
IX. Supporting Activities for ERIA

JETRO continues to conduct activities supporting the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

1. Objective of Activities

The objective of these activities is to contribute to policy efforts to promote both comprehensive development of the Asian economy and growth of the Japanese economy through collaboration with relevant organizations such as the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), by supporting the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), an international organization established in June 2008, by the 16 East Asia Summit member countries to conduct policy research and formulate policy recommendations towards greater East Asian economic integration.

2. Activities in FY 2009

In close linkage with 15 regional research institutes and in consultation with METI, IDE-JETRO has been working on a variety of activities including research, capacity building, dissemination of research findings, and serving as secretariat for the Research Institute Network (RIN) with the JETRO Bangkok Research Center (merged into JETRO Bangkok since February 2010) as a local administrative office for such activities and in cooperation with JETRO's Overseas Research Department and overseas offices.

1) Research Projects

Under two of ERIA's three research pillars, "Narrowing the Development Gaps" and "Sustainable Development," IDE-JETRO, under contract with ERIA, conducted two policy research projects with four research agendas focusing on East Asian economic integration along with five other independent research projects in Bangkok, etc. to support ERIA's research activities related to Japan's national interests.

The research results were presented to regional ministers by ERIA on a number of occasions, including 4th East Asia Summit in Thailand in October, 2009, the Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers' Inaugural Meeting, etc..

<ERIA policy research projects sponsored by ERIA>

(1) Supporting-study Projects for ERIA Research Project on "The Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP)"

(1)-1 "Geographical Simulation Analysis for Logistics Enhancement in East Asia" (GSM)

(1)-2 "Fostering Production and Science & Technology Linkages to Stimulate Innovation in ASEAN" (Agglomeration)

(1)-3 "CLMV Comprehensive Development Plan Focusing on Upgrading Industrial Structure" (CLMV)

(2) "3R Policies in Southeast and East Asia"

<Independent research projects related to the national interest of Japan>

(1) A Japan/ China/ Korea Comparison of Economic Relationships with the Mekong River Basin Countries

(2) Improvement of Investment Climate of Major Cities in CLMV Countries

(3) Survey on the Business Needs and Strategies in the Mekong Region

(4) Pre-feasibility Study for Development of a South-India Industrial Corridor

(5) Food Security in East Asia and Japan's Role—Toward Regional Cooperation in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)

2) Capacity Building

A number of programs were carried out aimed at improving the policy-research and policy-proposing capacity of local policy makers and researchers, in particular the CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam). IDE-JETRO was contracted to conduct a "Long Term Program for 6-month in Japan," which combined the existent IDE Advanced School Program for Overseas and an ERIA program focusing on ERIA Research Projects and trade & investment (esp. FTA). The JETRO Bangkok Research Center assisted ERIA in conducting a program titled "Dispatch of Lecturers in CLMV countries." A total of 424 individuals from the CLMV countries participated in these two programs.

3) Seminar / Symposium

On December 1, 2009, with support from the ASEAN Secretariat, METI, and the Yomiuri Shimbun, IDE-JETRO and ERIA jointly held an international symposium in Tokyo titled, "East Asia Beyond the Global Economic Crisis," focused on a number of topics including the impacts of

the global economic crisis, prospects for the East Asian regional economy, and self-sustaining growth through expansion of domestic markets. In their respective speeches delivered at the symposium, Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Surin Pitsuwan expressed their hope that Japan and ERIA would contribute to the economic integration in the region.

Seminars based on results of studies conducted by IDE-JETRO in support of ERIA activities were held at the Center of Asian Studies (CEA) of Universidad Tecnológica de Bolívar (UTB) and the Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) of University of Kansas (KU), in both North and South America. These seminars focused on economic policies, integration and industrial development strategies in East Asia.

Besides the above-mentioned symposium and seminars, seminars for International Organizations and Japanese Companies in Philippine, Singapore, and Thailand were held in coordination with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Singapore and Manila, as well as JETRO Overseas Offices in order to disseminate the results of studies conducted by the JETRO Bangkok Research Center to support ERIA activities. The objective of these seminars was to provide an opportunity to discuss and exchange views on the current status and challenges of East Asia economic integration.

4) Secretariat for the Research Institutes Network

The Research Institutes Network (RIN) was formed by research institutes from 16 countries with the objective of supporting ERIA activities by providing research outcomes and information to ERIA as well as advising ERIA's research agenda and policy recommendations. JETRO has played a leading role in organizing RIN meetings, with IDE-JETRO acting as the Japanese representative to RIN and the JETRO Bangkok Research Center serving as RIN's administrative office. Meetings were held twice in Bangkok on August 25, 2009 and January 29, 2010.