

FOREWORD

Energy security is a concept that forms the basis of energy policy in every country. It goes without saying that countries must be able to provide a stable supply of energy at an acceptable price, and in the quantity needed to sustain the lives of their people and economic activities. Energy security is a top priority of the policy agenda in East Asia in particular, where countries are now confronted with increasing energy demand resulting from improved living standards and economic growth, coupled with the continuation of historically high crude oil prices. Moreover, with a majority of emissions coming from energy, including air pollutants and greenhouse gases, it is also clear that harmony with the environment has become an integral element of energy policy.

Against this backdrop, ERIA organized a working group to carry out a new study. The purpose of the working group was to quantitatively assess and analyze the energy security situation in East Asian countries and to make policy recommendations for the improvement of that situation. From October 2011 to June 2012, the working group worked to develop an index and gather data for a quantitative assessment of the energy security situation. The working group calculated the index and analyzed it, among other activities.

It is my hope that the outcomes of this study will serve as a point of reference for policymakers in East Asian countries and contribute to the improvement of energy security in the region as a whole.

Dr. Ken Koyama

Leader of the Working Group

June 2012