

## Press Release



Economic Research Institute  
for ASEAN and East Asia

### ERIA Organizes CLMV Seminar on Post-ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Prospects at Vientiane in Lao PDR

**October 7, 2011** – The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) organized the CLMV Seminar on October 7, 2011 at Lao Plaza Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR. The seminar was co-organized by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, National Economic Research Institute (NERI), Ministry of Planning and Investment, supported by the Bangkok Research Center (BRC), JETRO. Around 110 participants (excluding the speakers) attended the seminar: all leading ministries, national universities, related organizations, and private sectors in Lao PDR.



The CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) seminar aims to raise the awareness of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) among the ASEAN countries and to share ideas to deepen and broaden economic integration and narrow the gaps in the ASEAN countries to meet the goals set by AEC for 2015.

The seminar was opened with remarks from Mr. Saysana Sayakone, Deputy Director General, Department of Foreign Trade Policy, Ministry of Industry and Commerce. In his opening remarks, he mentioned that it was very important to accelerate the economic integration process and to narrow development gaps among the ASEAN countries. He also valued this seminar as a crucial for Lao PDR as an ASEAN member to implement tasks towards the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint by 2015.

Four speakers attended the seminar: Dr. Jayant Menon, Principle Economist for ADB; Dr. Fumiharu Mieno, Professor, Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University, Mr. Souknilanh Keola, Reseach Fellow, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO, Mr. Syviengxay Oraboune, Deputy Director General, NERI.

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The topics of the presentations were as follows:

1. Issues for Economic Integration and its Prospect : Trade Facilitation, Investment, and Service
2. Financial Systems in Developing Countries: With Special Reference to Lao PDR
3. Economic Integration and SME Development in Lao PDR
4. Potential Industry in Lao PDR

During the seminar, the participants discussed the issues and prospects in post-AEC such as initiatives and measures for trade facilitation, market access, investment, financial sectors, SME development and potential industries in Lao PDR. They also discussed how SME has played a crucial role in economic growth and employment in many developed and developing countries.

The seminar concluded with closing remarks from Mr. Yasuhiro Yamada, President of BRC, JETRO. He expressed great expectation that ASEAN would transform areas where there is a free movement of goods and capital or investment in the future even though the development gap among ASEAN nations is still developing.

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**Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA):**

ERIA is an international organization that supports the ASEAN Secretariat by making policy recommendations at regional governmental meetings such as the East Asian Summit (EAS), aimed at furthering East Asia's economic integration.  
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