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## **Ⅶ. Support Activities for ERIA**

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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 FY2011**

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 and dissemination of research findings, with the Institute of Developing Economies serving as the secretariat for the Research Institute Network (RIN) and JETRO Bangkok 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, '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.

IDE-JETRO also stated a three-year joint research project titled 'Green Growth in Asia' with ERIA and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in FY2011 to suggest appropriate policy options based on its research results for the Asian region

and countries facing and tackling environment- and energy-related concerns.

#### **<ERIA Policy Research Projects Contracted with ERIA>**

- (1) Supporting-study Projects for ERIA Research Project on 'The Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP)'
  - (1)-1 'Geographical Simulation Analysis for Consistent Development Policies in East Asia'
  - (1)-2 'Wiring Innovation Networks: How networks upgrade the innovation capacity in East Asia'
- (2) '3R Industrial Policies at Industrial -Related Ministries in East Asian Countries'

#### **<Independent Research Projects Related to the National Interest of Japan>**

- (1) A Study on the Industrial Readjustment in the Mekong River Basin Countries: Towards the AEC by 2015
- (2) A Study on Cross-border Trade Facilitation and Regional Development along Economic Corridors
- (3) Causes and Consequences of Firms' FTA Utilization in East Asia
- (4) A Comparative Study of Business Environments in Major Asian Nations
- (5) Survey on Business Conditions of Japan's Small- and Medium-sized Parts Suppliers and Their Status and Challenges for Asian Expansion
- (6) Potential of Private Vocational Technical Schools for Enhancing Industrial Human Resource Development in ASEAN
- (7) Workshop for the Potential of Agriculture and the Food Processing Industries in the Mekong Region

#### **<ERIA/IDE-JETRO/UNIDO Joint Research Project 'Green Growth in Asia'>**

- (1) Impact of Production-Related Environmental Regulations on International Trade and Technological Spillover through the Supply Chain in Asia
- (2) How to 'Green' the Demand in the Developing Economies? Empirical Industrial Organization

Analysis on Diffusion of Energy Saving Appliances  
 (3) Development of Green Industries in the Asian region: The needed factors and what policies can do

## 2) Capacity Building

A number of programs were carried out with the aim of improving the policy-research and policy-proposing capacity of local policy makers and researchers, in particular in the CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam). JETRO Bangkok (Research Section) assisted ERIA in conducting a program titled 'Dispatch of Lecturers in CLMV Countries' with the above-mentioned aim. A total of 399 individuals from the CLMV countries participated in the program.

## 3) Seminar/Symposium

To disseminate the 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., twice in Bangkok, Thailand. (Total participants at those seminars: 334.)

JETRO and ERIA did not hold a Joint International Symposiums in FY2011; however, JETRO assisted ERIA in organizing the ERIA Regional Network Forum in Fukuoka entitled 'Economic Integration in East Asia and Strategy in SME Development' co-organized by ERIA and Fukuoka Prefecture on February 1, 2011 as well as the Nara Commemorative Forum-ASIA Cosmopolitan Awards which was jointly held by ERIA and Nara Prefecture in Nara in February 2011.

## 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 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 August 20, 2011, in Bangkok and on January 14 in Phuket. At the second meeting, the RIN Statement 'What Kind of Economic Integration?' was drafted and reported to ERIA.