

## INTERNATIONAL PROFILING

### International Organization of Securities Commissions, ASEAN Capital Markets Forums and International Trade

The SC continues to demonstrate its commitment to global regulatory policy making and international standard-setting by being actively involved in the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), the leading international standard-setter for securities regulation. IOSCO's membership regulates more than 95% of the world's capital markets in more than 130 jurisdictions.

In IOSCO, the SC is a member of the Board and also a members of the Fintech Task Force (FTF) and Sustainable Finance Task Force (STF). In 2025, the SC contributed to FTF's work relating to developments in financial markets on the areas of AI and financial asset tokenisation. In the STF, the SC continues to actively participate in efforts to monitor implementation of the ISSB standards, on work relating to International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IAASB) and International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' (IESBA) standards for assurance and ethics, sustainable bond markets and ESG benchmarks, among others.

The SC is also a leading member of IOSCO's Growth and Emerging Markets Committee (GEMC), which comprises 80% of IOSCO's overall membership. As a GEM Steering Committee member and a member of the GEMC's Market Development Working Group, the SC also profiled the SC's Roadmap for catalysing SME access to the capital market in Malaysia to help shape future GEMC agenda and discussions on market development at the GEMC annual meeting that took place in December.

The SC is also actively involved in the Asia Pacific Regional Committee (APRC) especially within the APRC Scams Online Working Group's Platform Providers' Engagement Sub-Group, which actively engaged platform providers such as Google, Meta and Tencent to exchange experiences and jointly address regional and national issues and challenges in efforts to mitigate scams and online harms.

During the annual EU-Asia Pacific Regulatory Forum held in February 2025 in conjunction with the APRC meeting, senior policymakers from the European Commission and Asia Pacific securities regulators

discussed key policy and market developments within the respective regions. This included areas relating to fintech (crypto assets, operational resilience and AI) and sustainable finance (ESG disclosure, taxonomy and transition finance).

The SC is also a key member of IOSCO's various committees such as the Committee on Emerging Risks, Assessment Committee, Committee on Secondary Market Regulation and Committee on Retail Investors. The SC was involved in the development of the IOSCO Risk Outlook 2026 that reviewed emerging global risks, trends and vulnerabilities and their implications for global capital markets for the year. Within IOSCO's Committee of Retail Investors, the SC is involved in the work relating to investor resilience and relationship investment scams.

The SC also participates actively in the various IOSCO networks to gain useful insights, share and tap into the relevant experience and expertise of regulators. These networks include the IOSCO's Primary Markets Network, Diversity Network, Anti Money Laundering Network, the IOSCO APRC's Supervisory Directors' Network and IOSCO APRC's Enforcement Directors' Network.

### ***International Co-operation on Cross-border Enforcement, Supervision and Surveillance***

An important priority area for the SC has been to strengthen cross-border co-operation in the areas of enforcement and supervision. As a signatory to the IOSCO Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MMOU) on co-operation and exchange of information, the SC can obtain valuable information and evidence to support our enforcement actions.

The SC is also signatory to the IOSCO APRC Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding for Supervisory Cooperation (Supervisory MMOU). With the signing of this Supervisory MMOU (since 2022), the SC now has a co-operative arrangement on supervisory matters with its regional regulatory counterparts, including in Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand.

In May 2025, the SC successfully became a signatory to the IOSCO EMMoU. The EMMoU avails signatories expanded forms of assistance abbreviated as 'ACFIT' which includes the ability to obtain (A) audit papers,

(C) compel attendance for testimony, (F) freeze assets, and obtain (I) internet service provider and (T) telephone records and follows from IOSCO's first Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MMOU). To date, SC continues to actively and successfully collaborate with other signatories under the MMOU and EMMoU framework.

Recognising the importance of experience-sharing in the areas of cross-border supervision, enforcement and surveillance, the SC participated in the APRC Supervisory Directors' meetings and Enforcement Directors' meetings held in Q1 2025.

In October 2025, SC also hosted a one-day IOSCO APRC Supervisory Directors Network Meeting. The meeting was joined by APRC participants from various jurisdictions such as Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore and Thailand where participants engaged in robust discussions on the broader topics of cybersecurity and influencers with a focus on emerging threats, trends, challenges and measures being undertaken to ensure investor protection.

