

Press Release



Start Establishing ASEAN Community Today: GOI-ERIA-Harvard Symposium Precedes the 19th ASEAN Summit

Jakarta, October 31, 2011 – The joint symposium of Government of Indonesia - the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) - Harvard University, started today with the theme of “Moving ASEAN Community Forward into 2015 and Beyond”. Held in the Le Meridien Hotel and attended by more than 150 participants, the discussions of the two-days symposium will focus on the challenges and fulfillment of the ASEAN Community—particularly ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) beyond 2015. The consequent output of the symposium is expected to inspire the recommendations of the upcoming 19th ASEAN Summit in Bali.



At the beginning of the symposium — whose participants composed of policymakers, academicians, analysts, to the business practitioners — Mr. Djauhari Oratmangun, Director General of ASEAN Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered key note speech. Mr. Oratmangun believes that the symposium is in line with this year’s theme of Indonesia’s chairmanship in ASEAN, which is the fulfillment of ASEAN community in global community of nations. In the process, narrowing development gap still becomes the main challenge to be tackled, a challenge that is exacerbated by the recent natural disasters experienced by many ASEAN member countries.

Mr. Hidetoshi Nishimura, Executive Director of ERIA, reiterated the President of Republic of Indonesia’s message during the 44th ASEAN Anniversary earlier this year. “We need not wait for 2015. We can start the process now. An ASEAN Community in a global community of nations can already be built on the breakthroughs that we recently achieved”.

Recommendations generated from the joint symposium will be reported to the President of Republic of Indonesia in his capacity as the Chairman of ASEAN 2011 to facilitate discussion at the ASEAN Summit in managing AEC into 2015 and beyond.

The symposium will continue tomorrow with conclusion and recommendations to be presented. A Speech by H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, the Secretary General of ASEAN and concluding remarks by Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya, Permanent Representative to ASEAN are to be delivered at the end of the day.

ERIA is a Jakarta-based research institute established in 2007 to support ASEAN integration, in which ASEAN Economic Community becomes the central goal. Aside from the thematic researches, ERIA also conducts routine reviews on the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) progress.

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