DEVELOPING AND LIBERALISING SERVICES TO BOOST PRODUCTIVITY IN ASEAN

Investment Policy Review of Southeast Asia 2018

3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Southeast Asia Regional Policy Network on Investment, 7 March 2018, Tokyo

Martin Wermelinger, Ph.D. OECD Investment Division





#### 1. Motivation: Why services matter?

- 2. Problem: Lagging services in ASEAN
- 3. Option: Liberalising FDI in services

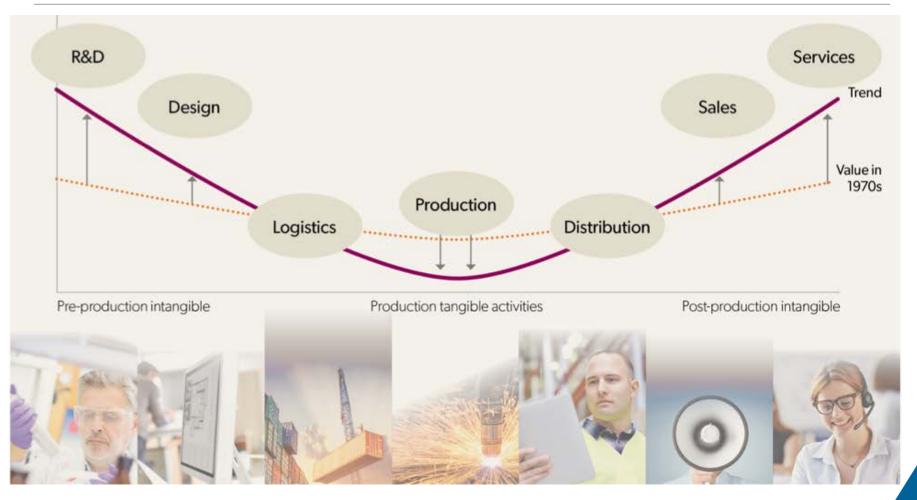


#### 1. MOTIVATION: WHY SERVICES MATTER?

# Services as a driver of inclusive growth and productivity

- *Economy:* Services are rising with technology upgrading along with demand-side shifts.
- **GVCs:** Services are used in manufacturing and integrated in global production networks
- Jobs: Services involve massive opportunities for job creation

