
Event Highlights



Advisor to Thailand Energy Ministry Opens ERIA Meeting on Energy Poverty

9 April 2018, Bangkok, Thailand



'The root cause of energy poverty is not just the energy price and poverty itself, but the lack of access to modern energy, mainly due to inadequate energy infrastructure,' said Dr Weerawat Chantanakome, Advisor to the Ministry of Energy of Thailand in his remarks of the second ERIA Working Group meeting on 'Energy Poverty in ASEAN, India, and China' in Bangkok.

The study aims to address three issues. First, the causal relationship between energy poverty and other socio-economic characteristics such as poverty, health, and education. Second, the deficit in the understanding and limited recognition of the issue of energy poverty by relevant national and regional authorities, which could further affect the wellbeing of people where energy poverty prevails. Third, concrete examples of how energy poverty could be eradicated through the implementation of concerted policies.

In closing, Dr Chantanakome expressed his hope that the Working Group would 'further pave the way with next steps for closer energy research studies that benefit the region.'

ERIA and AIPA Hold Dialogue with Parliamentarians on Better Regulatory Governance

19 April 2018, Jakarta, Indonesia



ERIA and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) held a dialogue entitled 'Parliamentarians Supporting the 'Quiet Revolution' for Better Regulatory Governance'. ERIA President Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura stated, 'To promote the benefits of reducing regulations and understand its challenges, the strong will of politicians and parliamentarians is needed. ERIA is happy to work with AIPA to strengthen the ASEAN Economic Community through insights on improving and repealing laws and regulations that are burdensome on business, and creating mechanisms to ensure quality new regulation'.

ASEAN Secretary-General, Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi noted that this Dialogue was a critical step in strengthening regulatory governance for a more rules-based, people-centred ASEAN. On the other hand, Hon. Isra Suthornvut, the Secretary-General of AIPA called on the people of ASEAN to embrace the ASEAN Community. In the following session, several experts from ERIA and other organisations shared their findings and perspectives regarding non-tariff measures and Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens. The dialogue continued the next day with a closed-door discussion on what parliamentarians can do to create a pro-business regulatory environment.

Prof Yamanaka Participates in OECD Forum 2018, IFRI RoundTable, and the Cambridge Central Asia Forum

30 May–4 June 2018, Paris, France and Cambridge, England



Prof Akiko Yamanaka, Special Advisor to the President of ERIA, spoke at the 'Woman and Development' session in the OECD Forum 2018 on 30 May 2018 in Paris, France. This session was moderated by Ms Yumiko Murakami, Head of Center, Tokyo, OECD. The forum focused on 'What brings us together' with the objective of moving from diagnosis to action and shaping solutions to bridge the divides that were discussed at the OECD Forum 2017 which Prof Yamanaka also attended.

On this occasion, Prof Yamanaka addressed the importance of women's contributions to post-disaster reconstruction and women's empowerment. On the latter, she said that 'Societies which allow women to choose whether to continue working soon after giving birth or wait and go back to work after the children start school are said to be the most advanced societies. Based on an OECD survey, we need a flexible way of thinking that allows women to contribute to regional and national development while accepting diversity such as countries, regions, ethnic groups and religions.'

Prof Yamanaka continued her trip in Europe and England by attending the Roundtable of Experts at the French Institute of International Relations on 1 June, which focused on trade issues such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, economic cooperation between Japan and the



European Union, Japanese domestic issues such as constitutional reform and how to promote women's empowerment in Japanese political circles. She continued her trip to attend the Cambridge Central Asia Forum 'North East Asia: Toward the End of Cold War' at Cambridge University on 4 June where she discussed North Korea and its changing relations with South Korea, China, Russia, Mongolia, and the United States.

Lao PDR Ministry of Energy and Mines and ERIA Launches Lao PDR National Energy Statistics 2018

2 July 2018, Vientiane, Lao PDR



ERIA and the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) launched Lao PDR National Energy Statistics 2018, the country's first national energy statistics that offers insights into the country's energy consumption, demand, and supply.

H.E. Dr Khammany Inthirath, the Minister of Energy and Mines, Lao PDR in his remarks stated that apart from the book launch, MEM and ERIA also signed a MoU extending ERIA's support in developing MEM's human capacity to enable it to publish the first Energy Outlook of Lao PDR, and to expand its expertise on energy economics and prepare a roadmap for electric vehicles.

