
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 Asia.

2. Activities in FY 2010

In close linkage with 15 regional research institutes and in consultation with METI, JETRO has been working on a variety of activities including research, capacity building, dissemination of research findings, with the Institute of Developing Economies serving as secretariat for the Research Institute Network (RIN) and the JETRO Bangkok (Research Section) 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," JETRO, under contract with ERIA, conducted two policy research projects with three research agendas focusing on East Asian economic integration along with seven 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 5th East Asia Summit and 17th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam in October, 2010, and ASEAN Transport

Ministers Meeting in Brunei in November 2010.

<ERIA policy research projects sponsored by ERIA>

(1) Supporting-study Projects for ERIA Research Project on "The Comprehensive Asia Development Plan Phase 2 (CADP2)"

(1)-1 "Geographical Simulation Analysis for Logistics Enhancement in ASEAN, China and India"

(1)-2 "Network Management: How to Enhance Innovation Capability with Internal and External Resources"

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

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

(1) Research on the Possibility of Agriculture & Food Processing Industry in GMS

(2) Distribution network between India and ASEAN

(3) Retail financial markets in Asian countries

(4) "Applying for ASEAN FTAs Certificates of Origin"

(5) The Rise of China's Economy and The Relation to ASEAN Countries

(6) A Study on the Development of Intra-regional Intermediate Goods Trade in ASEAN and the Role of China, Japan and Korea: With Special Focus on the Mekong River Basin Countries(MRBCs)

(7) A Study on Economic Corridors and Industrial Estates, Ports, Metropolitans and Alternative Roads in Mekong Region

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 Section) assisted ERIA in conducting a program titled "Dispatch

of Lecturers in CLMV countries.” A total of 239 individuals from the CLMV countries participated in these two programs.

3) Seminar / Symposium

To disseminate results of studies conducted by JETRO Bangkok (Research Section) to support ERIA activities, seminars on the current status of East Asia were held for Japanese Companies etc. three times in Bangkok, Thailand. (Total of participants of those seminars: 254)

JETRO and ERIA did not hold Joint International Symposiums in FY2010, however JETRO assisted ERIA to organize The ERIA Regional Network Forum entitled “Connecting the Future- East Asian Regional Initiatives”, which was jointly held by the ERIA, Nara Prefecture, and the Kansai Economic Federation in July 2010 in Nara Prefecture, Japan. The representatives from 16 Research Institute Network (RIN) members attended this Forum and active discussions were made.

In addition, JETRO backed ERIA up on occasion in sending staffs to smoothly organize its symposiums, seminars, expert meetings and so on.

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 Section) serving as RIN’s administrative office. Meetings were held twice in Bangkok on September 25, 2010 and January 8, 2011.

5) Others

(1) MoU with ERIA

JETRO has continued to support ERIA since its establishment in June 2008. On February 17, 2011, JETRO signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with ERIA to strengthen the relation between the two organizations.

(2) ERIA-IDE-UNIDO Joint Conference

On March 7-8, 2011, IDE-JETRO, ERIA and UNIDO jointly held a conference in Jakarta titled, “Green Economy, Sustainable Innovation, and Structural Change: Challenges and Opportunities” as a preparation meeting of the coming their trilateral joint research project starting from FY2011.

(3) Assistance for Development of ERIA Library

In cooperation with IDE Library, JETRO gave advice and suggestions to ERIA for development of its library.