#### The smiling curve: Services generate most value

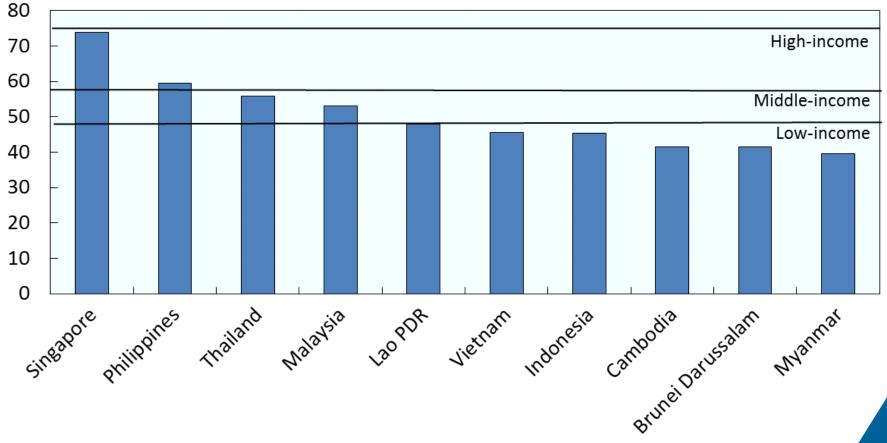




#### 2. PROBLEM: LAGGING SERVICES IN ASEAN

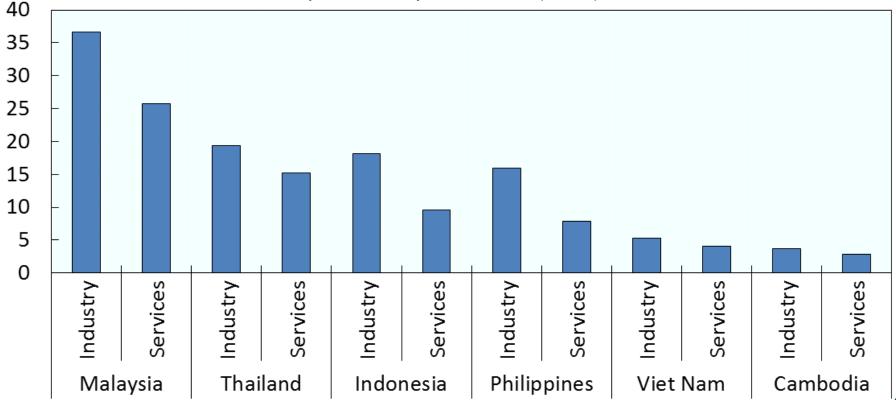
#### ASEAN has less developed services than peers elsewhere

Services share of GDP (2016)



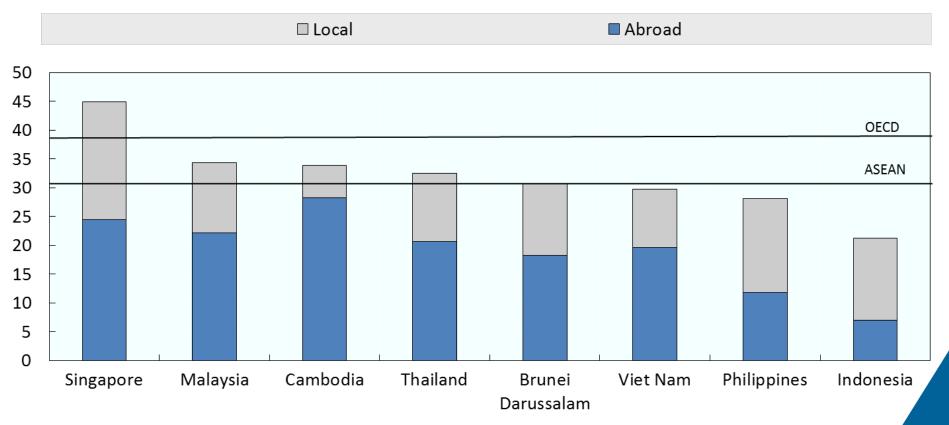
# Although growing, labour productivity in services remains low

Labour productivity in industry and services in % of Singapore's productivity in services (2016)



### The use of services in manufacturing and exports is relatively low

Services value added produced locally and abroad: share of gross manufacturing exports (in %) 2014

