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Regional Coordinators, the Lao PDR and the Dominican Republic, hosted the virtual 21<sup>st</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting on November 30, 2021.

The SOM Leaders and delegations from 29 member countries, ESCAP and ECLAC, and the FEALAC Cyber Secretariat shared their thoughts for better institutionalization and revitalization of its mechanism.

## 21<sup>st</sup> FEALAC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) (30.11.2021)

The 21<sup>st</sup> FEALAC Senior Officials' Meeting was held on November 30, 2021, via virtual platform, under the lead of the Lao PDR, Interim Regional Coordinator of East Asia, and the Dominican Republic, Interim Regional Coordinator of Latin America. The meeting was attended by SOM Leaders and delegations from 29 member countries, ESCAP and ECLAC, and FEALAC Cyber Secretariat. The main agenda of this meeting was to discuss the selection of incoming Regional Coordinators and encourage all member countries to actively participate in strengthening institutionalization of the FEALAC framework.

Firstly, delegates approved four working group reports presented by the respective working group co-chairs. Afterwards, the meeting was informed of update on the FEALAC Trust Fund, which includes a new project proposal: "Leveraging Cross-Border E-Commerce for

Inclusive and Sustainable Post-Pandemic Recovery in Southeast and East Asia and Latin America".

Furthermore, the Cyber Secretariat briefed on its activities to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the FEALAC Cyber Secretariat as follows. First, the 11<sup>th</sup> FEALAC Cyber Secretariat Workshop under the theme of "10 Years of FEALAC Cyber Secretariat: Revising and Moving Forward" was held on September 15, 2021, in which the FEALAC members recognized the significance of the Cyber Secretariat in its mechanism. Secondly, the Project Book was published to commemorate the legacy of FEALAC projects that have been implemented to this day. Thirdly, the Cyber Secretariat hosted the "FEALAC Cyber Secretariat 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition" from the first of November 2021 for five days (as described later in more detail). Additionally, it hosted the social media events

throughout the year of 2021 by allowing diverse audiences to participate in FEALAC events.

Furthermore, the Cyber Secretariat also took note of its future plans by focusing on four areas: enhancing its efforts to become an integral part of the FEALAC mechanism, contributing to achieving FEALAC institutionalization and revitalization, promoting FEALAC on the global stage through the online platform, and collaborating with international organizations, private sectors, and other related bodies to increase its relevance.

Finally, as the main agenda of this meeting, discussion was made on the selection of future Regional Coordinators by rotation of member countries' alphabetical order.

In this regard, the meeting agreed to establish the Ad-hoc Working Group, as proposed by the Lao PDR, to jointly work and continue discussion for consensus of this system.

The meeting has been vital for members to share their thoughts and ideas to improve a better institutionalization of FEALAC mechanism while providing opportunities for members to discuss the past activities of Working Groups and future plans for FEALAC revitalization.

\* The documents of the meeting are available at the official FEALAC website, [www.fealac.org](http://www.fealac.org).

## Ad-hoc FEALAC Trust Fund Steering Committee Meeting (16.03.2022)

The Ad-hoc Meeting of the FEALAC Multi-Donor Trust Fund Steering Committee was held on March 16, 2022. The Committee reviewed the FEALAC Trust Fund projects carried out by ESCAP and ECLAC, and approved the New Trust Fund project about E-Commerce.



The meeting was attended by 43 participants from 14 member countries (Argentina, Brunei Darussalam, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Indonesia, Korea, Lao PDR, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), ESCAP, ECLAC, and the FEALAC Cyber Secretariat. The meeting took note of final reports of the completed fund projects: "Reducing inequality in FEALAC Member Countries" and "Value Chain Development for Deeper Integration of East Asia and Latin America", which were approved as the first FEALAC Trust Fund projects in 2018 since the establishment of FEALAC Multi-Donor Trust Fund in 2017.

