



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

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VIENTIANE, LAO PDR – 2 JULY 2018: The Ministry of Energy and Mines of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) today 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.

‘The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, as its name indicates, provide support to many ASEAN countries including Laos. Since June last year, ERIA assists us to update energy statistics which involved training MEM staff and other line agencies to extend their working experience through the process of collecting data,

sharing data, preparing data, and also analysing data on energy consumption in different key consuming sectors. And from outcome perspective, Lao National energy statistics report will be formulated to be in similar format as other ASEAN members,' said H.E. Dr Khammany Inthirath, the Minister of Energy and Mines, Lao PDR in his opening remarks.

'Apart from launching the Energy Statistics, today we will also sign an Energy Cooperation MOU between MEM and ERIA to extend the continuous support from ERIA in respect of building MEM personnel capacity in order to be able to publish the first Energy Outlook of Lao PDR, expanding our expertise on energy economics, and assisting us to prepare roadmap for electric vehicles,' he added.

ERIA and the Ministry's Department of Energy Policy and Planning (DEPP) established a team that worked on data collection and carried out consumption surveys for the transportation, industry, residential, and commercial sectors. Some of the most notable findings of the surveys are transport information such as fuel economy and mileage of types of vehicles, as well as the use of biomass in the residential sector.

'ERIA is strongly convinced that improving Lao PDR energy data and statistics will not only serve Lao PDR's policy purpose, but also will enhance the regional energy



Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura presented the *Lao PDR National Energy Statistic* publication to Dr Khammany Inthirath, Minister of Energy and Mines, Lao PDR during the launch of *Lao PDR National Energy Statistic* in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

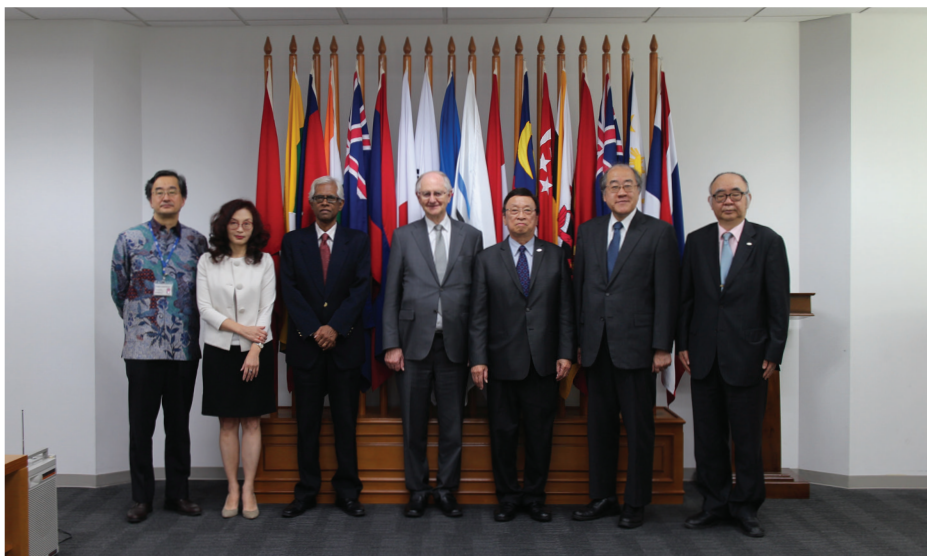
cooperation with other ASEAN member countries, and other regional and international bodies such as ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and International Energy Agency (IEA) that require data from time to time for policy and analyses,' said Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, the President of ERIA.

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

Lao PDR Energy Statistics 2018 will be able to be accessed through ERIA website at [/publications/lao-pdr-energy-statistics-2018/](http://publications/lao-pdr-energy-statistics-2018/). ■

'ERIA is strongly convinced that improving Lao PDR energy data and statistics will not only serve Lao PDR's policy purpose, but also will enhance the regional energy cooperation with other ASEAN member countries, and other regional and international bodies such as ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and International Energy Agency (IEA) that require data from time to time for policy and analyses,' said Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura.

ERIA Holds 10th Academic Advisory Council Meeting



ERIA engaged in deeper collaboration with the ASEAN Inter-parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) by co-hosting a dialogue with AIPA, in which parliamentarians from ASEAN countries discussed two topics: non-tariff measures and barriers, and good regulatory practices and reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens.

