

NEWS RELEASE

MyCC Hosts ASEAN Experts Group on Competition (AEGC) Workshop on Investigation and Case-Handling

KUALA LUMPUR, 17th June 2014 - To nurture an environment conducive for a strong economy requires effective implementation of consumer and competition policies, said Dato' Sri Hasan Malek, Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives & Consumerism (MDTCC) at the inaugural ASEAN Experts Group on Competition (AEGC) Workshop on Investigation and Case-Handling jointly held by the Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC), ASEAN Secretariat and the *Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH* today.

During his officiating speech, Dato' Sri Hasan Malek also commended the MyCC's efforts thus far in enforcing and promoting competition law in the nation, while at the same time protecting consumers. He noted that unlike consumer laws, competition law is challenging to enforce even in established jurisdictions like the EU and the UK, due to its complex and technical nature. "The skills needed to investigate are quite different from normal civil or criminal cases. Understanding economics and the business culture are key elements to bringing about a good case," he said.

"I am made to understand that investigations can take up to several years to conclude. Even a simple straightforward case can take up to a year to conclude," he added. "This is because, investigation of cartels in particular, which work in secret, are not only the most difficult kind of behaviour to understand, but they are the most complex kind of cases that competition authorities are dealing with."

Sixteen delegates from ten ASEAN countries attended the two-day workshop in addition to the MyCC investigation and enforcement personnel. Also present at the workshop launch were MDTCC Secretary-General Dato' Sri Alias Ahmad, MyCC Chairman Tan Sri Dato' Seri Siti Norma Yaakob, Member of Commission Prof. Dato. Dr Sothi Rachagan, and MyCC Chief Executive Officer, Shila Dorai Raj.



According to the MyCC Chairman, Tan Sri Dato Sri' Siti Norma Yaakob, the workshop was a follow through from the earlier AEGC Brainstorming Meeting on Capacity Building Needs, where it was agreed that there was a need to strengthen the core competencies for investigation and case-handling of competition agencies with an enforcement record.

Competition enforcement agencies face several challenges such as increasing investigative capacity to detect cartels, initiating robust investigations, and prioritising multiple enforcement matters to make use of available resources. The two-day workshop was jointly held to help investigators in the ASEAN region, who are relatively new to competition laws, to learn investigation and case-handling skills from competition law experts and economists.

Invited speakers for the sessions were competition law experts from the European Union (EU) Mr Michael Albers and Prof. Robert Ian McEwin, Senior Investigator for International Cartels, from Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC) Mr. Katsunori Inaguma, and senior economist Prof. Cheah Chee Wah. Also present as moderator was Mr. Frank Tibitanzl, GIZ Principal Advisor of the Competition Policy and Law in ASEAN (CPL) Project.

For more information on the MyCC, log on to www.mycc.gov.my. Enquiries regarding advocacy seminars may be directed to spiad@mycc.gov.my.

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About Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC)

Established in June 2011, MyCC is an independent body responsible for enforcing the Competition Act 2010, which was implemented to create healthy competition which would in turn stimulate productivity and innovation, thus creating wider choices of products for consumers with better quality and reasonable prices.

The Act applies to all commercial activities undertaken within and outside Malaysia that affects competition in the Malaysian market. It provides a regulatory framework including powers to investigate, adjudicate and impose penalties on the perpetrators of the competition laws.

For more information on the Act and MyCC activities, log on to www.mycc.gov.my.