

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) expresses sincere gratitude to all members of the ASEAN Small and Medium Enterprises Agencies Working Group (SMEWG) who have been very supportive of ERIA with the responsibility of developing the Framework of ASEAN SME Policy Index and the assessment process. The methodology applied in the assessment derived from the SME Policy Index, a benchmarking tool for emerging economies to monitor and evaluate progress in policies that support small and medium-sized enterprises. It was developed by the OECD and applied to a number of regions (the Western Balkans and Turkey in 2007, 2009, 2012; Eastern Partnership countries in 2012; and North-African and the Middle East regions in 2008, 2013) in joint effort with the European Commission, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the European Training Foundation.

The project was coordinated by Dr. Sothea Oum with support from Dr. Ponciano Intal Jr., Dr. Dionisius Narjoko, Mr. Robertus B. Herdiyanto and Mr. Axel Castellane (ERIA) under the supervision of Prof. Fukunari Kimura, Chief Economist of ERIA. ERIA thanks all consultant-experts to the project and also expresses great appreciation for the indispensable support given by the staff members of the ASEAN Secretariat, especially Ms. Penchan Manawanitkul, Senior Officer and Ms. Sarah Firdaus from Competition, Consumer Protection and IPR Division (CCPID), Market Integration Directorate, ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Department.

ERIA thanks the following people for their hard work in finalizing the Framework: Prof. Charles Harvie, Dr. Haryo Aswicahyono, Prof. Chaiyuth Punyasavatsut, Prof. Rajah Rasiah, Prof. George Abonyi and Prof. Atipol Bhanich Supapol, Prof. Ruperto P. Alonzo, Dr. Tulus Tambunan, Mr. Ryan Patrick Garcia Evangelista.

The assessment could not be completed without the hard work and dedication of the various country research teams: Mr. Shazali Sulaiman, KPMG (Brunei Darussalam), Mr. Hay Sovuthea, Lay, Sokkheang, and Nguon Yana, Supreme National Economic Council (Cambodia), Dr. Yose Rizal, Mr. Deni Friawan, and Ms. Pratiwi Kartika, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, (Indonesia), Dr. Phouphet Kyophilavong, National University of Lao (Lao PDR), Professor Dr. Rajah Rasiah, Dr. VGR Chandran Govindaraju, Mr. Saad Mohd Said, and Dr. Ng Boon Kwee, University of Malaya (Malaysia), Dr. Nu Nu Lwin, Monywa Institute of Economics, Dr. Aye Thu Htun, Yangon Institute of Economics, and Dr. Aung Kyaw, Monywa Institute of Economics (Myanmar), Dr. Rafaelita M. Aldaba, Philippine Institute for Development Studies and Dr. Fernando T. Aldaba, Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines), Dr. Shandre M. Thangavelu, National University of Singapore (Singapore), Dr. Chaiyuth Punyasavatsut, Thammasat University (Thailand), and Mr. Bui Van Dung, Dr. Nguyen Thi Luyen, Mr. Trinh Duc Chieu, and Mr. Nguyen Thanh Tam, Central Institute for Economic Management (Viet Nam).

ERIA greatly appreciates the contribution of Mr. Antonio Fanelli, Deputy Head, and Ms. Anita Richter, Policy Analyst, Private Sector Development Division, Global Relation Secretariats, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), who acted as an external advisors and expert panels to the project.