Insightful discussions about the current and future directions of research activities conducted by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) coloured the 10th ERIA Academic Advisory Council (AAC) meeting held in Jakarta on 5 July 2018.

The AAC members in attendance were Chairperson of AAC Dr Hank Lim (Senior Research Fellow, Singapore Institute of International Affairs), Prof Dr Peter Drysdale (Emeritus Professor, Crawford School of Economics and Government, Australia), Prof Kyoji Fukao (President of the Institute of Developing Economies Japan External Trade Organization), and Dr Shankaran Nambiar (Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Policy Studies Division, Malaysian Institute of Economic Research).

Prof Gao Haihong (Professor and Director of the Research Center for International Finance, Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) attended as an observer.

President of ERIA Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura opened the meeting by informing the AAC members of the appointment of Atty Adrian S. Cristobal, Jr. as the Chairman of the Governing Board. Prof Nishimura also announced his reappointment to a third consecutive term as ERIA's President, as established during the 11th Governing Board Meeting in May 2018. He also gave a brief overview of ERIA activities in the fiscal year 2017.

Moreover, Prof Nishimura talked about the expansion of the field of ERIA's research activities and

partnerships. ERIA has started to undertake studies on environmental issues, led by Dr Michikazu Kojima, as well as studies on population ageing and long-term care, led by Dr Osuke Komazawa. In the field of institutional partnerships, ERIA engaged in deeper collaboration with the ASEAN Inter-parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) by co-hosting a dialogue with AIPA, in which parliamentarians from ASEAN countries discussed two topics: non-tariff measures and barriers, and good regulatory practices and reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens. ERIA also strengthened dialogue with energy officials of ASEAN and East Asia countries by holding the first East Asia Energy Forum to discuss current energy issues.

ERIA Chief Operating Officer Izuru Kobayashi presented the plan for the direction of ERIA's work for the 2018

fiscal year. One of ERIA's main focuses in 2018 is to balance and streamline the Research Department and the Policy Design Department, which was set up as part of 'ERIA 2.0: ERIA's Medium Term Work Plan' presented in the 9th Governing Board Meeting.

Chief Economist Prof Fukunari Kimura and Senior Policy Fellow for Energy and Environment Prof Jun Arima presented the research

projects that will be conducted in the coming year under ERIA's three pillars of research and energy-related research.

During the discussion session, AAC members and ERIA researchers provided their inputs and comments about the work plan and research activities. A huge part of the discussion revolved around prioritisation, research networks, core interests, and the scope of

ERIA's research.

In his closing remarks, Prof Nishimura stated that strengthening ERIA's academic capacity and contributions to the region, as well as improving cooperation with research institutes and eminent researchers in the region, are essential to develop credible research outputs and policy recommendations. ■

ERIA Holds First Workshop of 'LNG Market Development in Asia'



In the past, ERIA has conducted studies on natural gas, including LNG supply chain, infrastructure, potential demand, market, and pricing.

On 9 July 2018, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) held a workshop on 'LNG Market Development in Asia' at the Fairmont Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia.

It was the first workshop on the study, which aims at identifying the measures to establish a transparent,

liquid, and stable LNG market in Asia; exploring the areas where 'new' natural gas demand is expected; and discussing how to activate upstream investments as well as enhance cost competitiveness of LNG supply.

In order to achieve those targets, the workshop gathered

an international group of governmental and industrial experts, think tank leaders, and senior researchers from international institutes. Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, attended the workshop and delivered his remarks alongside other presenters such as Mr Masato Sasaki, Director of Oil and

Gas Division, Agency for Natural Gas Resources & Energy, Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry; Mr Masakazu Toyoda, CEO of the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan; Mr Sun Xiansheng, Secretary General of the International Energy Forum; and Mr Lucian Pugliaresi, President of the Energy Policy Research Foundation, Inc.

Other experts who participated came from international institutes such as ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), ASEAN Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE), and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); governmental offices such as General Department of Petroleum (GDP) of Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) of Cambodia, Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) of Myanmar, and United States Agency for International Development (USAID); as well as industrial companies such as Cheniere, Chevron, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), DataFusion, ExxonMobil, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Japan Oil Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC), LNG Japan, Mitsui, Mitsubishi, PTT Energy Resources, Tellurian, Inc., and Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB).

