

X. Supporting Activities towards the Establishment of ERIA

The Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO (IDE-JETRO) has conducted supporting activities towards the establishment of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia or “ERIA.”

The establishment of ERIA was proposed to promote the External Economic Policy of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

1. Objective of the ERIA Project

The objective of the ERIA Project is to establish ERIA (the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia) as a new international organization among the 16 countries in the wider East Asian region namely, Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, towards narrowing the development gaps and achieving sustainable economic growth in the region. ERIA aims to intellectually support the region’s efforts for furthering economic integration with ASEAN as a hub through its policy research and policy recommendations based on inputs from local business communities. ERIA’s research covers a wide range of policy areas such as trade, investment, industrial policy, energy, environment, human resource development, standards & certification and intellectual property.

In FY2007, ERIA research projects were conducted under the three pillars of “Deepening Integration,” “Narrowing Development Gaps” and “Sustainable Development.” Specifically, the projects studied service liberalization on trade & investment, infrastructure development, industrial agglomeration, FDI promotion, development strategy for the CLMV countries, SME policies in Asia and energy security. ERIA also designed and carried out various capacity building programs for policymakers and researchers in the CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam).

In close collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, ERIA’s research findings were presented as an interim report of policy recommendations to leaders and ministers at regional forums such as the AEM-METI Consultation (ASEAN Economic Ministers and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Consultations) and EAS (East Asia Summit consisting of

ASEAN plus Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand). Also a draft policy report “Policy Recommendations of the ERIA Study Project (FY2007)” was made.

ERIA was first proposed at the 2nd EAS in Cebu on 15th January 2007, and its establishment was formally agreed at the 3rd EAS in Singapore on 21st November 2007.

2. Activities in FY2007

IDE-JETRO has been working in close linkage with 15 overseas research institutes to conduct various preparatory stage events and activities towards ERIA’s establishment. These range from joint research projects, capacity building programs, and seminars and symposiums.

(1) Research Project

In FY 2007, prior to the formal establishment of ERIA, Bangkok Research Center launched 6 research projects (9 preparatory study projects) as a contribution toward East Asian wide economic integration under the three pillars; “Deepening Integration,” “Narrowing Development Gaps” and “Sustainable Development” in collaboration with 16 research institutes (ASEAN plus Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand) including IDE-JETRO.

Two interim reports, “Developing a Roadmap toward East Asian Economic Integration” and “Energy Security in East Asia,” were presented at the 1st EAS Energy Ministers Meeting (EMM1) held in Singapore on August 23rd 2007, the 14th Consultations between AEM-METI held in Manila on August 25th 2007 and the 3rd EAS held in Singapore on 21st November 2007.

<Umbrella Project>

No.1-1 Developing a Roadmap toward East Asian Economic Integration (Test Run)

Leader Dr. Hadi Soesastro

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

<Deepening Integration>

No.1-2 Deepening Economic Integration in East Asia:

The ASEAN Economic Community and Beyond

Leader Dr. Hadi Soesastro

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

No.2 International Infrastructure Development in East Asia: toward Effective and Balanced Regional Integration

Leader Dr. Nagesh Kumar

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

No.3 Analyses of Industrial Agglomeration, Production Networks and FDI Promotion: Developing Practical Strategies for Industrial Clustering

Leader Dr. Mohamed Ariff

Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER)

<Narrowing Development Gaps>

No.4 Development Strategy for CLMV in the Age of Economic Integration

Leader Dr. Chap Sotharith

Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP)

No.5 Asian SMEs and Globalization

Leader Dr. Hank Lim

Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)

<Sustainable Development>

No.6 Energy Security in East Asia

WG-1 Analysis on Energy Saving Potential in East Asia

Leader Dr. Shigeru Kimura

The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ)

WG-2 Standardization of Biodiesel Fuel for Vehicles in East Asia

Leader Dr. Shinichi Goto

Research Center for New Fuels and Vehicle Technology, Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)

WG-3 Sustainable Biomass Utilization Vision in East Asia

Leader Dr. Masayuki Sagisaka

Research Center for Life Cycle Assessment, AIST

(2) Capacity Building Program

ERIA designed and carried out various capacity building activities, with program curriculums focusing on areas such as regional integration and trade & investment. These activities aimed at building capacity among policymakers and researchers at universities and institutes across regions, in particular the CLMV

countries.

In FY 2007, IDE-JETRO and RIS (Research and Information System for Developing Countries) conducted a capacity building program, in which 548 people from 7 countries, in particular from CLMV countries participated. The activities of this program were presented at the 3rd CLMV-METI held in Manila on 25th August 2007.

(1) Program for government officials, young economists from university and research institutes, and policymakers

- a) Six-month Training Program
at IDE-JETRO 8 participants
- b) One-month Training Program
at RIS 8 participants
- c) Short-Program (2 weeks)
at IDE-JETRO 15 participants
- d) Special Lectures in CLMVs
at IDE-JETRO 512 participants

(2) Program for government officials, young economists from university and research institutes, and policymakers who participate in the research projects.

- a) Research Associate Program
at IDE-JETRO 5 participants

3. Seminars and Symposiums

Seminars and symposiums were held in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Business Advisory Council and JETRO overseas offices with the aim of nurturing a sense of community in the region, as well as promoting ERIA and disseminate ERIA-related research findings. These events demonstrated how ERIA projects could be carried out through “industry-academia-government collaboration.”

1) Large symposiums were held in Manila on 23rd August 2007 (in conjunction with the 39th AEM) and in Singapore on 6th November 2007 (in conjunction with the 3rd EAS). ERIA Tokyo Forum was held on 4th March 2008 to mark the institute’s formal establishment.

2) Seminars were held 11 times in total, in 7 countries, 10 cities in East Asia.
(Auckland, Bangkok (2), Christchurch, Da Nang, Hanoi, New Delhi, Singapore, Sydney, Vientiane,

Wellington)

List of ERIA Member Research Institutes

AUSTRALIA: Australia-Japan Research Centre, Crawford School of Economics and Government, Australian National University (ANU)

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM: Brunei Darussalam Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (BDIPSS)

CAMBODIA: Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP)

CHINA: Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)

INDIA: Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

INDONESIA: Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

JAPAN: Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO (IDE-JETRO)

KOREA: Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP)

LAO PDR: National Economic Research Institute (NERI)

MALAYSIA: Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER)

MYANMAR: Yangon Institute of Economics (YIE), Ministry of Education

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER)

THE PHILIPPINES: Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS)

SINGAPORE: Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)

THAILAND: Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)

VIETNAM: Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM), Ministry of Planning and Investment

In collaboration with:

ASEAN Secretariat

Asian Development Bank (ADB)