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Information and Public Relation Division, Cabinet Office, Bank of the Lao PDR

BOL

The 2nd ASEAN+3 Task Force Meeting

On February 28-29, 2024 in Seoul, Republic of Korea

Bank of The Lao PDR (BOL) in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance of the Lao PDR, the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Korea, and Bank of Korea successfully co-chaired the ASEAN+3 Task Force Meeting on 28-29 February 2024, in Seoul, South Korea. The meeting, Co-chairs by Ms. Phengsy PHENGMUONG, Director

General of the International Cooperation Department, with the representatives from BOL, also brought together representatives from the Ministries of Finance and Central Banks of ASEAN+3 (including all 10 ASEAN countries, China and Hong Kong, Japan, and Republic of Korea) as well as the representatives from the international organizations such as the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic and Research Office (AMRO), the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

During this meeting, the participants engaged in discussions and shared perspectives on various aspects of the ASEAN+3 financial process. This included enhancing operations and Regional Financing Arrangement (RFA) for the ASEAN+3 region to address financial crises in member countries. Additionally, there were deliberations on improving the CMIM Agreement and its Operational Guideline to facilitate the borrowing by member countries in times of financial crises. Notably, consensus was reached on the 15th CMIM Test Run model, which will involve testing the CMIM-PL-IDLP model with a focus on USD and LCY currencies. Furthermore, the meeting also discussed and exchanged views on AMRO's Governance Issues, including the AMRO Deputy Director selection process to enhance the organization's capabilities. Other topics covered in the meeting included progress updates on the Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI) and the appointment of Mr. Yoshihiro Kawai to serve as the Secretariat for the Disaster Risk Financing Initiative (DRF).

At the same time, there was the 10th joint seminar between AMRO and IMF, which included the presentation on "How Will Trend Growth in China Impact the Rest of Asia?" and a macroeconomic overview of the ASEAN+3 region for the fiscal year 2024 titled "Navigating Tomorrow." The presentation highlighted a robust growth of 4.4% in 2023, up from 3.2% in 2022, driven by an increased in domestic demand. AMRO's GDP estimation for 2024 indicates a growth of 4.5%, which is expected to moderate to 4.2% in 2025, driven by the stability of domestic demand attributed to the recovery of the investment sector, consumer spending, exports, and tourism.

The 2nd ASEAN+3 Task Force meeting was successfully completed amidst the productive comments of the member countries to create a crisis prevention network for the region and enhance cooperation in the region effectively. However, the tasks mentioned above will continue to be discussed to request the approval from the high-level meeting.