Prior to the formulation of the Lao PDR National Energy Statistics, the Government of Lao PDR and ERIA had already developed a strong relationship through ERIA's assistance in the development of 'Lao PDR at the Crossroad: Industrial Development Strategy 2016–2030', which provided a comprehensive industrial and infrastructure development vision for Lao PDR.

ERIA Holds 10th Academic Advisory Council Meeting

5 July 2019, Jakarta, Indonesia



ERIA's President, Prof Nishimura, opened the 10th ERIA Academic Advisory Council (AAC) meeting and informed the AAC members about the expansion ERIA's fields of research and partnerships, which now include studies on the environment, ageing populations, and long-term care. ERIA also strengthened dialogue with energy officials of ASEAN and East Asian countries by holding the first East Asia Energy Forum to discuss current energy issues.

The meeting continued with a presentation by ERIA's Chief Economist, Prof Fukunari Kimura and Senior Policy Fellow for Energy and Environment, Prof Jun Arima on upcoming research projects for FY 2018. This was followed by discussion amongst AAC members and ERIA economists, providing insights and recommendations for the organisation's future work plan.

The AAC members in attendance were the Chairperson of the AAC Dr Hank Lim (Singapore Institute of International Affairs), Prof Dr Peter Drysdale (Crawford School of Economics and Government, Australia), Prof Kyoji Fukao (Institute of Developing Economies Japan External Trade Organization), and Dr Shankaran Nambiar (Malaysian Institute of Economic Research). Prof Gao Haihong (Research Center for International Finance, Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) attended as an observer.

ERIA Hosts the Launch of the Hinrich Foundation's Sustainable Trade Index 2018

11 July 2018, Jakarta, Indonesia



The Hinrich Foundation released the key findings from the second edition of its Sustainable Trade Index at the ERIA office in Jakarta on 11 July.

The Sustainable Trade Index was devised by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) and commissioned by the Hinrich Foundation. The team evaluated 19 Asian countries and the United States on their aptitude to trade in the international system. The index findings are very important in light of the escalating tensions on the international trade scene and the changing trends of foreign investment. While the overall performance of most countries worsened, small gains were made on different indicators. For example, Indonesia ranked 14th – the same as in the 2016 index – but made gains on the social pillar.

The event was hosted by ERIA as part of the activities organised by the Government of Indonesia, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank Group as the groundwork for the IMF–World Bank Group Annual Meetings held in Bali in October 2018.

ERIA Hosts the First ERIA–AmCham Briefing Series, Discusses Non-Tariff Measures

13 July 2018, Jakarta, Indonesia



ERIA partnered up with the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) Indonesia to hold a series of briefings on economic issues in ASEAN that affect the private sector. The first briefing was held on 13 July on 'Addressing Non-Tariff Measures in FTAs and RTAs'.

Dr Doan Thi Thanh Ha, ERIA Economist, presented a brief on Non-tariff Measures (NTMs) and how governments, academia, and the private sector perceive them. Dr Ha addressed the challenges in ASEAN countries, such as lack of transparency, difficulty of assessment, and

regulatory divergence. This presentation was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Dr Timothy Buehrer, Chief of Party at Nathan Associates Inc. In the panel were Dr Ha; Mr Nararya Soeprapto, the Head of Government Relations at Procter and Gamble Indonesia; and Mr Brasukra Gumilang Sudjana, Senior Officer on Trade Facilitation at the ASEAN Secretariat. The panelists stressed the importance of involving the private sector in conversations about the objectives that NTMs serve, the extent to which they are protectionist, and whether they can promote foreign investment and help domestic companies.

ERIA–OECD Joint Seminar: OECD Regional Economic Outlook 2018

24 July 2018, Jakarta, Indonesia



ERIA welcomed the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to present an update of the OECD's Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China, and India 2018. This publication, originally released in November 2017, was updated and relaunched with a focus on promoting e-commerce.

Kensuke Tanaka, Head of the Asia Desk and Prasiwi Ibrahim, Economist of the OECD Development Centre, presented the report's main findings, highlighting that growth is expected to remain strong for Southeast Asia, China, and India in 2018–2019. They identified six macroeconomic trends, including that domestic demand is an engine for growth, inflation is gaining traction, and optimism in capital markets has softened. The discussion also touched on the three related challenges of the impact of rising interest rates in the United States and other advanced economies, implementation of infrastructure projects, and advancing trade integration amid rising protectionism.

