

## **PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The ERIA Working Group (WG) on “Sustainability Assessment of Biomass Utilization in East Asia” started its research activity in 2007. In the first phase (2007-2008), the WG summarized the concept of sustainability and issues related to biomass utilization in East Asian countries. In the second phase (2008-2009), the WG developed “Guidelines to Assess Sustainability of Biomass Utilization in East Asia”. The WG’s third phase research activities (2009-2010) involved conducting four pilot studies to test the methodology developed under the guidelines; and the research of the fourth phase (2010-2011) upgraded the methodology based on the lessons learnt from the pilot studies.

This report is to summarize the outcome of the fifth phase (2011-2012) of the research activity, in which the WG constructed the basic concept of a decision support tool based on the methodology, and also extended the methodology.

Our sincere thanks first go to all the members of the WG for their tremendous efforts to complete this research activity. They contributed valuable ideas, opinions, suggestions and even lessons. Secondly, we would like to express our appreciation to ERIA for its financial support. Finally, we would like to thank all the colleagues who supported our research activities.

AIST Research Team