
IX. Support 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 FY2012

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 one of ERIA's three research pillars, 'Narrowing the Development Gaps', JETRO, under contract with ERIA, conducted two policy research projects 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 conducted the three-year joint research project titled 'Green Growth in Asia' with ERIA and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which had started 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) "Geographical Simulation Analysis for Eliminating the Infrastructure Bottlenecks Toward Balanced Growth in East Asia"
- (2) "Innovation Between and Within Supply Chain: Empirical Study of Tracing Local and Global Production-Knowledge Network in East Asia"

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

- (1) ASEAN Economic Integration and Myanmar Economy
- (2) A Study on Regional Development of Border Area in the Mekong Region
- (3) Deepening of Corporate Global Activities in East Asia
- (4) Business expansion of small and medium-sized parts suppliers in Asia – Challenges and countermeasures –
- (5) Logistics Services in ASEAN – Current situation and challenges –
- (6) Japanese affiliated companies' business needs and case study for industrial human resource business in ASEAN
- (7) Survey on "Business Needs and Strategies in the Mekong Sub-Region" 2012

<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 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 (Bangkok Research Center) assisted ERIA in conducting a program titled 'Dispatch of Lecturers in CLMV Countries' with the above-mentioned aim. A total of 841 individuals from the CLMV countries participated in the program.

3) Seminar/Symposium

To disseminate the results of studies conducted by JETRO Bangkok (Bangkok Research Center), seminars on the current status of East Asia were held for Japanese companies, etc., twice in Bangkok, Thailand. (Total participants at those seminars: 185.) As a part of the ASEAN Road Show, IDE-JETRO and ERIA jointly organized the FTA Symposium on "Toward Economic Integration in ASEAN and East Asia" on 27 April 2012 in Tokyo, Japan. In addition, JETRO assisted ERIA in organizing the following 3 events; the ERIA Sendai Symposium "Towards a Disaster Resilient Economy in East Asia" on 26 April

2012 in Sendai, Japan; and the ERIA Fukuoka Forum "Economic Integration in East Asia: Opportunities and Challenges for Japanese SME" on 14 February 2012 in Fukuoka, Japan, jointly held by ERIA and Fukuoka Prefecture.

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 (Bangkok Research Center) serving as RIN's administrative office. Meetings were held twice, on July 28, 2012 in Bangkok and on October 29, 2012 in Phnom Penh. At the second meeting, the RIN Statement 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' was drafted and reported to ERIA.