The workshop participants discussed the latest developments in the dynamics of the LNG sector in recent years, as well as exchanged insights and opinions on the above-mentioned issues. There were several key issues that were discussed in detail, such as the significant expansion of demand in East Asia, emerging markets for LNG, uncertainties of future demand and future supply regionally as well as globally, an increase in export capacity from the U.S., financing issues with new LNG projects, as well as pricing mechanism and cost



Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura invited all speakers from LNG Market Development in Asia Workshop to visit ERIA and held an office tour and a photo session at ERIA Chairman's room.

competitiveness of LNG.

In the past, ERIA has conducted studies on natural gas, including LNG supply chain, infrastructure, potential demand, market, and pricing. ERIA strives to continuously contribute valuable intelligence and knowledge to East Asia's Energy Ministers through the East Asia Summit mechanism. Based on its extensive research on natural gas, ERIA included a statement about natural gas in the Bohol Reflection, jointly announced by Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi, Department of Energy of the Philippines; Pehin Dato Mohammad Yasmin Umar, Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office, Brunei Darussalam; and Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura following the first East Asia Energy Forum.

This year, the project will continue with one workshop in Bangkok in August and another one in Washington, D.C. in September. Both workshops will be held in cooperation with the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ)

and Energy Policy Research Foundation, Inc. (EPRINC). The full report of the project is scheduled to be published around June-July 2019 and can be accessed for free on ERIA's website. ■

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



Dr Ha highlighted the ERIA/UNCTAD project that collected and classified non-tariff measures (NTMs) in the ten ASEAN countries. She also addressed the challenges in ASEAN countries, such as lack of transparency, difficulty of assessment, and regulatory divergence.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia (AmCham Indonesia) and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) have partnered up to hold a series of briefings on economic issues in ASEAN that affect the private sector. On 13 July, ERIA hosted the first of these briefings on 'Addressing Non-Tariff Measures in FTAs and RTAs'.

Dr Doan Thi Thanh Ha, Economist at ERIA, presented a brief overview of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) and how governments, academia, and the private sector perceive them. Dr Ha highlighted the ERIA/UNCTAD project that collected and classified non-tariff measures (NTMs) in the ten ASEAN countries. She also addressed the challenges in ASEAN countries, such as lack of transparency, difficulty of assessment, and regulatory divergence. Dr Ha expressed hope in increasing NTMs' transparency, reducing barriers, and harmonising standards across ASEAN nations.

The presentation was followed

by a panel discussion with Dr Ha; Mr Nararya Soeprapto, the Head of Government Relations at Procter & Gamble Indonesia; and Mr Brasukra Gumilang Sudjana, Senior Officer on Trade Facilitation at the ASEAN Secretariat. The panel was moderated by Dr Timothy Buehrer, Chief of Party at Nathan Associates Inc. 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.

Mr Soeprapto shared his company's experience on the time-consuming and difficult process of obtaining licenses and certifications for consumer goods through different Indonesian ministries, but positively remarked how much the process has improved. Mr Sudjana spoke about knowledge as the key to understanding NTMs: sharing information across ASEAN nations and the private sector, expanding ASEAN initiatives on transparency, and improving notification and

review processes are essential to bridging the gap on NTMs between policymakers and the private sector.

The conversation was multidisciplinary and engaging. Key organisations from both the public and private sectors commented and asked provocative questions. ■

Kalinga International Foundation Learns about ERIA's Research Including Maritime Connectivity



On 10 July, ERIA welcomed a delegation from the Kalinga International Foundation (KIF) to learn about ERIA's research activities, with special attention to energy and maritime connectivity. The esteemed delegates included Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, Professor Amita Batra, Dr Vijay Sakuja, Professor Shankari Sundararaman, and Mr Sudhakar Mahapatra.

The Kalinga International Foundation is an independent, non-partisan think tank based in India whose mission is to analyse and propose solutions for issues related to trade, security, foreign policy, and regional cooperation. KIF strives to build meaningful relationships with other countries in the Indo-Pacific region, which is why their visit to ERIA is crucial to explore potential partnerships with ASEAN.

