Session Title: Private Investments in Public Infrastructure In Asia

Date: 14 April 2016

Time: 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Duration: 90 minutes

Synopsis: The Asian Development Bank estimates that Asia needs to invest \$8 trillion between 2010 and 2020 in infrastructure. Government budgets, especially among emerging countries, cannot cover these huge needs. Public-private partnerships, although helpful, may not suffice to bridge the gap. With this in mind, China has spearheaded the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to lend money for infrastructure projects in Asia. The ASEAN countries have also formed their own ASEAN Infrastructure Fund. Outside of such multilateral initiatives, private players are getting increasingly involved. Private equity funds, pension funds and sovereign wealth funds are becoming increasingly attracted to infrastructure due to the stable, long-term cash flows (often adjusted to keep pace with inflation) and the high entry barriers. The session will look at infrastructure investments in Asia by multilateral agencies and private actors. It will discuss initiatives by Asian governments to encourage private participation, the investment criteria/process of such private investors, as well as the business and legal pitfalls which they face in cross-border infrastructure investments. It will also explain the structure and approach of the AIIB to infrastructure investments.

Committee: Cross-Border Investment Committee

Moderator: Ravi Nath (Rajinder Narain & Co., India)

Speaker: Gmeleen Tomboc (Sidley Austin LLP, Singapore), Martin Desautels (DFDL, Cambodia),

Maxim Alekseyev (ALRUD, Russia), Soong Ki Yi (Yoon & Yang LLC, Korea)