

## Civil Service College organises third seminar in Executive Series on “Connecting with the World – ASEAN” (with photos)

The Civil Service College (CSC) has launched the Executive Series on "Connecting with the World – ASEAN". The third seminar in the series, on the topic of "Opportunities and Challenges from Regional Trade Agreements under the New World Order", was delivered by Lead Advisor (Southeast Asia Region) of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia Dr Lili Yan Ing, at the CSC today (April 29).

Addressing the seminar, the Head of the CSC, Mr Oscar Kwok, said the Executive Series is one of the CSC's key initiatives to develop civil servants' international perspectives. The subject of today's seminar is regional trade agreements, which serve as an anchor of common visions and rules shared by their signatories. They not only open doors to economic development, but also establish a network of trusted partners that can bolster signatories' ability to weather storms and navigate volatility and uncertainty. Hong Kong, as a crucial bridge connecting the country with the world and with close trading relationships across Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, can play a unique role in adding value to regional trade agreements and co-operation while capitalising on new opportunities to boost the local economy.

About 150 civil servants in the directorate and senior ranks from 44 bureaux/departments attended the seminar today, including officers from Hong Kong, and from Mainland Offices and overseas Economic and Trade Offices of the Government in Shanghai, Bangkok, Berlin, Dubai, Geneva and Jakarta who joined the seminar via video conferencing.

The Executive Series on "Connecting with the World – ASEAN" is designed to further broaden the international perspective of directorate and senior civil servants. It covers subjects pertaining to the changing international dynamics and the development of ASEAN countries, including economies of emerging markets, opportunities and challenges from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the role and positioning of ASEAN, and diversity of ASEAN economies. Prominent experts are invited to speak and engage in in-depth discussions with participants.