### Widening Global Regulatory Impact through the IOSCO Asia-Pacific Hub

Established in Kuala Lumpur in 2017, the IOSCO Asia-Pacific Hub (Hub) continues to strengthen regulatory capacity through high-impact programmes for securities regulators in the region. Hosted by the SC, the Hub is IOSCO's only presence outside its Madrid headquarters, serving as a key platform for building regulatory capabilities across the Asia-Pacific region while supporting IOSCO's broader global priorities.

Since its inception, more than 3,500 participants from IOSCO member jurisdictions have benefited from the Hub's initiatives, with two-thirds from the Asia Pacific region.

The Hub delivered six programmes covering emerging regulatory risks, climate and sustainability reporting, scams and online fraud, market supervision and AI and its implications for capital markets, among others. The Hub also worked closely with APRC workstreams, including the Scams Working Group and the Supervisory Directors Network, ensuring close alignment between regional priorities and the IOSCO's NextGEN capacity-building agenda.

The Hub has been staffed by secondees from the SC, the Japan Financial Services Agency, and, from 2026, the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) of Hong Kong – reflecting strong regional ownership and collaboration.

Its management committee comprises the IOSCO Secretary General, the SC's Chairman and Managing Director, the Chair of IOSCO's APRC (Chief Executive, Hong Kong's SFC), and the Chair of IOSCO's GEMC (Chairman, Egypt's Financial Regulatory Authority). This governance structure reinforces alignment with IOSCO's NextGEN strategy and the Hub's mission to strengthen regulatory resilience across both developed and emerging markets.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Hub will deepen collaboration with international partners and focus on programmes addressing emerging cross-border risks, supervisory and technological developments, and sustainability-related priorities, ensuring its work remains responsive, relevant, and impactful for regulators in the region and across the IOSCO community.

The SC spoke at the IOSCO Asia Pacific Hub Webinar on Combating the Next Wave of Fraud & Scams, titled 'Staying Ahead of Scams: Smarter Tools, Stronger Coordination'. Malaysia presented alongside five other regulators from New Zealand, India, Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong:

**Over  
300 attendees**  
from  
**over  
50 jurisdictions**  
worldwide participated

**The SC's presentation focused on early-warning systems and fraud risk indicators, demonstrating how regulators can shift from reactive to proactive approaches**

This engagement positioned Malaysia as a regional leader in investor protection, contributed to global best practices on investor education and facilitated knowledge transfer that will strengthen the SC's domestic capabilities – demonstrating that Malaysia is not merely implementing international standards but actively shaping them.

## Driving Initiatives for ASEAN Capital Markets

In 2025, the SC resumed its leadership role as Chair of the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum (ACMF), aligned with Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship. This marked the SC's third term<sup>3</sup> as ACMF Chair since the ACMF's inception in 2004. Throughout the year, the SC played a central role in strengthening regional regulatory cooperation and advancing key capital market initiatives.

Coinciding with the SC's Chairmanship was the development of the ACMF Action Plan 2026-2030, a strategic roadmap to chart the development of ASEAN capital markets for the next five years, continuing from the ACMF's 2021-2025 Action Plan and aligned with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. The development of the Action Plan involved extensive consultation with stakeholders in all ASEAN member states.

A major focus of the Chairmanship year was the development of the ACMF Action Plan 2026-2030, a forward-looking roadmap to guide the next phase of ASEAN capital market integration. Building on the 2021-2025 Action Plan, this new framework sets strategic priorities in areas such as sustainable finance, digitalisation, market connectivity and capacity building. The Action Plan was developed through extensive consultations with stakeholders from all ASEAN member states, ensuring alignment with regional needs and the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

The SC continued to play a vital role in guiding the ACMF's sustainable finance agenda through its role as co-Chair of the ACMF SFWG, as well as Chair of the Working Group on Market Facing and Resourcing (WG-MFR) of the ATB.