The meeting, afterwards, approved by consensus the new Trust Fund project titled "Leveraging Cross-Border E-Commerce for Inclusive and Sustainable Post-Pandemic Recovery in Southeast and East Asia and Latin America".

This project was proposed by ECLAC and ESCAP aiming at supporting the utilization of E-Commerce platform to the enterprises of FEALAC member countries, in particular, MSME(Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise)s who suffered from the ongoing health crisis.

During this meeting, the participants recognized the significance of cross-regional cooperation concerning the coming post-COVID era. In this vein, they expressed their strong interests and supports in the new fund project, which would bring the great potential to offer practical help to enterprises in response to global pandemic crisis.

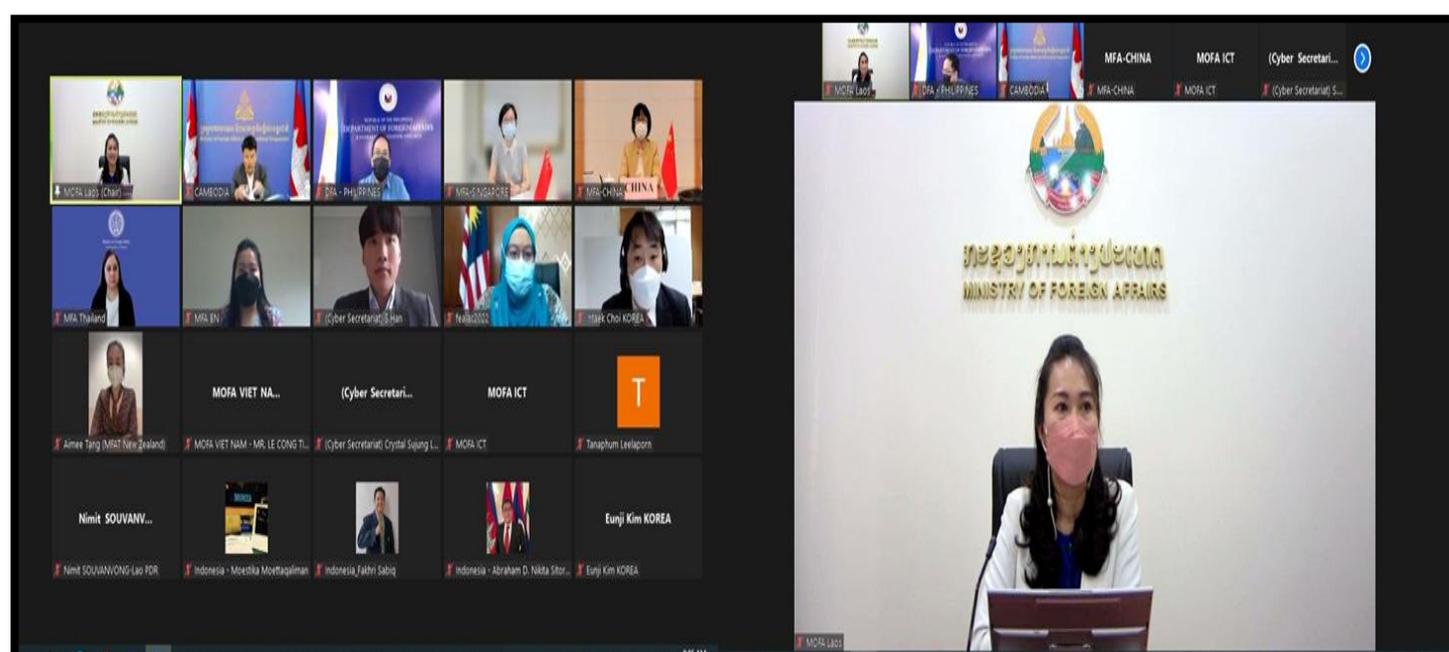
\* Related documents can be found on the official FEALAC website, [www.fealac.org](http://www.fealac.org).

