

PRESS RELEASE

Statement of the 8th ERIA Governing Board Meeting



Jakarta—5 June 2015: The Governing Board Meeting of ERIA today issued a statement outlining continued efforts to strengthen the economic integration in ASEAN and East Asia. It also reaffirmed the “sherpa role” of ERIA for the economic development and planning in East Asia.

The statement was approved unanimously following the conclusion of the Governing Board Meeting, which was chaired by Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, Permanent Secretary (Trade), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam. The meeting was held at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The following key points were adopted:

Institutional Support and Research

- Enhance collaboration with, and strengthen intellectual support to, the ASEAN Secretariat in the regional integration process.
- Enhance ERIA’s recently established EAS Policy Support Unit, and urge EAS Leaders and Senior Officials to task the Unit to take up socio-economic support activities.
- Communicate with policymakers in East Asia more frequently and more deeply to find out how ERIA can be of help to them.
- Exert its best effort to conduct studies described in the Work Program FY2015 to the maximum extent possible, and to respond to requests by member states. Deepen understanding of economic benefits of integration, including of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and better understanding of narrowing development gaps.

Public Engagement and Capacity Building

- Support ASEAN in developing its Vision 2025, especially for the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community; help ASEAN implement the Vision; and assist in enhancing public awareness and understanding of the Vision, both within and outside the region.
- Deepen capacity building efforts for officials, academics, business associations in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam (CLMV countries) on issues related to structural reforms and regional economic integration; e.g., good regulatory practice, regulatory reforms for improved business environment, etc.
- Deepen engagement and communicate more with stakeholders and the general public.

- Help in the dissemination of regional development and integration efforts to the larger global community by collaborating with academic and government institutions in other parts of the world. Consider the diversification of funding resources to ensure the stability and sustainability of ERIA's activities and operations.

Partnerships and Collaboration

- Strengthen collaboration with partner research institutions in East Asia, such as member institutions in the Research Institutes Network and Energy Research Institute Network, and globally to deepen analysis on important issues concerning East Asia and its future and role in the global economy.
- Expand partnerships with ASEAN centres in ASEAN+1 countries, e.g., ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-India Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-Korea Centre.
- Although cooperation now has been better than expected, work more closely with relevant multilateral agencies and knowledge institutions, such as the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development, International Energy Agency, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, World Trade Organization, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, etc.

Special Considerations

- Consider the diversification of funding resources to ensure the stability and sustainability of ERIA's activities and operations.
- Raise peoples' awareness to the necessary preparations for a tsunami disaster by promoting 'Tsunami Disaster Prevention Day', as legislated in Japan, and the commemoration of 5 November every year as an international day.

What is ERIA:

ERIA is an international organization based in Jakarta. Since its founding in 2008, ERIA, through its research, supports the ASEAN economic integration process in ASEAN member countries. As the leading economic think tank in the Region and the Sherpa institution for the ASEAN Summit process (including the East Asia Summit), ERIA's research has influenced the policy-making process in the Region and has facilitated the goal of realizing an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015.