The conversation was moderated by Lurong Chen, ERIA Economist. The event opened with welcome remarks by Izuru Kobayashi, COO of ERIA, and concluded with a reception at ERIA's Information Centre.



Second ASEAN–India Workshop on Blue Economy and ERIA’s Participation in the 10th Delhi Dialogue

24–25 July 2018, New Delhi, India



Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, presented the findings of the Second ASEAN–India Blue Economy Workshop to H.E. Mrs Sushma Swaraj, the Foreign Minister of India on 22 July 2018 in New Delhi. The workshop was held the day before the Delhi Dialogue X in New Delhi. This workshop was of particular significance to the Delhi Dialogue’s theme of maritime cooperation, as the workshop presented specific recommendations on how to strengthen the links between India and ASEAN on maritime issues, such as security, commerce, and port development.

The Blue Economy concept is viewed as an alternative economic model for sustainable development that puts the oceans at the centre of this approach. This is in line with Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marines resources. In Southeast Asia, the maritime sector is very important as a means of logistics and transportation, economic resources, environmental sustainability, and sovereignty. Connectivity between ASEAN Member States with India is essential in many ways, given their potentials in the blue economy, their economic sizes, geographical locations, sea–land connectedness, and trade relations.

ERIA and Universitas Respati Indonesia Hold Workshop on Oral Care Assessment for Elderly Caregivers

28 August 2018, Jakarta, Indonesia



ERIA and the Centre for Family and Ageing Studies (CeFAS) of Universitas Respati Indonesia (URINDO) held a workshop on 'Oral Care Assessment for Elderly Caregivers' in Jakarta on 28 August 2018 at the main campus of URINDO that was attended by about 20 participants from the Japanese team (Nagasaki University), CeFAS URINDO, and also EPA returnees.

In her opening remarks, Rector of URINDO, Prof Tri Budi W. Raharjo expressed her gratitude towards ERIA and Nagasaki University for undertaking the research project 'Career Path of Care Workforce'. She also expressed her belief that the workshop will be beneficial for Asian countries, particularly Japan, Indonesia, and other ASEAN members.

Special Advisor to the President of ERIA for Healthcare and Long-term Care Policy, Dr Osuke Komazawa presented a brief about ERIA Healthcare Department, which conducts research on healthcare and long-term care, with a mission to provide policy recommendations to EAS governments.

Furthermore, Dr Komazawa said that the ultimate goal of this project was to elevate the status of caregivers, so that people could remain active and healthy as they go through their ageing process. Assuming the demographic transition from high to low fertility and mortality will accelerate globally, population ageing will increasingly intensify; hence a study like this is indispensable for realising sustainable development in an ageing world. One of the objectives of the workshop would be to create standards that can be applied by both countries – Indonesia and Japan.



ERIA Participates in 50th ASEAN Economic Ministers' and Related Meetings

1 September 2018, Singapore, Singapore



ERIA was honoured to be invited to the Sixth Economic Ministers' Meeting during the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meetings in Singapore to present a discussion paper titled 'Regional Economic Integration: Managing the Challenges of Emerging Trade and Investment Issues'. Prof Nishimura opened the presentation by thanking the ministers for their continuous support and briefly delivered the outcomes from ERIA's 11th Governing Board Meeting before introducing Tan Sri Dr Rebecca Sta Maria, ERIA Senior Policy Fellow, who presented the Discussion Paper.

The paper focuses on how to manage three key challenges in the region: keeping markets open and fair, maintaining a transparent and predictable trade and investment environment that promotes integration; and optimising the use of new technologies and innovation, artificial intelligence, disruptive technologies and/or technological advancement.

Minister Chan of Singapore thanked ERIA for the presentation as written in the Joint Ministerial Statement (see Annex F).

Aside from this meeting, ERIA also participated in the Seventh AEM–Canada Consultations to present the results of a Joint Feasibility Study on the proposed free trade agreement, which indicated that both ASEAN and Canada will benefit from the Agreement.

ASEAN SME Policy Index 2018 Launched in Singapore

1 September 2018, Singapore, Singapore



ERIA with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME), supported by the Government of Canada, officially launched the ASEAN SME Policy Index (ASPI) 2018 on 1 September 2018 at Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore.