In 2025, the SC continued its contribution towards the field of ASEAN Sustainable Finance through its work on the following initiatives in which publications were produced:

1. *Phase 1 White Paper on Key Principles and Methodological Approaches: For the development of the mARs Guide in support of the ASEAN Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance;*
2. *The Voluntary Carbon Market Development Plan and ASEAN Voluntary Carbon Market Guidance*, jointly developed with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to enhance transparency, integrity, and interoperability in regional carbon markets;
3. The ASEAN Taxonomy Version 4, which provided the technical screening criteria for the remaining three focus sectors and two enabling sectors of the ASEAN Taxonomy's Plus Standard, completing full coverage of Plus Standard. The SC lead the sub-working groups responsible for developing the criteria for the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing as well as the Grandfathering Rules. As Chair of the WG-MFR, the SC also coordinated all communications for the ATB and organised a series of webinars and workshops on the ASEAN Taxonomy in April and October, which dealt with the key features of the ASEAN Taxonomy Version 4 ahead of its November publication.

In parallel, the SC contributed to the deliverables of ACMF's Disclosures Working Group by developing the ASEDG V1 for SMEs in Supply Chains, which serves to provide guidance to SMEs in preparing their ESG disclosures. Following the release of ASEDG V1 in April and a five-month public consultation, a refined ASEDG V2 incorporating stakeholder feedback was launched on 6 November 2025.

To support these wide-ranging initiatives, the SC facilitated over 270 engagements with regulators, industry players and regional stakeholders. These interactions included weekly technical meetings, external consultations, in-person workshops and a series of key ACMF meetings held across ASEAN.

<sup>3</sup> The SC has previously chaired the ACMF from August 2006 to August 2008 and September 2014 to October 2018.

The SC hosted the ACMF Deputies Meeting in Melaka in January and the first ACMF Chairs Meeting in Penang in February, followed by subsequent meetings in Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Kuching. Final deliverables for the Chairmanship year were confirmed through an inter-sessional meeting in October, culminating in the concluding ACMF Chairs Meeting on 5 November. More details of initiatives and events for the ASEAN Chairmanship year can be found in Part 3 of this Annual Report.

In November, the SC handed over ACMF leadership to the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Philippines for 2026. As the region enters the implementation phase of the ACMF Action Plan 2026–2030, the SC remains committed to supporting a more interconnected and sustainable ASEAN capital market.

### **ASEAN Investment Conference 2025: Advancing ASEAN as an Asset Class**

Held from 8 to 9 April 2025 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, the ASEAN Investment Conference convened 1,250 participants from ASEAN+3, including investors, regulators, corporates and policymakers. Organised in conjunction with the ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meetings, the conference promoted ASEAN as an asset class under the theme ‘Inclusivity and Sustainability’.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia delivered the keynote address and chaired a private roundtable with investors representing approximately US\$8 trillion in AUM. The Ministerial Dialogue underscored ASEAN’s commitment to coordinated, constructive responses to global trade tensions, particularly US tariffs, and identified tourism as a key growth sector.

Three strategic initiatives were launched during the conference: the SEDG V1, the ASEAN Investment Challenge, and the rollout of fractional share trading. Breakout sessions featuring 12 leading ASEAN corporates provided an opportunity for enhanced investor engagement and visibility.

A closed-door regulatory dialogue also explored climate adaptation finance and carbon market development, featuring insights from Dr. Parag Khanna (designation / details of expertise). The conference received extensive media coverage through strategic partnerships with Bloomberg, BERNAMA and Astro AWANI while social media engagement surpassed

130,000 impressions, reflecting strong regional and international interest.

### **ACMF International Conference**

In conjunction with the 43<sup>rd</sup> ACMF Chairs Meeting, the SC also hosted the ACMF International Conference the following day on 6 November at the SC Building, Kuala Lumpur. The event was officiated by Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan, Minister of Finance II, on behalf of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. The event brought together more than 560 delegates comprising ACMF Chairs and senior capital market regulators; business leaders, investors and intermediaries; ambassadors and trade commissioners, as well as representatives from international organisations.

Sessions throughout the day focused on cross-border fundraising, climate transition finance, voluntary carbon markets and the use of AI in regulatory supervision, underscoring ASEAN’s growing leadership in sustainable finance and digital innovation.

