



**Event
Highlights**



MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

1 April 2015, Malaysia

Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, then Executive Director (now President) of ERIA, and senior ERIA officials, paid a courtesy call on Malaysian Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Haji Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 1 April 2015. Prof Nishimura expressed ERIA's readiness to contribute, through its research and related activities, to the success of the Malaysian chairmanship of ASEAN.

Prime Minister Najib noted ERIA's contribution as a Sherpa organisation of ASEAN and EAS and its research contributions to the Asian region. He acknowledged and encouraged ERIA's activities in 2015 to support the Malaysian chairmanship.



SEVENTH ERIA ACADEMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

13 April 2015, Indonesia

During ERIA's Seventh Academic Advisory Council (AAC) Meeting, presided by Prof Dr Hank Lim Giok-Hay of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) as AAC Chairperson, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA Executive Director (now President), reviewed the activities of the past year and reported on overall progress.

Prof Fukunari Kimura, ERIA Chief Economist, presented ERIA's projects for 2015 and 2016, to which AAC members gave their feedback and suggestions.



ERIA–IDE JETRO–CSIS INDONESIA POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE CONFERENCE

20 April 2015, Indonesia

ERIA, the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), and Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Indonesia organised this conference, whose theme focuses on ERIA's fundamental mandate since 'ERIA is one of the institutions to promote economic integration and the narrowing of development gaps in East Asia at the same time.'

Around 30 experts and policymakers gathered and exchanged ideas on what policy measures are required for equal development as globalisation increases the development gaps among nations and regions.

The heads of the three institutions—Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura of ERIA, Dr Takashi Shiraishi of IDE-JETRO, and Dr Yose Rizal Damuri of CSIS Indonesia—delivered the welcome and opening remarks.



SECOND TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON DECONSTRUCTING EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT REGULATORY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN ASEAN AND EAST ASIA

20–21 April, Malaysia

This workshop, attended by 10 country study authors as well as representatives from the Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) and the New Zealand Embassy in Jakarta, was a continuation of the first workshop held in September 2014.

The 10 country study authors presented two case studies on regulatory improvement in their respective countries, followed by econometric analysis on regulatory management system elements table as well as a discussion on insights and key findings of the study.

The study is a joint project between ERIA and New Zealand Institute of Economic Research, supported by the New Zealand Government and the MPC.



SECOND MEETING OF THE ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE NETWORK (ERIN)

21 April 2015, Singapore

During this meeting, ERIA reported its achievements in FY2014 and study plan for FY2015. In his closing remarks, Prof Nishimura stated that ERIA would like to implement energy research proposals from ERIN members and derive policy recommendations for the Energy Ministers Meeting in the latter part of 2015.

ERIA will pursue strengthening cooperation with other organisations inside and outside the East Asia Summit region, such as ACE and IEA respectively, and with academia, including research students in universities.



ERIA-OECD MOU FIRST ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

4 May 2015, Indonesia

The First Anniversary Symposium of the ERIA-OECD memorandum of understanding (MOU), entitled 'Inspiring the ASEAN Community Towards 2025', was opened by H.E. William Danvers, OECD Deputy Secretary-General. H.E. Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General, in his video message from Paris, said that the joint research between the two organisations could be used to promote economic growth and good practices on trade and investment policies in Southeast Asia.

H.E. Mr Toshihiro Nikai, Chairman of the Parliamentary League for ERIA, and H.E. Dr A.K.P. Mochtan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs, also delivered opening remarks.

Speakers of the symposium were Dr Surin Pitsuwan, former Secretary-General of ASEAN; H.E. Prof Mari Elka Pangestu, former Indonesian Minister of Trade as well as Tourism and the Creative Economy; H.E. Mrs Stephanie Lee, New Zealand Ambassador to ASEAN; H.E. Dato' Hasnudin Hamzah, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to ASEAN; Dr Alexander C. Chandra, Executive Director of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council; Mr Larry Maramis, Director for Cross-Sectoral Cooperation Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat; and ERIA Senior Economist, Dr Ponciano S. Intal, Jr.

Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, then Executive Director (now President) of ERIA, delivered the keynote address in the session on building resiliency in ASEAN and wrapped up the symposium.