Dr Fauziah Zen, Senior Economist at ERIA, delivered her presentation on ASEAN maritime connectivity and the single shipping market. Dr Zen remarked that Indonesia's ports are underutilised, but they present a

great opportunity for developing trade and improving connectivity – both nationally and regionally.

In her presentation, she pointed out that despite achievements in ASEAN connectivity, there are still challenges such as different development stages, different interests, lack of funding, regulatory burdens, and a lack of a good project pipeline. She then explained the exponentially growing marine services, which ASEAN have a big role globally, in greater detail.

Dr Zen highlighted several typical problems in the region such as poor congestion management, inefficient equipment, red tapes, fragmented port operation, and non-sterile ports. She also specified challenges for ASEAN, which includes the need to pay attention to Indonesia and Philippines because both are located outside major international shipping lines, both suffered from underutilisation of potential activities, and both experienced backhaul issues.

In the last part of her presentation, Dr Zen gave a lot of suggestions for

Dr Fauziah Zen, Senior Economist at ERIA, remarked that Indonesia's ports are underutilised, but they present a great opportunity for developing trade and improving connectivity – both nationally and regionally.

the future, taking into account trends that will shape future demand. She suggested Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand to modernise ports, improve hinterland connectivity, boost integration between ports and national supply chain, as well as set performance standards for ports. On the other hand, in order to improve regional connectivity, she suggested establishing networked economies in sub-regions, removing cabotage, linking major shipping lines with archipelago, building value-added services to anticipate future demand, modernizing ports and vessels, as well as investing in capacity building for human resources.

Dr Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, Senior Energy Economist at ERIA, briefed the delegates on ERIA's recent research activities. He discussed select studies, highlighting the interest in strengthening economic connections and regional integration between the North Eastern Region of India and South East Asia. Additionally, Dr Anbumozhi spoke about smart cities, renewable energy, and natural gas utilisation in ASEAN and India. ■

ERIA Hosted the Launch of the Hinrich Foundation Sustainable Trade Index 2018



The Sustainable Trade Index finds that Asian countries, particularly the richer ones, are regressing in terms of their trade sustainability on three pillars – social, environmental, and economic.

The Hinrich Foundation released the key findings from the second edition of its Sustainable Trade Index at an event hosted by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) in Jakarta on 11 July.

The Sustainable Trade Index was devised by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), commissioned by the Hinrich Foundation. The team evaluated 19 Asian countries and the United States on their aptitude to trade in the international system. Representatives from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the ASEAN Secretariat, and ERIA, as well as other senior economists and representatives from the Indonesian government, media, and private sector, attended the launch and participated in a discussion on global sustainable trade.

The Sustainable Trade Index findings are extremely important, given escalating tensions on

the international trade scene and changing trends on foreign investment. The Index finds that Asian countries, particularly the richer ones, are regressing in terms of their trade sustainability on three pillars – social, environmental, and economic. While the overall performance of most countries declined, 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 opening remarks were delivered by Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, and Mr Merle Hinrich, Founder and Chairman of the Hinrich Foundation. Mr Chris Clague (Managing Editor, Thought Leadership, Asia, and Global Editorial Lead, Trade and Globalization for the Economist Intelligence Unit), who led the research team from EIU, presented the main findings of the Sustainable Trade Index and later participated in the panel discussion on sustainable trade. The discussion was moderated

by Mr Stephen Olson, Research Fellow at the Hinrich Foundation, and featured Dr Ahman Zafarullah, Senior Economist at ASEAN Secretariat; Ms Daria Taglioni, Principal Economist at the IFC; Dr Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, Senior Energy Economist at ERIA; and Ms Aida Greenbury, Director/Sustainability Advisor, Mitra Puri Hijau, Greenbury & Associates.

The event was proudly hosted by ERIA as part of the activities organised by the Government of Indonesia, the IMF, and the World Bank Group as the groundwork for the IMF-World Bank Group Annual Meetings which will be held in Bali in October 2018. ERIA hopes to host more productive conversations like this one in the future and welcomes further discussion on the important topic of trade sustainability. ■

ERIA Participates in the Tenth Edition of Delhi Dialogue



Prof Nishimura gave a special address on the current state of trade and globalisation. He called on ASEAN and India to 'take the lead in putting the trust back into multilateralism'.