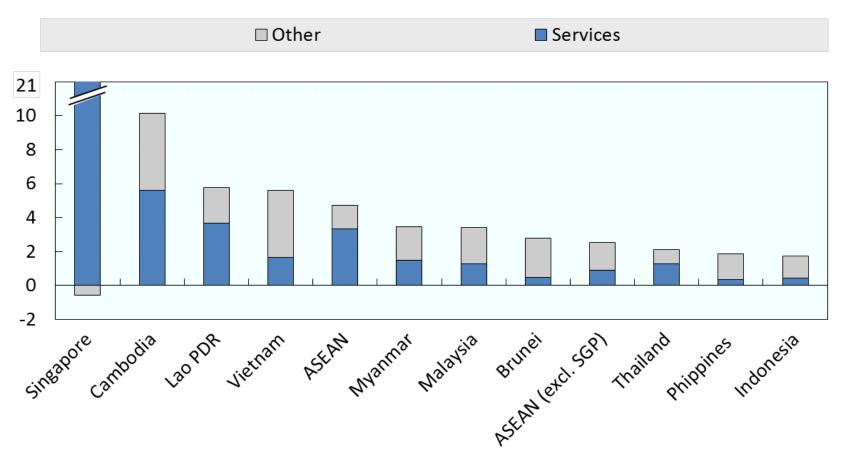




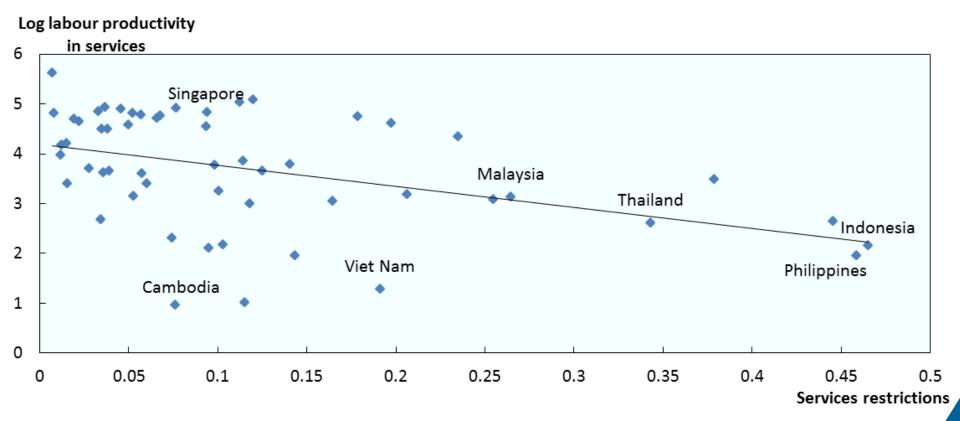
## *3. OPTION:* LIBERALISING FDI IN SERVICES

### Services FDI can foster modern services but FDI remain low in AMS

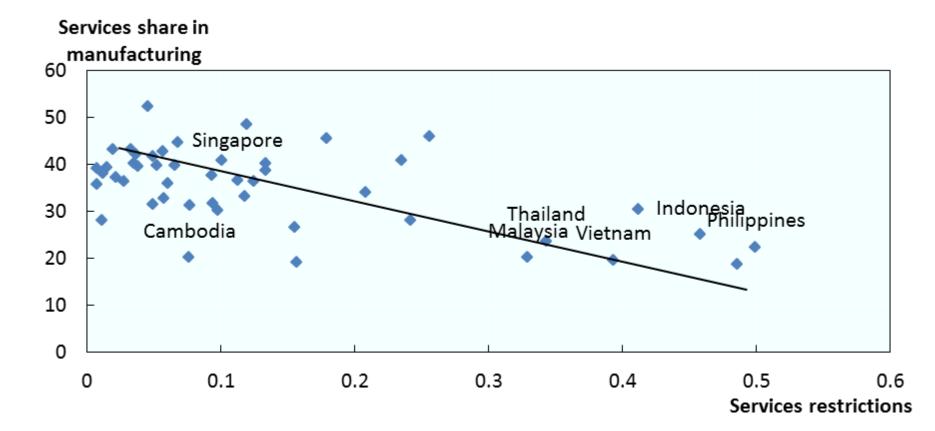
Inward FDI flows over 2012-16 (in % GDP): Services versus other



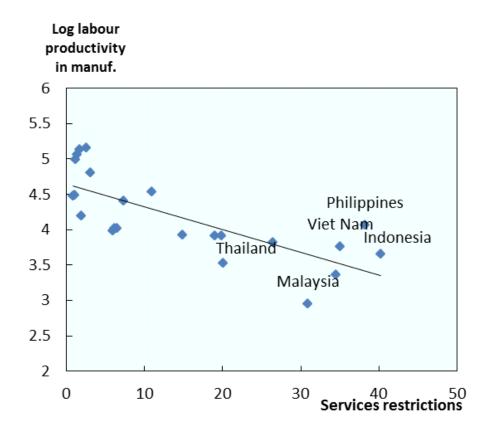
#### Barriers to FDI depress labour productivity in services



# Opening services may increase the use of high quality services in production



### More open services would raise manufacturing productivity

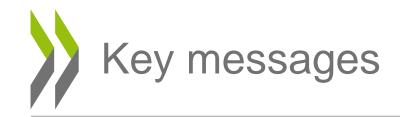


Additional key policy insights from econometrics:

- Liberalising services in countries with relatively high restrictions is particularly favourable for productivity
- Restrictions in upstream services have a relatively stronger negative effect on SME manufacturers



#### CONCLUSION



- 1. Services are key for growth, competitiveness and jobs
- 2. AMS have could boost productivity by developing services
- 3. FDI can foster services development, but remains low in many AMS
- 4. Opening services FDI could boost productivity across economic sectors, and benefit SMEs in particular

thank you

terima kasih

ขอบคุณ

ຂອບໃຈ

cảm ơn bạn

dzei zu: tin ba: deə

សូមអរកុណ

ありがとう

salamat

Martin Wermelinger, Ph.D. OECD Investment Division

Contact: martin.wermelinger@oecd.org



