

# ASEAN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES (AFAS)

## 'How to Use the Agreement for Your Business Growth'

### Programme Schedule:

TIME	PROGRAMME CONTENT
<b>9.00 am</b>	<p><b>Dissecting the ASEAN Framework for Services (AFAS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● what is it about? what are its purpose, scope of coverage, benefits, eligibility criteria?</li> <li>● why is it important for Malaysia's services industry?</li> <li>● how can it impact Malaysia's domestic services industry?</li> <li>● what is its current development progress</li> <li>● ASEAN-6 services sector overview</li> <li>● link between AFAS and WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)</li> </ul>
<b>10.00 am</b>	<p><b>How Trade Liberalization Works in the Services Sector?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● how are services sectors differentiated and categorized?</li> <li>● what does trade liberalization in services really mean?</li> <li>● how can the Malaysian services provider benefit in the real business sense?</li> <li>● government liberalization commitments: horizontal vs specific</li> <li>● how to interpret the applicable liberalization measures for my specific services business?</li> </ul>
<b>10.55 am</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>11.10 am</b>	<p><b>Analyzing AFAS Benefits for Various Services Sectors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● hands-on experience with actual AFAS documents</li> <li>● interpret and analyze applicable liberalization measures for different services sectors stipulated in AFAS documents [Practical Session - Individual or Group-based]</li> </ul>
<b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1.00 pm</b>	<p><b>ATA Carnet System</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● what is ATA Carnet? countries accepting the ATA Carnet?</li> <li>● who may use an ATA Carnet? what items are covered by the ATA Carnet System?</li> <li>● what are the advantages of the ATA Carnet System?</li> </ul>
<b>1.30 pm</b>	<p><b>Identifying Areas Excluded from AFAS Liberalization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● what AFAS does not cover</li> <li>● general sectors exempt from services liberalization</li> <li>● role of government domestic incentives vs liberalization commitments</li> <li>● protection against 'disguised' government protectionism and redress channels</li> <li>● gradual liberalization timeline for sensitive industry sectors</li> </ul>
<b>2.00 pm</b>	<p><b>Making Use of AFAS Mutual Recognition Agreements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● what is it about? what are its purpose, scope of coverage, benefits, eligibility criteria?</li> <li>● current agreements in effect and the service sectors affected</li> <li>● how can the Malaysian services provider take advantage of specific agreements?</li> <li>● proof of eligibility for Malaysian services provider to benefit: types of documents required</li> <li>● available channels in Malaysia to obtain documentary proof of eligibility</li> </ul>

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<b>2.40 pm</b>	<b>Implications of AFAS for Intra-ASEAN Labour Deployment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● how are services personnel differentiated and categorized?</li> <li>● how does AFAS affect services personnel in ASEAN countries?</li> <li>● consequences for Malaysian services operations with ASEAN subsidiaries</li> <li>● commitments to ASEAN nationals and required proof of eligibility</li> <li>● application process and procedures</li> </ul>
<b>3.20 pm</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>3.35 pm</b>	<b>AFAS Dispute Settlement Channels and Procedures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● what to do when ASEAN government fails to implement committed liberalization measures for my business?</li> <li>● securing proof of unrealized government liberalization commitments</li> <li>● dispute settlement options: consultant, mediation or arbitration?</li> <li>● detailed dispute settlement procedures and timeline</li> <li>● legal binding rulings and business compensation</li> </ul>
<b>4.15 pm</b>	<b>Accessing to AFAS Resources and Technical Assistance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● where to obtain official AFAS documents?</li> <li>● frequency of AFAS documents update and dissemination</li> <li>● differentiating between AFAS document signing, ratification and effect</li> <li>● available technical assistance channels in malaysia</li> </ul>
<b>4.50 pm</b>	<b>Summary and Participant Feedback</b>
<b>5.00 pm</b>	<b>End of Workshop</b>