

VII. 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 FY2015

Through 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 and dissemination of research findings, with the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) serving as the secretariat for the Research Institute Network (RIN), and JETRO Bangkok serving as a local administrative office for such activities, in cooperation with JETRO's Overseas Research Department and overseas offices.

(1) Research Projects

Under two of ERIA's three research pillars, "Deepening Economic Integration" and "Narrowing Development Gaps," JETRO and ERIA jointly conducted research projects as follows:

< ERIA/JETRO Collaborative Research Projects in FY 2015 >

1. Capturing value-added in agricultural value chains: challenges for less-developed countries in Southeast Asia
2. Industrial Deepening and Local Supplier Development in Southeast Asia: the Case of Thailand
3. Rethinking Migration Governance in the Mekong region: From the Perspective of the Migrant Workers and Their Employers
4. Industrial Development along the Global Supply Chain: Organizational Evidences from Southeast Asia
5. New Development for Cross-border Transport Facilitation in the Inland ASEAN and Establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community
6. Sub-National Regional Development in Lower Mekong Countries from 1992 to 2012: Its Implications on Inclusive and Sustainable Developments
7. Determinants and management of innovative personnel mobility from developed countries to developing countries
8. Economic Globalization, Firms' Employment Policy and Human Capital Formation in East Asian Economies

(2) Capacity Building

The programs were carried out with the aim of improving the policy research and policy-proposing capacity of local policymakers and researchers, in particular in the CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam). JETRO Bangkok (research section) assisted ERIA in advising on program plan and sending lecturers.

(3) Seminar/Symposium

To disseminate and to maximize the results of studies, IDE-JETRO and ERIA held an international conference:

“Policy Research Institute Conference on Globalization and Equitable Development”

Date: April 20, 2015

Venue: Jakarta, Indonesia

Co-organizer: The Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Indonesia

In addition, seminars and a symposium were organized by JETRO Bangkok (research section) as follows:

1) “Dollarization and De-dollarization in Transitional Economies of Southeast Asia”

Date: December 4, 2015

Venue: Phnom Penh, Cambodia

2) “International Symposium on TPP and Creation of the New World Trading System”

Date: February 24, 2016

Venue: Bangkok, Thailand

Co-organizers: Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) and National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)

3) “Dollarization in Myanmar?”

Date: March 11, 2016

Venue: Yangon, Myanmar

4) “Dollarization in Myanmar?”

Date: March 29, 2016

Venue: Yangon, Myanmar

(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 results and information to ERIA as well as offering advice concerning 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 with JETRO Bangkok (Research Section) serving as RIN’s administrative office. Meetings were held twice, on July 25, 2015, in Bangkok and on January 30, 2016, in Kuala Lumpur. At the first meeting, the RIN Statement “AEC 2015 and Beyond: Community Building through Deepening Regional Economic Integration” was drafted and reported to ERIA.