

**CLMVT Forum 2018**  
**Day 1 – 16 August 2018 (10.30 – 12.30 Hrs.)**  
**Discussion Paper for**  
**Experts Discussion: Connectivity in the Technological Era**

**Lead Discussants:**

- **Ms. Mara K. Warwick**, Country Director for Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, World Bank
- **Mr. Vishal Agarwal**, Partner, McKinsey & Company
- **Dr. Sutapa Amornvivat**, CEO, SCB Abacus Co., Ltd.
- **Ms. Melissa Lo**, Partner and COO, RoboTerra Inc.

**Moderator: Mr. Soon Ghee Chua**, Partner, Head of Southeast Asia, A.T. Kearney

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## **Background and Overview**

For the CLMVT region to strengthen and expand its regional supply chain networks and to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth, comprehensive, well-integrated and seamless connectivity in the region is one of the most important factors. To that end, it is necessary to promote the three pillars of connectivity; Physical Connectivity, Institutional Connectivity, and People-to-people Connectivity.

Physical connectivity refers to transports (land, maritime, air), information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure, which plays an important role as it supports flows of goods, information and people. Institutional connectivity or soft infrastructure refers to trade and investment policies, agreements, and institutional links to support regional cooperation. People-to-people connectivity such as cross-border education and tourism facilitation will enhance interaction and mobility of people as well as exchange of innovative ideas and knowledge across borders.

Technology is instrumental in boosting connectivity. In fact, recent developments in the new technologies under the fourth industrial revolution are all about connectivity. Physically, new technologies link physical networks with digital networks as one system, allowing data to flow freely and intelligence to be discovered in real time. Institutionally, technology helps facilitate standardization of rules and regulations. Between people, new technologies bring everyone closer together no matter where they live.

Hence, it is very crucial that the CLMVT countries cooperate hand-in-hand to leverage new technologies to improve and strengthen the region's connectivity in order to achieve the inclusive and sustainable development as well as a shared prosperity for all of us.

**Possible Points for Discussion:**

1. What is the current state of technological developments of the CLMVT region? And what are the best practices or case studies from international experiences that the CLMVT should learn from?
2. What are the crucial potentials and obstacles for technological development of the CLMVT region?
3. What needs to be done to unlock the potential of technologies to promote connectivity in the CLMVT region?

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