## Ad-hoc Working Group Meeting for East Asia (31.03.2022)

The Ad-hoc Working Group Meeting for East Asia was hosted by the Lao PDR on March 31, 2022. 22 delegates from 13 member countries and the Cyber Secretariat attended the meeting virtually. This meeting took place with hopes to promote and firm up the concept note on “Rotating Mechanism of FEALAC Regional Coordinators” as agreed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Senior Officials’ Meeting held on November 30, 2021.

Regarding the agenda, the delegations expressed the need for cooperation and re-emphasized on the FEALAC’s institutional values: openness, voluntariness and consensus. The Lao PDR, the Regional Coordinator for East Asia, also encouraged FEALAC members to volunteer for the next Regional Coordinator positions. Following this, the members shared thoughts about the detailed contents of the voluntary alphabetical rotation system of the Regional Coordinators. The revised manuscript including the minutes of this meeting will soon be circulated.

Overall, there has been significant progress in finding ways for the selection for the next Regional Coordinators of East Asia. The related discussion is to be further developed in the upcoming meetings.



## Feature: FEALAC 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition (01-05.11.2021)



The “FEALAC 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition” was held by the FEALAC Cyber Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea at Jeongdong 1928 Art Center Gallery, Seoul, from November 1, 2021, for five days. The exhibition was organized to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the FEALAC Cyber Secretariat and to share its achievements in the past 10 years, with aims to deliver FEALAC’s stories to the general public. This event was visited by the missions from the Embassies in Korea to congratulate this memorable anniversary.

The exhibition portrayed the overall history of FEALAC from its foundation to this day including the establishment of the Cyber Secretariat by displaying photos, documentation, and publication. Also, it showed distinguished activities and projects of Cyber Secretariat along with the overview of the FEALAC to the public.

The Cyber Secretariat has been playing active roles to enhance the cooperation between East Asia and Latin America within its mechanism. It pledged to continue its efforts to increase the awareness and exposure of FEALAC and to strengthen the better mechanism of FEALAC in the future.

\* Further photos can be found from the “Photo Gallery” section of the official FEALAC website, [www.fealac.org](http://www.fealac.org).

## 2022 FEALAC Cooperation Projects

### Announcements

Below is the list of completed national projects

#### Argentina

- Latin American and the Caribbean-Southeast Asia Academic Dialogue Forum (Nov 2021)

#### Philippines

- Philippine International Quincentennial Conference (PIQC): The Southeast Asian-Latin American Connection (Nov 2021)

Below is the list of national projects in implementation by FEALAC member countries.

#### Brunei Darussalam

- FEALAC University Discovery Year (FUDY) (Aug 2021~Aug 2022)

#### Cuba

- Operation and administration of the Casablanca Shipyard (2021)
- Plant for the production and commercialization of products derived from the human placenta (2021)

#### Indonesia

- ASEAN+FEALAC Seaport Interdiction Workshop (2018)

Below is the list of national projects planned by FEALAC member countries.

#### Indonesia

- FEALAC Day events (Sep ~ Oct 2022)

#### Republic of Korea & Cyber Secretariat

- 2022 FEALAC Supporters Program (Jun ~ Oct 2022)

\* For further details, please find the "Projects " tab on the official FEALAC website.

## FEALAC Website

#### • Request for Updates

- We kindly ask our members to update project information for any new or ongoing projects.
- We also kindly ask our members to complete the project review survey for completed projects.
  - \* Project review survey can be found under the "Focal Point Zone" tab.
- Please let us know of any events or updates that should be made through the FEALAC website at all times.

#### • Focal Points

- Please let us know if there is any update on the point of contact for FEALAC, by sending an email to: fealac@mofa.go.kr at all times.

### FEALAC Newsletter

The FEALAC Newsletter aims to enhance communication among FEALAC member countries through dissemination of information on the activities of FEALAC and the Cyber Secretariat. The articles contained in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official views of FEALAC and the Cyber Secretariat. We welcome readers' comments and suggestions. Any inquiries about this Newsletter should be addressed to: fealac@mofa.go.kr