WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COMPETITION POLICY IN ASEAN

PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE COMPETITIVE PROCESS

1. Competition Law – Antitrust
2. Economics – Trade – ASEAN


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ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

one vision
one identity
one community
WHAT IS COMPETITION POLICY?

Competition policy can be broadly defined as a governmental policy that promotes or maintains the level of competition in markets, and includes governmental measures that directly affect the behaviour of enterprises and the structure of industry and markets. Competition policy includes competition law.

IS COMPETITION POLICY RELEVANT TO ME?

Competition policy is relevant to everyone, regardless whether you operate a business or are a consumer. From governments, to businesses small and large and to consumers, a more competitive market is a more efficient market.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF COMPETITION?

Effective competition, supported by a strong competition policy framework, will deliver many economic benefits:

CONSUMER WELFARE
- More choices for consumers
- Wider range of sellers and offerings to choose from
- Goods and services offered at competitive prices by competitors and
- Improved quality, service and innovation

ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY
- Efficient use and allocation of scarce resources
- Lower business costs through competitive prices and
- More efficient and well-functioning markets

GROWTH, PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY
- Promoting economic growth
- Greater efficiency drives higher levels of output and productivity gains
- Attracting investment and creating jobs

WHY DOES COMPETITION POLICY MATTER?

Competition policy prohibits anti-competitive practices, namely:

ANTI-COMPETITIVE AGREEMENTS
- Cartels and collusive behaviour – price-fixing, bid-rigging, output-limitations and market-sharing.

ABUSE OF A DOMINANT POSITION
- Predatory behaviour, including predatory pricing;
- Exclusive dealing - forcing other businesses into working exclusively with itself;
- Refusals to supply or to provide access to essential facilities.

ANTI-COMPETITIVE MERGERS
- Mergers that substantially lessen competition

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT COMPETITION POLICY

Everyone can help to foster a competitive economy. It is up to each member of our community to promote and expect competitive behaviour among competing firms.

You can help to foster a more competitive marketplace by reporting anti-competitive behaviour to relevant competition authority in your country – see back page for more details.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We encourage all businesses and consumers in the ASEAN member states to find out more about competition policy developments in the ASEAN region. To learn more about how competition policy issues in the region will affect you, please visit: www.aseancompetition.org.