berkeley, delivered a special address. In his address titled “Macroeconomic Risks and Regional Integration: The Monetary Dimension”, he focused on Asia’s key challenges, which include uncertainty around the dollar’s role, erratic U.S. policy and debt, and new U.S. legislation (the GENIUS Act) designed to lock in dollar dominance, issues that force a regional policy response. **Prof. Eichengreen** discussed that China’s currency push has stalled, and local-currency settlement remains limited, with few emerging-market currencies enjoying actual Payment vs. Payment settlements, so exchange-rate risk still impedes progress. He concluded his special address with policy recommendations for the region, including bans on dollar stablecoins, which are practical only in countries with tight control over finance and the internet. He noted that the prudent course is to diversify and develop local-currency stablecoins, link fast-payment systems across borders, and continue studying, piloting, and rolling out CBDCs.

Dr Cynyoung Park, Executive Director of the SEACEN Centre, moderated **the first session** on “**Asian Financial Integration: Present and Future.**” This session reviewed Asia’s progress in financial integration and the challenges that remain, including deepening capital markets, strengthening regional safety nets, and enhancing macro-financial surveillance. The session began with two presentations by **Dr Reza Siregar**, Special Advisor to the Coordinating Minister for the Economic Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, and **Prof. Alfred Schipke**, Director of the East Asian Institute. A panel, including **Dr Lili Yan Ing**, Secretary-General, International Economic Association, and **Mr Jin Penghui**, President of PBOC Shanghai, followed these short presentations, highlighting the role of finance in supporting green and digital transitions, and considering how the SEACEN member central banks can foster cooperation, sustainable investment, and long-term stability.

Dr Eli M. Remolona, Jr., Governor of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, moderated the second session on “**Empowering Economic Integration through Digital Payment Connectivity.**” This session explored how digital payment connectivity can strengthen regional integration by reducing transaction costs, promoting the use of local currencies, and broadening financial inclusion. It also examined key challenges, including disparities in digital infrastructure, reliance on the US dollar, regulatory harmonisation, and the need for digital competency. The session began with a presentation by **Frank Smets**, Deputy Head of the Monetary and Economic Department and

Head of Economic Analysis and Statistics at the BIS. Following his presentation, a panel, including **Prof. Turalay Kenc**, Professor of Finance at INCEIF University, and **Li Penglin**, Director, Global Business Development, UnionPay International, shared insights on how central banks and stakeholders can foster more efficient, resilient, and inclusive payment systems to support sustainable growth.

Chia Der Jiun, Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, moderated the third session on “**Catalysing Sustainable Finance and the Role of the Central Bank.**” This session explored how financial integration can mobilise capital for Asia’s green transition, supporting renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and climate resilience. The session began with a presentation by **Eugene Wong**, CEO, Sustainable Finance Institute Asia. Following his presentation, a panel, including **Ramnath N. Iyer**, Sustainable Finance Lead, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, and **Dr Ma Jun**, Chairman of the Hong Kong Green Finance Association, discussed the roles of central banks, the use of sustainable finance instruments such as GSS+ bonds, and ways to address policy and regulatory barriers to attract private investment.

The Conference concluded with a closing remark by **Ricky Perdana Gozali**, Deputy Governor of Bank Indonesia. The remark emphasised that Asian economies should see regional financial integration as a strategic necessity. It also identified three priorities: first, update regulatory frameworks to support secure cross-border capital flows and stronger regional safety nets; second, develop interoperable digital infrastructure, richer data, and transparent monitoring to manage risks; third, mobilise sustainable finance through innovation, strong governance, and effective risk management. He concluded the conference by advising on next steps for the region, including strengthening regional databases, expanding modelling capacity, and developing collaborative platforms to increase participation in the digital economy.

On October 29, 2025, the 45th Meeting of the SEACEN Board of Governors (BOG) was held. The Governors welcomed **Ricky Perdana Gozali**, Deputy Governor of Bank Indonesia, to chair the 45th BOG meeting on behalf of **Dr Perry Warjiyo**, Governor of Bank Indonesia, who is unable to join due to an urgent agenda. The Governors approved organisational and administrative matters relating to the SEACEN Centre, including those previously approved by the Executive Committee (EXCO) members. In addition, the Governors also deliberated and provided valuable feedback on the draft SEACEN medium-term strategic plan 2026 – 2030. The members expressed their appreciation for the outgoing Chair, Bank of Korea, for the strong leadership and commitment as the SEACEN Chair in 2025. The Governors also welcomed with appreciation the Bank of Lao PDR's acceptance to take over the SEACEN chair in 2027.