COURTESY CALL ON MYANMAR PRESIDENT U THEIN SEIN 26 June 2015, Myanmar

Myanmar President U Thein Sein, during this courtesy call by ERIA President Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, expressed his gratitude to ERIA for its contributions to, and support for, Myanmar's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014 through its symposia and capacity building seminars and research products. Foremost of these is the Myanmar Comprehensive Development Vision (MCDV), which offers long-term growth strategies and provides valuable inputs to the National Comprehensive Development Plan of the government.

After presenting the Myanmar-language version of the MCDV to President Thein Sein, Prof Nishimura also explained ERIA's proposed direction and development strategy for the Dawei Special Economic Zone. President Thein Sein said that he 'would like to ask ERIA for its continued support for the future development of Myanmar.'



FIRST RESEARCH INSTITUTES NETWORK MEETING FOR FY2015 25 July 2015, Thailand

The first Research Institutes Network (RIN) meeting for FY2015 consisted of two sessions:

Session 1 was moderated by Prof Yasuhiro Yamada, President of BRC-JETRO. Prof Fukunari Kimura, Chief Economist of ERIA, reported on ERIA research activities conducted in 2014 and 2015 and on ERIA research programmes slated for 2015 and 2016. Mr Izuru Kobayashi, ERIA Chief Operating Officer, briefed attendees on recent ERIA activities.

In session 2, moderated by RIN Chair Dr Hank Lim of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, Dr Yasushi Ueki, ERIA economist, made a presentation on industrial clusters studies. In his closing remarks, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA President, asked RIN members for their continued support of ERIA's work.



THE THIRD EAS ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING 24 August 2015, Malaysia

Prof Nishimura, ERIA President, briefed the Ministers in attendance on ERIA's activities on the ASEAN Economic Community 2015 as well as on key research projects. One such flagship project is Comprehensive Asia Development Plan 2.0, which provides a framework for stages of industrialisation in East Asia that guides the prioritisation and selection of hard and soft infrastructure projects. Prof Nishimura also announced that ERIA will organise with the Government of Malaysia a 'Global Symposium on ASEAN Post 2015.'



SEVENTH MEKONG–JAPAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING

24 August 2015, Malaysia

Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA President, presented ERIA's research activities related to the Mekong Industrial Development Vision. ERIA's research shows that the Mekong subregion has made significant progress in infrastructure development, and that additional infrastructure development will accelerate economic growth through industrial agglomeration. However, clustered industrial activities are vulnerable to natural disasters. To better understand the impact of disasters on supply chain development in Southeast Asia, ERIA is conducting studies on (i) developing business continuity plans, (ii) using space technologies and Trans-border Information Platform, and (iii) developing a policy index of natural disasters. Prof Nishimura expressed his hope that ERIA's studies will contribute to a better understanding of the Mekong Industrial Development Vision.



THIRD ERIA ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE NETWORK (ERIN) MEETING

27 September 2015, Indonesia

Dr Asclepias Indriyanto, Chair of the Executive Board, Indonesian Institute for Energy Economics, delivered the keynote remarks. Mr Shimpei Yamamoto, Managing Director for Research Affairs of ERIA, briefed participants on ERIA activities in 2015. Mr Shigeru Kimura, Special Advisor to the President on Energy Affairs, explained selected ERIN research projects for the year.

Mr Masakazu Toyoda, CEO and President of the Institute of Energy and Economics, Japan, introduced the draft ERIN statement and policy recommendations to the Ninth EAS Energy Ministers Meeting in October.

In his closing remarks, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA President, stated that ERIA would like to implement the energy research proposals from ERIN members during the meeting and present those as policy recommendations to the next Energy Ministers Meeting.



EAS REGULATORY ROUNDTABLE II

29 September 2015, Indonesia

The governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, and New Zealand, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, and ERIA organised this roundtable II entitled 'Engendering GRP, Responsive Regulations and Regulatory Connectivity in ASEAN and East Asia'.

H.E. Rahmat Pramono, Indonesia's Permanent Representative to ASEAN, and H.E. Trevor Matheson, New Zealand Ambassador to Indonesia, opened the roundtable. H.E. Dr Rizal Affandi Lukuman, Deputy Minister for International Economic and Financial Cooperation Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Indonesia, gave the keynote speech. H.E. One Keng Yong, Former Secretary General of ASEAN, and H.E. Mr Dato' Hasnudin bin Hamzah, Malaysia's Permanent Representative to ASEAN, gave their presentation as panellists.