The ASEAN SME Policy Index 2018 maps and benchmarks SME development policies across ASEAN Member States (AMS). There were

five notable findings of the ASEAN SME Policy Index 2018: (i) ASEAN countries have made significant advances in SME policy, notably in the areas of business development services, access to e-commerce, and GVC integration; (ii) MSMEs operate mainly in wholesale and retail trade, with high levels of informality; (iii) SME development is a growing priority for policymakers across ASEAN as they seek to establish a broader base for growth while ensuring that it is resilient and inclusive; (iv) most ASEAN countries are active in the area of SME policy and apply a mix of horizontal and targeted approaches; and (v) some AMS regard SME policy as a core tool to enhance welfare.

On this occasion, ERIA's Senior Policy Fellow Tan Sri Datuk Dr Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria talked about ERIA's continuous support during the development of ASPI 2018 together with the OECD team and expressed gratitude to all parties involved.

ERIA and IDE–JETRO Organise Workshop on Human Resource for Health and Elderly Care in Asia

3 September 2018, Bangkok, Thailand



The first workshop of ERIA's and IDE–JETRO's Collaborative Research Project on 'Human Resource for Health and Elderly Care in Asia' was held at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok on 3 September 2018.

In their welcome remarks, Dr Yuko Tsujita, Senior Research Fellow of IDE–JETRO Bangkok and Mr Sota Machida, ERIA's Senior Officer of Healthcare and Long-term Care Policy, briefly introduced the workshop. Mr Machida also explained ERIA Healthcare Unit's mission to provide policy recommendations to EAS governments, especially ASEAN, and ERIA's willingness to work with both local and international institutions on ageing-related issues.

After an in-depth discussion on challenges for nurses and caregivers in the region, project members agreed to sum up the outcomes as a book. The book will have four chapters covering these topics: 'Indonesia as a nurse-sending country', 'Malaysia as a nurse-receiving country from India and other countries', 'Human resources for elderly care and



the policy on ageing in Thailand' and 'Japan as a caregiver-receiving country (Caregivers from the Philippines)'. This workshop was attended by participants from Chulalongkorn University, Indonesian Institute of Science, Ritsumeikan University, Ryukoku University, and IDE-JETRO.

ERIA Holds the 9th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium in Singapore

6 September 2018, Singapore, Singapore



ERIA President, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura in his opening remarks at the 9th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium 'Towards Effective Implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025' in Singapore, said that the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP) was developed as a recovery plan following the global financial crisis of 2008. Nearly a decade later, physical connectivity remains important but 'digital connectivity and upgrading the soft side of connectivity infrastructure are becoming increasingly important'.

The day's proceedings were divided into four sessions around the following themes: Implementation of the Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity; Mobilising Resources for Infrastructure Projects in ASEAN; Connecting the Cities in ASEAN; and Empowering ASEAN MSMEs in the Digital Economy. They were chosen because seamless connectivity is seen as the key to unlocking the potential gains of the digital economy through ensuring a smooth flow of information, seamless logistics, and the free flow of capital.

Summing up the discussion, Ambassador Tan Hung Seng, Chair of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee and Singapore's Permanent Representative to ASEAN, noted that connectivity is a work in progress and has many components. He added that achieving connectivity is a long-term, complex, and cross-cutting objective that will require both engagement with the private sector as well as the citizens of the region to ensure a people-centred and people-oriented ASEAN.

This symposium was attended by around 150 participants, including Chairs of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee, Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Body Chairs, leaders from the private sector, academia, and international organisations.

Prof Yamanaka Participates in the 35th General Assembly of the International Council of Women

12–19 September 2018, Yogyakarta, Indonesia



Prof Akiko Yamanaka, Special Advisor to the President of ERIA, delivered a speech at the 35th General Assembly (GA) of the International Council of Women (ICW) ‘Transforming Society through Women’s Empowerment’ held from 12–19 September 2018 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

H.E. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, officially opened the conference.

The Assembly was held to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Indonesian Women’s Congress (Kowani), Indonesia’s oldest and largest women’s organisation. It was attended by 200 delegates from 80 countries, 1,000 representatives of women’s organisations and over 2,000 participants from ministries and embassies in the country.

Prof Yamanaka was one of the speakers of the first panel discussion, ‘Empower A Woman, Transform a Society’, in which she spoke about women’s empowerment in the political, economic, and education fields. She pointed out three key ways for raising awareness of future peace and stability of the international community: ensuring social resilience; addressing common interests; and establishing an age of balance.

