International Conference

Green and Inclusive Economic Rebound:

Lessons from International Experience

February 25, 2022

Session 3: Strengthening the Role of Government in Accelerating a Green and Inclusive Rebound

15:45 – 17:15

Introduction to the Session 3: Moderator, Caitlin Wiesen, Resident Representative of UNDP Viet Nam

Keynote: Professor Mariana Mazzucato, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London, The Mission Economy: Reinvigorating the Role of the State to Tackle Complex Problems (**20 minutes**)

Government and markets both play an essential role in economic development, and they need each other to function optimally. The great technological advances of the recent past have emerged from collaboration between government, business and universities. Governments are better placed to take big risks than business and can take a longer view, but the private sector has a better track record of turning new ideas into marketable products and services. Achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and the transition to renewable energy is a massive challenge that will require a "moonshot" approach combining boldness, experimentation and close collaboration between the public and private sectors. Where should missions take place – at the national or local levels? How much can local cities or regions act as testbeds for missions? What is the strategy for states to navigate the power of the global financial markets and corporate elites, to pursue systems change e.g. to achieve net zero by 2050?

Mdm. Phạm Chi Lan (10 minutes), Economist and former Director of Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI). Adaptation to climate change is an historic challenge. In Viet Nam, the climate changes threatens the Mekong River Delta, one of the most important agricultural regions in Asia. Degradation of the delta has vast implications for livelihoods and food security. Saline intrusion is now driven by upstream dams and downstream sand mining, but climate change is an emerging threat. Investment in infrastructure, agricultural research and education are urgently needed to help the region adapt. International cooperation will also be key. But all these various actors—governments, businesses, farmers, international organizations and research organizations—must learn to work together rather than pull in different directions.

Dr. Keith R. Jefferis (10 minutes), Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Botswana. The President of Botswana announced the Reset Agenda in 2021 in light of the

health and economic setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It aims to deliver strategic reforms that put citizen economic inclusion at the center of economic development, developing capacities for entrepreneurship and investing in youth. The success of Botswana's Vision 2036 of Prosperity for All is largely dependent on natural resources, requiring robust environmental governance and management. The Reset Agenda recognizes that Botswana, like other countries across the world, struggles with the growing complex challenges facing the country, arising from systemic risks like the climate change. It aims to achieve a people-centric transformation in which the government revisits its problem-solving strategies, regroups and sets new priorities and adopts new approaches and delivery mechanisms. How has the Government started to operationalize this plan in practice and what are the lessons learned for other countries attempting to do the same?

Professor Hermann Waibel (10 minutes), University of Hannover, Leader of the Thailand-Viet Nam Socio-Economic Panel (TVSEP). The TVSEP conducted eight panel waves of data collection covering 4400 rural households in 440 villages in Thailand and Vietnam from 2007-2020 and conducted migrant tracking surveys in 2010 and 2018. TVSEP data cover all important aspects of a household's living standard measures, demography, geography, shocks, risks, expectations, subjective assessments and behavioral traits of individual household members, providing a rich source of socio-economic data on rural and remote regions in the two countries. What has TVSEP learned about the problem of poverty in the rural uplands and policies to reduce poverty equitably and sustainably, ensuring that no one is left behind?

QA and Discussion (20 minutes)

Conclusion