EASE OF DOING BUSINESS 2020: FAIR BIZ COUNTRIES
PERFORMANCE AND REFORMS

Based on World Bank’s Doing Business 2020 report

Over the past 5 years, Fair Biz target countries have been continuously implementing regulatory reforms in pursuit of a better business environment. All 6 countries have secured steady improvement in their ease of doing business score, with the 5-year growth rate averaged at 10%. Countries with the most notable improvement are Indonesia (5-year growth percentage at 12%) and Myanmar, which rose out of the bottom 20 to a ranking of 165 over the past year.

**TABLE: Fair Biz Countries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economy</th>
<th>2020 rank (1-190)</th>
<th>5Y growth %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunei Darussalam</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Philippines</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AREAS OF BUSINESS REGULATION IN FOCUS**

**Starting a business**
- To incorporate a business, it takes 6 days in Thailand and 33 days in the Philippines.
  - OECD average = 9.2 days

**Dealing with construction permits**
- To obtain a construction permit, it takes 41 days in Malaysia and 200 days in Indonesia.
  - OECD average = 22 days

**Getting electricity**
- The reliability of supply and transparency of tariffs index.
  - Indonesia (Surabaya) = 8/10
  - Malaysia = 7.4/10

**Registering property**
- In Thailand = 47th,
  - in Philippines = 171st.

**Getting credit**
- In Malaysia = 110th,
  - In Indonesia = 120th

**Protecting minority investors**
- The extent of disclosure index.
  - Indonesia (Surabaya) = 4/10
  - Malaysia = 3/10

**Paying taxes**
- In Indonesia = 148th,
  - In Malaysia = 176th.

**Trading across borders**
- In Indonesia = 176th,
  - In Malaysia = 157th.

**Enforcing contracts**
- The quality of judicial processes index.
  - Indonesia = 13/18
  - Malaysia = 4/18

**Reform Implemented by Fair Biz Countries in 2018/2019**

**Indonesia**
- Made starting a business easier by introducing an online platform for business licensing and replacing hard copies with electronic certificates.
- Strengthened construction quality control by imposing stricter qualification requirements for architects and engineers and making building permitting requirements available online. Myanmar also improved its water and sanitation infrastructure and made the building permitting process more efficient by introducing service quality standards.

**Myanmar**
- Made starting a business easier by introducing an electronic case management system for judges. This reform applies to both Jakarta and Surabaya.
- Made enforcing contracts easier by publishing performance measurement reports.

**The Philippines**
- Enhanced minority investor protections by requiring greater disclosure of transactions with interested parties and enhancing director liability for transactions with interested parties.