ERIA and IDE–JETRO Co-organise Working Session on Technology Transfer and Trade at WTO Public Forum

4 October 2018, Geneva, Switzerland



ERIA and the Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE–JETRO) co-organised a working session on the sidelines of the WTO Public Forum in Geneva.

ERIA’s Chief Economist, Prof Fukunari Kimura was one of the panelists in the working session, entitled ‘Who Should Control Technology Transfer for Trade and Economic Growth: Global Economic Integration and Industrial Policy in Emerging Asia’. Prof Kimura delivered a presentation





on the international division of labour, particularly about forms of technology acquisition in developing countries. He drew on Richard Baldwin's concept of unbundlings in discussing the development of division of labour.

He went on to talk about technology transfer and spillover, noting that there have been cases of 'forced' technology transfer in which companies are imitating or stealing technologies, and there are intentional technology transfers through transactions between foreign and local firms. 'IDE-JETRO and ERIA have continuously conducted micro studies on this and found that 'foreign firms tend to have strong incentives for doing intentional technology transfer'.

The other panelists were Ram Upendra Das, Head and Professor, Centre for Regional Trade (CRT), Centre for Research on International Trade (CRIT), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India; Chawalit Jeenanunta, Associate Professor, Assistant Director for Building, Ground, and Properties, Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology, Thammasat University; and Tomohiro Machikita, Associate Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO).

ASEAN Must 'Move Boldly' Says Amb Bilahari at the 7th ERIA Editors Roundtable

6–7 October 2018, Singapore, Singapore



ERIA with Nanyang Technological University's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies held the seventh ERIA Editors' Roundtable in Singapore on the theme of 'ASEAN and Indo-Pacific: Challenges Ahead'.

With the aim of providing a platform to discuss recent issues faced by ASEAN leaders, the event offered four sessions: Economic and political/security implications of ASEAN and Indo-Pacific, updates on the ASEAN Economic Community, and an interactive dialogue session on 'fake news'.

Mr Bilahari Kausikan, Chairman of the Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore and former Permanent Secretary at the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs for Singapore said that, the dynamic changes of global politics call for East Asia, particularly ASEAN, to act to navigate through future challenges. 'Hedging against the long-term uncertainties and taking advantage of whatever opportunities may exist, requires ASEAN to move boldly on the second phase of economic integration which aims at creating a common market and common production platform in Southeast Asia.'

ERIA Attends the 36th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting and Associated Meetings

29 October 2018, Singapore, Singapore



ERIA's President, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, and a high-level delegation of ERIA's energy experts attended the 36th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and Associated Meetings in Singapore.

Prof Nishimura presented ERIA's energy research activities at the 12th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) that was held as part of the 36th AMEM. He highlighted four research projects that ERIA had been working on. First, projects related to ASEAN Power Generation and Transmission System Planning Institution (AGTP) and ASEAN Transmission System Operator Institution (ATSO). Second, issues related to the natural gas market. Third, delivery of liquefied natural gas to islands in the Philippines. Fourth, a hydrogen potential study in the EAS region. He also announced ERIA's plan to hold the Second East Asia Energy Forum and the ERIA Energy Research Institutes Network (ERIN) Meeting in New Delhi in March 2019.

During the EAS EMM, delegations from Japan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, and Myanmar expressed their appreciation for ERIA's research projects on energy. See Annex F for ERIA being mentioned in the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 12th EAS EMM.



ERIA and Bappenas Hold The 1st High-Level Policy Roundtable on Indonesian Manufacturing Development Strategy

5 December 2018, Jakarta, Indonesia



Indonesia National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) and ERIA organised a High-Level Policy Roundtable on 'Indonesian Manufacturing Development Strategy for 2020–2024' in Jakarta, Indonesia. The event presented policy recommendations drawn from the background study jointly conducted by Bappenas and ERIA.

H.E. Prof Dr Bambang Brodjonegoro, Minister of National Development Planning, started the discussion on the role of the manufacturing sector in Indonesia's overall development with a focus on policy directions and strategies for revitalising the Indonesian manufacturing sector. H.E. Mr Airlangga Hartarto, Minister of Industry, presented on the model of 'Industry 4.0' for the development of Indonesian manufacturing in the future.

