



## CHAIRMAN, ASEAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION SHARES THE THOUGHTS ON FINTECH .....

*This article is contributed by Mr Martin Murray, Executive Director, Asia Matters.*



Left to –right: Chris Alderson MBE VP Financial Services APAC IDA Ireland, John Murphy Head of FinTech PwC Ireland, Sigit Pramono Chairman ASEAN Bankers Association, H.E. Geoffrey Keating, Ambassador of Ireland to Singapore, Alan Dukes Chairman Asia Matters, Matthew Blume Director ASEAN Thomson Reuters, Antony Eldridge Financial Services Leader PwC Singapore and Martin Murray Executive Director Asia Matters

Mr. *Sigit Pramono*, Chairman ASEAN Bankers Association gave the key note address from the Industry Institutional Perspective to open the FinTech Forum on 26 April 2016 in Singapore. The theme of the forum - *Global Innovation in Financial Technology: Opportunities and Threats as Banks Compete For Future of Financial Services*. The event was hosted by Asia Matters, a leading Asia think tank based in Dublin Ireland in partnership with PwC and chaired by *Alan Dukes*, Chairman Asia Matters, former Irish Minister for Finance , Governor of the World Bank and Governor of IMF, with introductory remarks by *H.E. Geoffrey Keating*: Ambassador of Ireland to Singapore

Outlining the view from ASEAN, Mr Pramono stressed the dramatic pace of technological change and the disruptive strength along with regulatory challenges of digital solutions including the primacy of mobile banking over branch citing the example of Indonesia where smartphone is dominant and usage is over 100%. The real opportunity for FinTech in ASEAN is in new and mobile solutions for the 73% plus who do not have bank accounts. It was noted that in Indonesia, only 24% have bank accounts. Accordingly, FinTech has the potential to radically grow both economic and societal development in ASEAN allied to the rising consumer class and the regionalisation of Asian corporates. This rapid expansion of the middle class will spur demand for a wider range of goods and services. As Asian economies develop and integrate further, Asian corporates will expand and internationalise followed by their banks. FinTech will change global financial services landscape but the key is not to repeat the mistakes of the past-well designed regulation that will be critical along with a core focus on serving the needs of customers and the real economy. Mr Pramono concluded that ASEAN banks will need to reinvent themselves and be open to new ideas at a time of radical change, seeking cost efficient technology solutions and innovation partners to rapidly grow the customer base from the significant market need of unbanked consumers.

This was followed by the Industry Technology Perspective by Matthew Blume Director of Client Technology for ASEAN, Thomson Reuters who advised on the three key FinTech trends transforming financial institutions : Blockchain, Cognitive Computing and Roboadvisory. The first panel discussion was on *The View From Ireland, the Silicon Valley of Europe and Gateway to EU* - Chris Alderson MBE Vice President, Financial Services APAC, IDA Ireland spoke on Ireland's unique technology ecosystem as the world's leading exporter of software and European headquarters for the leading ICT and Internet companies. This combined with a strong international financial sector ( 41% of global hedge funds, 50% of aviation finance )and best in class regulatory compliance, created a strong opportunity for global financial institutions and FinTech companies. John Murphy Fintech Leader and Partner, PwC Ireland advised on the forces driving FinTech with mobile as a key enabler and FI focus on payments, banking, insurance , asset and wealth management. The second panel presented *The View from Singapore: Asian Financial Centre and Gateway to ASEAN*. Simon Goo Executive Director and Head of Group Risk Analytics Division United Overseas Bank, spoke on the digital journey of UOB focusing the four key priorities to sustaining growth with new technologies talent, technology, regulation and risk exposure. Antony Eldridge Financial Services Leader at PwC Singapore spoke on the work of MAS in developing Singapore as a hub of Smart Finance and Niamh Byrne Regional Head of Experience spoke on Citi innovation, the mobile challenge and opening up bank architecture to work with partners and third party suppliers.



*Chairman Dukes* concluded the event by thanking the speakers and participants suggesting that Singapore and Ireland, as two complimentary financial centres and FinTech hubs, should continue to share best practice and further explore win win partnership.

*Presentations from the FinTech Forum can be found on the Insights section of [www.asiamatters.eu](http://www.asiamatters.eu)*