

## **Chair's Statement of the First ERIA Extraordinary GB Meeting**

12 March 2016, Tokyo, Japan

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) is considered a key institution for the implementation of the *AEC Blueprint 2025* and to support cooperation mechanisms under the East Asia Summit. To respond to rising expectations of ERIA, an Extraordinary Meeting of the ERIA Governing Board was held in Tokyo, 12 March 2016. The Meeting mandated ERIA to respond to emerging demands and future needs in a timely and substantive manner. Towards this end, ERIA will submit a draft reform plan at its next Governing Board Meeting, to be held in Jakarta on 16 June 2016, including the following elements:

- I. Strengthening the capacity of its academic research, capacity building programmes, advocacy and communications activities.
- II. Setting up formal bridging mechanisms, such as policy workshops, to enhance interaction between policymakers in the region.
- III. Enhancing its own organizational capacity to offer concrete and actionable policy options to address structural issues for the growth and development of the region.

The Meeting emphasized the need for ERIA to regularly review its policy focus, giving due consideration to: (i) Deepening East Asian integration, (ii) Realising an inclusive ASEAN Community, and (iii) Addressing issues extending beyond the region such as innovation. Japan's leadership and support for ERIA was acknowledged and given sincere appreciation throughout the Meeting.

ERIA wishes to receive ongoing support from its member countries to fulfil these tasks and reforms.

The Governing Board members expressed deep condolence for the victims of the East Japan Great Earthquake that took place on 11 March 2011, five years ago yesterday.

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