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## About the sponsoring institutions

## ERIA

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) was established at the 3rd East Asia Summit (EAS) in November 2007, with agreement by all the leaders at the 3rd EAS. ERIA's aim is to contribute intellectually to regional efforts at East Asian economic integration in wide-ranging policy areas. ERIA works closely with both the ASEAN Secretariat and 16 research institutes to undertake and disseminate policy research and provide analytical policy recommendations to Leaders and Ministers at their regional meetings. Capacity building aimed at strengthening policy research capacities, especially in the less developed countries, is another important issue for ERIA. ERIA conducts its research under three pillars: 'Deepening Economic Integration', 'Narrowing Development Gaps', and 'Sustainable Development'. Research covers a wide range of policy areas, such as trade and investment, globalization, and SME promotion, human resource and infrastructure development, as well as energy and environment issues. ERIA organizes seminars and symposia with the aim of nurturing a sense of community in the region, seeking inputs from stakeholders, as well as disseminating ERIA-related research findings. Under the broad mandates from East Asia Summits, ASEAN Summits and related Ministerial Meetings, ERIA has been providing policy recommendations on various occasions to stimulate economic growth, deepen regional integration and strengthen partnerships in East Asia. For more information, see http://www.eria.org/.

### UPH

Established in 1994, Universitas Pelita Harapan (UPH) has guickly become one of Indonesia's leading institutions of higher learning and the country's top-ranked private university. While consistently underlining the vision of 'knowledge, faith and character', UPH, in cooperation with overseas partner universities, has developed a very rich curriculum in many areas of study, ensuring that its graduates are respected globally and appreciated by modern business and industries. UPH has expanded strategic partnerships with prestigious overseas universities, which include the National University of Singapore, Queensland University of Technology and Murdoch University in Australia, Biola University in the United States, Ilmenau University of Technology in Germany, Xiamen University in China, as well as, most recently, the World Trade Institute at the University of Bern, in Switzerland, with whom it has developed a highly innovative new Masters programme in International Trade, Investment and Competition (MTIC) through funding from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). UPH has also entered into partnerships with leading multinational and national companies, such as Microsoft, Intel, Toshiba, Matahari, Multipolar, and Lippo Karawaci. Such cooperation aims at ensuring that the University's learning concepts, curriculum and infrastructure are always up to date and enriched by state-of-the-art technology and business practices. UPH is committed to providing excellent holistic education and learning, supported by worldclass facilities, technology, and infrastructure. UPH graduates have been well received by other universities and major corporations both in Indonesia and in other countries. UPH is currently establishing a Global Campus, with international programmes and e-learning systems supported by a Digital Smart-Campus. For more information, see http://www.uph.edu/.

### WTI

The World Trade Institute (WTI) is a centre of excellence of the University of Bern, Switzerland. Established in 1999, it is one of the world's leading academic institutions dedicated to the regulation of international trade. The WTI transcends boundaries by fusing law, economics and international relations in interdisciplinary research, training, advisory work and technical assistance in Switzerland and abroad. The WTI was the first, and is the most experienced institution in the world offering a specialized postgraduate degree in the law and economics of international trade regulation, through its flagship Master of International Law and Economics (MILE) program. The WTI also hosts a multidisciplinary Doctoral School of Economic Globalization and Integration. Students benefit from the Institute's global faculty, consisting of leading scholars and practitioners drawn from the ranks of the world's most prominent universities, policy research institutions, law firms and international organizations. The WTI aims to equip students with the practical skills and knowledge to meet the ever evolving challenges of global governance. The WTI pursues different lines of activity in the fields of research, training, and advisory services. Tailor-made courses and consulting for professionals from Ministries, organizations and private industry are based on cutting edge policy research. The WTI cooperates closely with the University of Bern's Department of Economic Law, with which it shares its premises. As host institution of the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research on Trade Regulation, the WTI is also at the core of a global research network connecting our students to researchers, practitioners and our own alumni in the field. Its purpose is to develop innovative policy recommendations, which reflect a better balance between economic and other regulatory objectives. For more information, see <u>www.wti.org</u>.



## THE ROAD TO BALI:

# ERIA Perspectives on the WTO Ministerial and Asian Integration

The World Trade Organization's (WTO) forthcoming Ninth Ministerial Conference in Bali comes at a critical juncture for the multilateral trade body, long mired in the Doha Round stalemate. Beyond offering a critical first test at consensus-building and institutional renewal, the Bali Ministerial affords a unique opportunity to gauge contrasting perceptions across ASEAN and East Asian countries of the continued relevance of the WTO to trade and economic governance within the region and beyond.

Resulting from the collaborative efforts of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), the Universitas Pelita Harapan (UPH) and the World Trade Institute at the University of Bern (WTI), this policy research initiative offers comparative scholarship on some of the key questions arising from the forthcoming WTO Ministerial gathering from an East Asian perspective. Specifically, it explores what scholars in the region expect the Bali Ministerial to produce by way of tangible outcomes and whether the Ministerial will restore the momentum needed to bring the Doha Round to a successful conclusion. Contributors also investigate how relevant the WTO remains to the multiple processes of deepening economic integration in ASEAN and East Asia (e.g. AEC, TPP, RCEP) and, importantly, what lessons in rule-design and market opening WTO Members could usefully draw from the ongoing march towards the establishment of an ASEAN Economic Community.