At the Conference, a series of key initiatives were launched and published, namely:

1. the ACMF Action Plan 2026-2030 – a forward-looking roadmap to guide ASEAN’s capital market development over the next five years;
2. ASEDG V2 for SMEs in Supply Chains which serves to provide guidance to SMEs in preparing their ESG disclosures;
3. A White Paper for the mARs Guide developed with the UNEP FI in partnership with SIFA, in close consultation with the ATB;
4. VCM Development Plan and ASEAN VCM Guidance; jointly developed with the ERIA to enhance transparency, integrity and interoperability in regional carbon markets; and
5. ASEAN Taxonomy Version 4, which included the technical screening criteria for the remaining three focus sectors and two enabling sectors of the ASEAN Taxonomy’s Plus Standard, allowing complete coverage of Plus Standard.

In addition, the ACMF International Conference highlighted the next generation of changemakers through prize-giving ceremonies of two high-impact

competitions, underscoring Malaysia's commitment to nurturing innovation, climate resilience, and investment literacy. The ASEAN Investment Challenge 2025 engaged 6,000 young participants from five ASEAN countries, empowering them to develop responsible and impactful investment strategies. Team Rever from the International Islamic University Malaysia emerged as champion, with ABM Quant (Polytechnic University of the Philippines), ICU Associates (Mahidol University International College, Thailand), Retirement by 30 (Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore), and Liquid (Petra Christian University, Indonesia) securing the other top prizes. Meanwhile, the COFAR Challenge brought together over 200 students from 24 universities to design finance-backed coastal resilience solutions for Carey Island.

## COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

### Batik Lestari 2025: Empowering Sustainability and Expanding Market Access

Now in its second year, Batik Lestari continues as a strategic initiative to elevate Malaysian batik through a sustainability-driven approach, in alignment with Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship 2025. Building on the success of its inaugural festival in 2024, the programme advances the preservation of heritage, artisan empowerment and broader market integration. To date, the programme has engaged 69 artisans and 51 registered vendors, contributing to increased visibility and commercial viability.

The artisans and batik entrepreneurs were provided with a platform to promote and at the time to generate economic value having access to capital market and be part of ASEAN Capital Market Forum meetings that were organised throughout 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Melaka, Penang and Kuching. Further institutional support was established with the launch of the Batik Lestari Sales Gallery at the SC premises in May 2025, providing a dedicated platform to connect artisans with corporate and public audiences.

The annual anchor event, the Batik Lestari Festival 2025 (5-7 November), was held coinciding with the final set of ACMF meetings hosted by Malaysia. The three-day festival featured artisan showcases, retail activations, business dialogues and a fashion presentation highlighting contemporary interpretations

of batik. A special gala show on 6 November celebrated batik's evolution across past, present, and future. On 7 November, Kraftangan Malaysia was formally appointed as the SC's strategic partner, reinforcing national-level collaboration and MSME development.

In parallel, the development of the Sustainable Batik Disclosure Guide (SBDG) was initiated to promote ESG principles across the batik value chain for adoption among batik Malaysia practitioners.

### Advancing the Market through Industry Engagements

In line with SC's commitment to foster market development and accessibility, the SC continues to engage with industry stakeholders to gain comprehensive insights from market participants, intermediaries, exchanges and peer regulators. These engagements served as a collaborative avenue to align expectations and identify emerging opportunities for the betterment of the industry, as well as inform policymaking.

Discussions centred around exploring regional opportunities, encouraging trading participation of our youths and augmenting the stockbroking industry, among others.

Through these collaborative dialogues, the SC remains committed to facilitating constructive industry feedback and integrating relevant enhancements to support the development of Malaysia's capital market.

### VC/PE CFO Conference

The SC also works closely with stakeholders to reduce operational friction for VC/PE industry players and ensure a smoother experience for VC/PE managers in setting up their Malaysian operations. On 25 August 2025, the SC participated as a panelist in the VC/PE CFO Conference 2025, co-organised by Gobi Partners, China Venture Capital Finance Organization and Sunwising Insurance Brokers (Hong Kong) Limited. The conference delved into key discussions on enhancing operational efficiency for VC/PE industry players and navigating the evolving financial landscape for VC/PE firms. Other topics covered included fund formation, fund administration, regulatory and compliance landscape for VC/PE in Malaysia, insurance solutions