The roundtable meeting was followed by comments covering a range of topics including participating in global value chains, improving productivity and upgrading technology, export reorientation, and free trade agreement utilisation. Members of the discussion included respected international and local academics, such as Prof Ari Kuncoro of the University of Indonesia, Prof Hari Muhammad of the Bandung Institute of Technology, Prof Premachandra Athukorala of the Australian National University, Prof Chin Hee Hahn of Gachon University in Korea, and Prof Shandre Thangavelu, Vice President of the Jeffrey Cheah Institute for Southeast Asia of Sunway University. The discussion also invited comments from Mr Mirza Adityaswara, Senior Deputy Governor of Bank Indonesia; Professor Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA; and Mr Warih Tjahjono, Toyota Manufacturing Indonesia. The discussion was moderated by Dr Dionisius Narjoko, ERIA Senior Economist.

ERIA Participates in ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2018

12–13 November 2018, Singapore, Singapore



ERIA's President, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, led the ERIA delegation attending this year's ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) held in Singapore on 12–13 November 2018.

Prof Nishimura participated in a session entitled 'New Regional Insights from Structural and Macroeconomic Perspectives by ERIA and OECD' together with Director of the OECD Development Centre Mr Mario Pezzini.

On this occasion, Prof Nishimura reaffirmed ERIA's commitment to supporting the development of ASEAN and East Asian countries. 'Over the last 10 years, the world has seen dramatic changes. It will continue to face numerous challenges. ERIA will conduct research and make policy recommendations from a wide perspective to help tackle challenges such as population ageing, digitalisation, energy security, and environmental issues on the road to the further development of ASEAN and East Asia,' said Prof Nishimura.

The first day of ABIS 2018 was closed by a keynote address by Myanmar State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. On the second day, the keynote address was delivered by the Prime Minister of Thailand H.E. Mr Prayut Chan-o-cha and the Prime Minister of Malaysia H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. H.E. Mr Hiroshige Seko, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan also delivered his remarks in a special session.

ERIA's Efforts Praised in Chairman's Statement of 33rd ASEAN Summit

13 November 2018, Singapore, Singapore



Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA's President and Mr Izuru Kobayashi, ERIA's Chief Operating Officer attended the 22nd ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting in Singapore.

They welcomed the launch of three key initiatives – the 'Initial Rolling Priority Pipeline of Potential ASEAN Infrastructure Projects', 'ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy', and 'Study on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Participation in Digital Economy in ASEAN' by implementing the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. ERIA contributed as one of the organisers of the 9th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium in September 2018 and supported the implementation of the first Project of MPAC 2025's Initiative 4 'Study on MSME Participation in the Digital Economy in ASEAN.'

The efforts and contributions made by ERIA towards the economic integration and development of ASEAN and the East Asia countries were recognised in the Chairman's Statement of the 33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits (see Annex F).

ERIA and TTCSP Co-host Asia Think Tank Summit 2018

21–23 November 2018, Bali, Indonesia



ERIA and the Think Tank and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), University of Pennsylvania co-hosted the 6th Asia Think Tank Summit (ATTS) from 21–23 November 2018 in Bali, Indonesia. This year's theme 'Think Tanks: A Bridge Over Troubled Waters and Turbulent Times' which shed light on alarming trends such as rising protectionism and nationalism, while challenging think tanks' roles in responding to these issues.

Leading academics and organisations from across the Asia–Pacific and Europe were in attendance including the following sponsors: Our Hong Kong Foundation, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, McKinsey Global Institute, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre, and the Asian Development Bank Institute.

The first day of ATTS kicked off with an executive panel involving senior-ranking representatives of think tanks from Indonesia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, India, and Nepal. ATTS 2018 concluded with a roundtable discussion which summarised key findings and recommendations from every group. The contributions of ATTS participants reflected think tanks and policy institutes' adeptness of remaining relevant and active in promoting policy solutions in tumultuous modern times.

ASEAN Secretariat and ERIA Pay Tribute to Dr. Surin Pitsuwan

3 December 2018, Jakarta, Indonesia



The ASEAN Secretariat and ERIA co-hosted an event to commemorate the legacy of the late Dr Surin Pitsuwan, who served as ASEAN's 12th Secretary-General from 2008–2012, at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia. Dr Surin's family members, close friends, and high-ranking speakers from across Southeast Asia highlighted his pivotal role in raising the profile and prominence of the regional organisation on the international stage.

'Dr Surin and I had overcome several difficulties together from the very start of ERIA. After retiring as Secretary-General of ASEAN, he was very engaged as a Special Advisor to the President, providing guidance and inspiration,' said Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, the President of ERIA.

