## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

This Full Report on **ASEAN RISING: ASEAN and AEC Beyond 2015** would not have come into fruition without the collaboration and support of a large number of individuals and institutions. The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) thanks the more than 30 experts and specialists in the region who shared their ideas through their thought or issues papers, most of which have been incorporated in this report (please see **Appendix** for the list of the papers and authors). ERIA also expresses sincere gratitude for the continued support of the ASEAN High Level Task Force on Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) over the course of the implementation of the project especially during the series of four workshops held in November 2013 in Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Yangon and Manila. The success of the workshops would not have been possible without the excellent cooperation and collaboration with the following institutions and government agencies, and ERIA expresses its profuse thanks to them:

Jakarta: Centre for Strategic and International Studies

(CSIS), and the Ministry of Trade (MOT);

Kuala Lumpur: Institute for Strategic and International Studies

(ISIS), and the Ministry of International Trade and

Industry (MITI);

Yangon: Yangon Institute of Economics (YIE), and the

Ministry of National Planning and Economic

Development (MNPED); and

Manila: Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS),

and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

ERIA is proud of its senior team that ably coordinated the activities of the project during the entire year of 2013 and the preparation of this Report:

Ponciano Intal, Jr. (senior researcher);

Fukunari Kimura (chief economist);

Yoshifumi Fukunaga (senior policy coordinator); and

Dionisius Narjoko (researcher).

ERIA is also happy of its other staff members, economists all, who stepped up with papers and contributed in the preparation of the Full Report: Han Phoumin, Sothea Oum, Lili Yan Ing, Fauziah Zen, and Ikumo Isono. Thus, in many ways, the ASEAN and AEC Beyond 2015 project, of which ASEAN RISING: ASEAN and AEC Beyond 2015 is the final integrative output, is an Institute-wide effort.

ASEAN RISING: ASEAN and AEC Beyond 2015 is but the latest endeavour of ERIA in its unceasing support to ASEAN and regional integration efforts in ASEAN and East Asia. The Institute shares the optimism embodied in the report as ASEAN and the region cooperatively and concertedly address the challenges and tap the opportunities that deeper integration in the region entails and offers respectively. We hope the recommendations in the report would help ASEAN and the region move forward confidently into 2015 and beyond. The Institute stands ready to contribute to the fulfilment of ASEAN RISING.

Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura

**ERIA** 

20 January 2014

**Executive Director**