
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 FY2014

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, 'Deepening Economic Integration' and 'Narrowing Development Gaps', JETRO, under four contracts concluded with ERIA, conducted seven policy research projects focusing on East Asian economic integration to support ERIA's research activities.

< ERIA Policy Research Projects

Contracted with ERIA >

1. FTAs and Spatial Extension of Production Networks in East Asia: Highlighting the Complementary Relationship between Thailand

and Neighboring Economies

- 1) Prospects for Forming a Mekong Business Area: Thai Plus One Corporate Strategy and its Supporting Policies
 - 2) Labour Migration in Thailand and Neighboring Countries: Situation and Challenges of the Migrant Workers
 - 3) Comprehensive Analysis on Free Trade Agreements in East Asia
2. Firm-to-Firm Matching with Technology Transfers in the Local and Global Economy: Findings from Southeast Asia
 3. Cross-border Transport Facilitation in the Inland ASEAN
 4. Geographical Simulation Analyses and Detection of Industrial Cluster in East Asia
 - 1) Geographical Simulation Analyses for an ERIA Project on the "Mekong Industry Development Vision"
 - 2) The Detection of Industrial Clusters in Thailand and Other Countries in the Mekong Sub-region

(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. In total, more than 554 individuals from the CLMV countries participated in the program.

(3) Seminar/Symposium

To disseminate the results of studies conducted by JETRO Bangkok (Research Section), a seminar entitled "Ending a Year-Long Political Deadlock in Cambodia; What Next?" was held in Bangkok, Thailand (with a total of 16 participants). JETRO Bangkok (Research

Section) also held an IDE Session, the main theme of which was “Trade, Finance and Infrastructure in East Asia”, taking advantage of the opportunity afforded by the holding of the East Asian Economic Association Conference at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, in November (with a total of 30 participants). Furthermore, JETRO assisted ERIA in supporting the Nara Forum 2014 - Asia Cosmopolitan Awards which was jointly held by ERIA and Nara Prefecture in Nara in December 2014.

(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 19, 2014, in Bangkok and on January 24, 2015, in Jakarta. At the second meeting, the RIN Statement ‘AEC 2015 and Beyond: RCEP and TPP as Catalysts for Deepening Regional Integration’ was drafted and reported to ERIA.