Dr Surin was also instrumental in establishing ERIA in 2008, realising that ASEAN would need a world-class research organisation that will generate intelligence regarding the challenges for economic progress and prosperity of the region. His leadership is acknowledged as a memorable part of ASEAN's journey and one that has significantly influenced the organisation's international renown. The forum hopes to carry on with Dr Surin's spirit and enthusiasm in creating a unified and peaceful ASEAN as the regional organisation forges ahead in the next phase of regional integration.



ERIA and UNDP Launch Project 2045 Final Report and Host High-Level Seminar and Reception

8 December 2018, Jakarta, Indonesia



ERIA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) hosted a reception and High-Level Seminar to launch the report of 'Project 2045: The Path to Peaceful and Prosperous Indonesia 2045' on 8–9 December 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Project 2045 was established to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Indonesia–Japan diplomatic relations. The objective of the report is to provide a vision of cooperation between the two countries progressing towards 2045 – the 100th anniversary of Indonesia’s independence. The report highlighted three common targets at the political, economic, and social levels: (i) to uphold democracy and become maritime global powers, (ii) to be ranked amongst the world’s top five economies, and (iii) to achieve high quality of life beyond the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr Takashi Shiraishi, the Chancellor of the Prefectural University of Kumamoto and H.E. Mr Muhammad Lutfi, the former Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Japan co-chaired the committee in charge of the development of the report. The full report was handed to H.E. Drs. H.M. Muhammad Jusuf Kalla, the Vice President of Indonesia and H.E. Mr Teru Fukui, the former Minister of State for Ocean Policy and for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs, Japan by the two co-chairs during the reception. The High-Level Seminar reflects how after 6 decades of strong, cooperative bilateral relations, Indonesia and Japan remain dedicated to further strengthening their ties for the realisation of an equitable society.

4th Asia Cosmopolitan Award Ceremony

10 January 2019, Nara, Japan



ERIA and the Nara Prefecture of Japan held an awarding ceremony, Nara Forum 2019, for the Fourth Asia Cosmopolitan Awards (ACA). The awards recognise individuals or organisations that have significantly helped advance cultural integration, economic integration to narrow developmental gaps, and establishment of sustainable growing society in East Asia.

Former Prime Minister of Japan HE Yasuo Fukuda received the Grand Prize of the 4th Asia Cosmopolitan Awards (ACA) in recognition of his contributions and leadership with a focus on diplomacy toward Asia to ensure specific actions are taken to achieve ASEAN's economic integration.

In the economic and social science category, the award was given to Richard E. Baldwin, Professor of International Economics at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, for his work in the field of trade policy and economic integration, particularly his work on the 'third unbundling'. For the cultural category, the awards were given to teamLab, Art Collective, and Ms Mieko Noguchi, a glass artist. Dr Surin Pitsuwan (1949–2017), Former Secretary-General of ASEAN received the Memorable Prize for his significant contributions to ASEAN's development.

Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura said that, 'The Asia Cosmopolitan award strives to become the East Asia Nobel Prize.'



ERIA attends T20 Japan 2019 Inception Conference

4-5 December 2018, Tokyo, Japan



The Inception Conference of the Think20, also known as the T20, is meant to help guide policy innovations during Japan's 2019 G20 Presidency that address priority areas ranging from trade to infrastructure development to climate change. ERIA was invited to join its research and policy advice meeting held in Tokyo, Japan on 4–5 December 2018.

The Parliamentary Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Kenji Yamada, presented the inaugural speech. In this conference, there are 10 Task Forces, in which ERIA Chief Economist, Prof Fukunari Kimura was the lead Co-Chair of Task Force 8 – Trade, Investment, and Globalisation.

Ms Anita Prakash, Director General of ERIA's Policy Design Department, participated in two Task Forces – Future of Work and Education for the Digital Age, led by Peter Morgan of ADBI, and Cooperation with Africa.

Task Force 8 will produce six Briefs – one overarching view of trade investment and globalisation, WTO Reforms, Services, Investment Facilitation, GVCs – connection with trade policy, and Data Flow. Task Force 7 has agreed that Ms Prakash will write on Automation and Global Value Chains. For Task Force 5, Ms Prakash will write on Industrialisation in Africa and ICT.

All the Task Forces, the Leads, and Co-Chairs assembled in ADBI in the afternoon of 5 December, where the plans of each TF were shared. It was agreed that the drafts would be submitted by 15 March, except that the Africa Group had an early submission date of February because of the AU Summit meeting.