In his closing remarks, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA President, highlighted the importance of regulatory connectivity and hoped that key results and recommendations from the roundtable would be significant inputs to the ASEAN Coordinating Committee and Connectivity and would benefit Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN.



NINTH EAS ENERGY MINISTERS MEETING

8 October 2015, Malaysia

Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA President, presented the key findings of ERIA's energy studies to the Energy Ministers, saying that a unified energy market interconnected by a power grid will optimise Asia's energy resources. He also explained clean energy and smart communities, enhancing the use of existing fossil fuel resources, improving electric power infrastructure, and coordinating emergency response policies.

The Ministers noted the importance of the Energy Research Institute Network (ERIN) and its first statement in support of ERIA's activities. Russian and US delegates expressed great interest in becoming members of the academic network. As Brunei Darussalam is the current chair of ERIN, the Minister took the opportunity to approve the request from Russia and the US to become ERIN members.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 33RD ASEAN MINISTERS OF ENERGY MEETING AND ITS ASSOCIATED MEETINGS

5–9 October 2015, Malaysia

Launch of the Southeast Asia Energy Outlook 2015 Report

The Southeast Asia Energy Outlook 2015, a joint report by ERIA and the International Energy Agency (IEA), highlights grid interconnection as an opportunity to enhance energy security. Removing the technical, economic, institutional, and political barriers in power grid interconnection is a challenge that warrants further research.

During the launch of the report, Prof Nishimura, ERIA President, said he is 'looking forward to further collaboration with IEA, ASEAN Centre for Energy, and ASEAN member states in information sharing, undertaking joint studies, and capacity building activities.'

Bilateral Meetings

Prof Nishimura held bilateral meetings with the Cambodia Secretary of State to discuss the establishment of the Energy Research Institute in Cambodia; the Chief of HAPUA (Heads of ASEAN Power Utilities Authorities), to discuss support for its research on power grid interconnection; and the Malaysian Minister of Energy, to discuss the Malaysia–ERIA joint research projects on the economic impact of the removal of energy subsidies.



ASEAN CONNECTIVITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE (ACCC) MEETING

15 October 2015, Malaysia

Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA President, presented the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP) 2.0 at this ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee Meeting. CADP 2.0 expands the framework of a new development strategy along stages of industrial development by bringing in infrastructure for innovation. The expanded framework guides the prioritisation and selection of hard and soft infrastructure projects for connectivity and innovation.

He also emphasised reducing non-tariff institutional and regulatory barriers through institutional and regulatory connectivity, and the need for adequate regulatory coherence through good regulatory practices and the development of a well-performing regulatory management system.

ERIA presented CADP 2.0 to the Third EAS Economic Ministers Meeting in August 2015. The Ministers welcomed the report and acknowledged the importance of developing quality infrastructure.



SIXTH ASEAN CONNECTIVITY SYMPOSIUM

16 October 2015, Malaysia

The Sixth ASEAN Connectivity Symposium, themed 'Connectivity Agenda for an Integrated ASEAN Connectivity', was organised by the Government of Malaysia with the support of ERIA.

H.E. Dato Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob, Director-General, ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat, opened the symposium.

In his opening remarks, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA President, explained the importance of quality infrastructure and regulatory connectivity highlighted in ERIA's new deliverable 'Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP) 2.0'. He added that the elements of the CADP 2.0 and regulatory connectivity would be essential and significant core inputs to the post-2015 agenda for ASEAN connectivity.

Hon. Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, delivered the keynote address, and Prof Fukunari Kimura, ERIA Chief Economist, made a presentation on CADP2.0.



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: STRONGER ASSC, CLOSER ASEAN 16 November 2015, Malaysia

Distinguished guests from government, academia, and the private sector attended this international symposium sponsored by ERIA and the Government of Malaysia. Mr Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, ASEAN Deputy Secretary General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), H.E. Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, Malaysia's Minister of Tourism and Culture, gave the keynote speech, and H.E. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Former Prime Minister of Thailand, gave his special address.

In his opening remarks, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA President, highlighted the importance of driving towards a greater sense of ASEAN identity and deeper regional cooperation on a wide range of areas such as education, disaster management, culture, and innovation.



