Opportunities and Challenges for Competition Agencies- Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos

PORNCHAI WISUTTISAK

DEAN OF FACULTY OF LAW, CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY, THAILAND PHD IN BUSINESS LAW AND TAXATION, UNSW EMAIL: PORNCHAI.W@CMU.AC.TH



Opportunities

1) New Agencies with responsibility for market competition and economic development

2) Easy to adopt and adapt to the changes



New Agencies with responsibility for market competition and economic development

- □Key roles as the institutional drivers for economic development
- Utilize authoritative power- Competition protection and promotion
- Market investigation
- Cooperation with government agencies on economic policy
- Cooperation with sectoral regulation for regulation on infrastructures sectors
- Helping smoothing the process of disruption and competition
- Power to fight for competition for overall market efficiency and increase of productivity
- Power to dealing with collusion, rigging, corruption



Easy to adopt and adapt to the changes

□ Agile institution

New staffs with new knowledge's on market competition

Independency with adaptable approaches



Challenges

- 1) Political influence
- 2) Lack of staffs and lack of expert
- 3) Lack of understanding on procedural rules and investigation
- 4) Short of financial support
- 5) Lack of coordination with sector regulators
- 6) Lack of public recognition



Political influence

Authoritative order and influence on the Competition Commission

> Facing with high political influence agencies

Dealing with corporates with connection to government agencies

Potential conflicts with government agencies- unchanged rules and policy



Lack of staffs and lack of expert

- >Shortages of economists on industrial organization
- Shortages of lawyers who have specialization on law and economics
- Shortages of investigators



Lack of understanding on procedural rules and investigation

>Legal action requires legal procedural rules

Competition Agencies with focus on enforcement lacks of understanding legal procedural rules

>No previous case action in the court



Short of financial support

Small amount of annual budgets

>No self-funding like other government agencies

>No other sources of income



Lack of coordination with sector regulators

Authoritative barriers between agencies
No communication with sectoral regulators
SOEs with political influence



Lack of public recognition

No advocacy strategy

Lack of interest from media

Lack of courses on competition in economics faculty
Lack of courses on competition in law faculty





Pornchai Wisuttisak* Dean of Faculty of Law, Chiang Mai University, Thailand PhD in Business Law and Taxation, UNSW Email: pornchai.w@cmu.ac.th