ERIA participates in Focus Group Discussion on Connecting the Connectivities in Indo Pacific

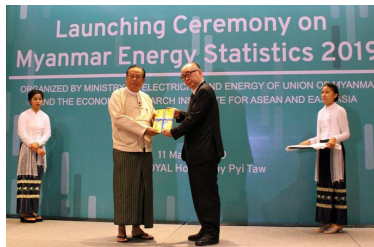
18 February 2019, Cirebon, Indonesia



ERIA PDD has continued to work on the important theme of ‘connecting the connectivities in Indo Pacific’ jointly with stakeholders such as Indonesia, India, OECD, EU, and ASEAN in setting out the connectivity mapping in the Indo–Pacific region. In particular, ERIA has supported the task of KEMLU, Indonesia in developing the Report on ‘Indo–Pacific Cooperation: Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous, and Inclusive Region’ which will be presented to the Ministerial meeting in Jakarta on 20 March 2019. For this purpose, ERIA participated in a Focus Group Discussion convened by KEMLU, Indonesia in Cirebon on 18 February 2019. A comparative analysis of all the connectivity plans in Indo–Pacific, such as MPAC, AAGC, BRI, ASEM, EU–Asia, and IORA were explained by ERIA. Besides ERIA, the DCM of the EU Embassy to Indonesia and the ADB also presented on the theme.

ERIA Launches Myanmar National Energy Statistics 2019

11 March 2019, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar



ERIA, with the Ministry of Electricity and Energy of the Union of Myanmar, *launched Myanmar National Energy Statistics 2019.*

In his welcoming address, H.E. U Win Khaing, the Minister of Electricity and Energy, underlined the importance of statistics for government in decision making and policymaking, which are essential for good governance.

ERIA’s President, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, summarised the various cooperation that ERIA and the Government of Myanmar have undertaken over the years, which have increasingly strengthened the working relationship. Prof Nishimura went on to explain that this book contained historical energy balance tables from 2000 to 2016, which were produced based on the country’s primary energy data such as fossil fuels, electricity, and biomass.

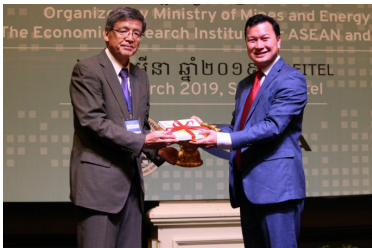


'Reliable energy statistics would enable MOEE to establish realistic and practical energy policies to secure energy supply to Myanmar with affordability, accessibility, security, and safety', said Prof Nishimura.

ERIA's Special Adviser to the President on Energy Affairs, Mr Shigeru Kimura, in his Keynote Speech highlighted several measures recommended to update the energy balance table: (i) assign one section to engage primary energy data collection as hub; (ii) regularly collect accurate primary energy data from all the stakeholders; (iii) establish the collection system using information technology; and (iv) increase the capacity of energy statisticians by joining energy statistics training.

ERIA and Ministry of Mines and Energy Publish Cambodia Basic Energy Plan

20 March 2019, Phnom Penh, Cambodia



ERIA, with the Ministry of Mines and Energy of the Kingdom of Cambodia, launched the *Cambodia Basic Energy Plan*. 'This basic energy plan applies a common approach to analysing each energy field – Oil, Electricity, Renewable, Energy Security, and Energy Outlook. The first step is to analyse the current energy issues in Cambodia in each energy field. The second step is to establish the appropriate targets for solving the issues. And the third step is to produce energy action plans, policies, and roadmaps for achieving those targets. The plan aims for energy supply to Cambodia with affordability, accessibility, sustainable security, and safety. It also provides suggestions for creating a transparent energy market,' said Mr Shigeru Kimura, ERIA's Special Adviser to the President on Energy Affairs, in his opening remarks.

He added that the Basic Energy Plan sets out many medium-term targets, which would need to be reviewed every 5 years after the government's implementation of programmes and actions aimed at achieving the targets set.

ERIA has worked with the ministry to produce the Cambodia National Energy Statistics in 2016.

'These two books will help Cambodia's with its domestic energy policy, as well as enhance its regional energy cooperation with other ASEAN member countries, and other regional and international bodies such as the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) that require data from time to time for policy and analysis,' said Mr Kimura.