27TH ASEAN SUMMIT, 10TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT AND RELATED MEETINGS 21–22 November 2015, Myanmar

ERIA submitted its flagship report for the year, Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP) 2.0, to the 10th East Asia Summit. Leaders recognised the potential contribution of CADP 2.0 to the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and encouraged ERIA to continue its support to the Chair of the ASEAN Summit and the East Asia Summit.

Summit participants also welcomed the ERIA-sponsored symposium called 'ASEAN Connectivity symposium' on 16 October 2015 in Kuala Lumpur.



DIALOGUE BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) AND THE PARLIAMENT OF JAPAN

24 November 2015, Indonesia

This ERIA-organised dialogue discussed ASEAN–Japan cooperation, including disaster management and the role of ERIA. Fifteen members from Japan’s Parliament, including H.E. Mr Toshihiro Nikai and H.E. Mr Motoo Hayashi, both from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and six AIPA members exchanged their views.

In his remarks, H.E. Mr Nikai requested AIPA members to frankly express their expectations of Japan. H.E. Mr Fadli Zon, Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives for Politics and Security, Indonesia, encouraged AIPA members to promote the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, stressing the importance of ASEAN–Japan cooperation.

Dr Surin Pitsuwan, former Secretary-General of ASEAN, pointed that the Japan–ASEAN relationship has always been productive. He urged AIPA members to establish a caucus to support ERIA among ASEAN countries, AIPA being similar to the Japanese ERIA Parliamentary League.



ERIA EDITORS ROUNDTABLE

4 December 2015, Malaysia

This event gathered 60 journalists and editors from ASEAN member states and beyond to discuss the future of ASEAN under the theme ‘The ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision’.

The roundtable was divided into four sessions: ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision, ASEAN Identity, Dialogue with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, and the Role of Media.

In his opening remarks, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA President, focused on how ASEAN members would fully implement the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, on the importance of the next 10 years, and on raising awareness on the importance of the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision.

H. E. Dato' Reezal Merican bin Naina Merican, Malaysian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and H.E. Mr Le Luong Minh, Secretary General of ASEAN, also attended this event.



NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE FORUM: DEVELOPING AN AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN IN THE MEKONG REGION 14 December 2015, Viet Nam

This forum, organised by ERIA and Viet Nam's Ministry of Industry and Trade, supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, is part of ERIA's capacity building programme. More than 10 deputy directors general from the Mekong Five countries participated in this Executive Leadership Programme.

His Excellency Mr Tran Quoc Khanh, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam, opened the forum. Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA President, highlighted in his opening remarks the importance of innovation, infrastructure, and connectivity to build value added agriculture and agri-business in the Mekong region.



SECOND RESEARCH INSTITUTES NETWORK (RIN) MEETING IN FY 2015 31 January 2016, Malaysia

The second meeting of the Research Institutes Network (RIN), under the chairmanship of Dr Hank Lim from the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, comprised of two sessions.

In session 1, moderated by Mr Daisuke Hiratsuka, President of BRC-JETRO, Prof Fukunari Kimura, ERIA Chief Economist, reported on recent ERIA research activities; Mr Izuru Kobayashi, ERIA Chief Operating Officer, presented ERIA's strategy to recommend specific policy options to ministers.

In session 2, moderated by Dr Hank Lim, ERIA economists Lurong Chen and Masahito Ambashi made a presentation on the economic impact of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

In his closing remarks, ERIA President Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura urged the members to continue to support ERIA in its research and related activities and expressed his gratitude for the Malaysia Institute of Economic Research that hosted the dinner.



SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH LAO PDR GOVERNMENT MINISTERS

1–2 February 2016, Lao PDR

During the meeting with H.E. Dr Bountahavy Sisouphanthong, Vice Minister of Planning and investment, ERIA President Prof Nishimura explained ERIA's new project 'Lao PDR at the Crossroads', and informed him that Lao PDR will be the Switzerland of ASEAN.

Prof Nishimura likewise briefed H.E. Mr Alounkeo Kittikhoun, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, on ERIA's contributions to Lao's chairmanship deliverables such as the Lao PDR at the Crossroads and the NTM database projects. The Minister agreed with the importance of enhancing transparency by using the NTM database and looked forward to the crossroads projects.

Prof Nishimura also discussed with H.E. Ms Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, the deliverables for the Lao chairmanship.