

## ASEAN Payment Connectivity: Cambodia and Thailand

At the ASEAN Central Bank Governors' Meeting, 4 April 2019, Chiang Rai, Thailand

The Bank of Thailand and the National Bank of Cambodia further strengthened their ties in the area of payment and FinTech development.

In February 2019 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Veerathai Santiprabhob, Governor of the Bank of Thailand (BOT) and H.E. Chea Chanto, Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation in the Areas of Financial Innovation and Payment Systems. The MOU aims to promote more efficient, cost-saving, and secured domestic and cross-border payment transactions as well as to promote the usage of local currencies.

Today in Chiang Rai, to continue strong collaboration on payment connectivity between the two countries, both governors witnessed the demonstration of “Interoperable QR Payment” between Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) of Thailand and its subsidiary in Cambodia. This interoperable cross-border QR payment is based on EMV standard that will facilitate cross-border retail payments between individuals and merchants in the two countries. With the service, Thai tourists will be able to use their Thai mobile banking applications to scan the QR code and make payments to Cambodian merchants. While the showcase today is a pilot demonstration of payment transfer within a bank group, going forward with interoperable infrastructure the two countries will continue to work together to expand payment network so that cross-border QR payments can be made from the majority of banks in Thailand and Cambodia.

*Veerathai Santiprabhob, Governor of the Bank of Thailand, said “I am pleased to witness the progress of financial innovation in cross-border payment services between Cambodia and Thailand, specifically with the adoption of interoperable financial infrastructure. This is an important development as Cambodia is a popular tourist destination for Thai tourists and being able to use their Thai mobile banking applications to make payments to Cambodian merchants will certainly improve cross-border payment efficiency as well as encourage further adoption of digital payments among the people of the two countries. Furthermore, the demonstration today*

*is only the first use case of interoperable QR payment between the two countries. Going forward, greater adoption of interoperable QR payment scheme will allow cross-border QR payments to be made from the majority of Thai and Cambodian banks.”*

*H.E. Chea Chanto, Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC), said “the establishment of the QR code payment is very crucial for both countries for facilitating cross-border payments, reducing the risks and transaction costs, as well as promoting payment efficiency among others.”*