New Delhi, India: July 19-20 marked the 10th anniversary of the Delhi Dialogue, the important India-ASEAN summit that explores economic, social and political possibilities for cooperation. This year's event, held in New Delhi, focused on 'Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation'.

The event opened with a roundtable with Chief Ministers of North East India, in which the Chief Ministers discussed priorities and opportunities for strengthening cultural and economic ties with ASEAN. Other topics discussed at the event included increasing connectivity between ASEAN and the North East of India, strengthening socio-cultural links through student exchanges and think tank initiatives, taking responsibility in shaping the world order amidst rising protectionism, creating a framework for maritime cooperation, and investing in technology, regional development, SMEs, tourism and smart cities.

Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, presented the findings of the Second ASEAN-India Blue Economy Workshop, 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.

Prof Nishimura also gave a special address on the current state of trade and globalisation. He called on ASEAN and India to 'take the lead in putting the trust back into multilateralism'. He also underlined that India and ASEAN have a special role in early conclusion of the Regional Cooperation Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations. Prof Nishimura further stressed the importance of promoting multilateralism, enhancing maritime

connectivity and expanding the global value chains through Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), in an interview for 'Global Review', which was aired on the Lok Sabha TV.

The Delhi Dialogue X was co-sponsored by ASEAN, the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, ASEAN-India Business Council, National Maritime Foundation and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). ERIA has been a partner of Delhi Dialogue since 2009. ■

ERIA-OECD Joint Seminar: OECD Regional Economic Outlook 2018



OECD identified six macro-economic trends, including that domestic demand is an engine for growth, inflation is gaining traction, and optimism in capital markets has softened.

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

Kensuke Tanaka, Head of Asia Desk – OECD Development Centre, and Prasiwi Ibrahim, Economist – OECD Development Centre, presented the main findings of the report, which highlights the finding that growth is expected to remain strong in 2018-2019 in Southeast Asia, China and India. 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.

Three related challenges were also discussed: 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. On digitalisation, the speakers remarked that there has been an immense growth of information and communications technology use, in spite of huge disparities within the region. They were optimistic about the impact of e-commerce but noted that infrastructure development and accessibility must be improved in order for e-commerce to reach its full growth potential.

ERIA scholars were deeply engaged in the conversation and offered remarks after the presentation. Dr Masahito Ambashi, Economist at ERIA, argued that, in spite of its potential in ASEAN, most growth in the e-commerce sector is anticipated to occur in China. He also commented on the challenges of trans-border e-commerce, particularly digital security and protectionism. Anita

Prakash, Director General of Policy Design at ERIA, noted the need to further integrate policy into the OECD report. She remarked that trade and economic integration outlooks must consider internal factors – such as the challenges of infrastructure, health and social security – and policy disruptions from external sources.

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 in ERIA's Information Centre. ■

Second ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy



The event highlighted maritime resources and relations, particularly how ASEAN and India can strengthen their collaboration to promote security, improve transportation, prevent illegal fishing, report and exchange technical data, and enhance commerce.

New Delhi, India: The Second ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy was held in New Delhi on 18 July 2018. The Blue Economy is an economic model for sustainable development with a focus on the oceans. This event highlighted maritime resources and relations, particularly how ASEAN and India can strengthen their collaboration to promote security, improve transportation, prevent illegal fishing, report and exchange technical data, and enhance commerce.

The event was co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs of India, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, the ASEAN Secretariat, the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and the National Maritime Foundation of India. The workshop produced actionable and helpful recommendations on the issues of improving maritime connectivity, harnessing technology to aid the

Blue Economy, and analysing the areas where ASEAN and India can cooperate to develop the Blue Economy.

In the Inaugural Session, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, highlighted the importance of the maritime sector to both Southeast Asia and India – a commonality that can be used to promote sustainable development and greater cooperation between the two. Prof Nishimura called for strengthening the relationship between ASEAN and India on science, port development, community development, and logistics, among others.

The first session 'Blue Economy and Maritime Connectivity' was chaired by ERIA's Dr Fauziah Zen and focussed on specific activities that can be undertaken jointly by ASEAN and India to enhance maritime connectivity such as development of ports, building connectivity between islands, and facilitating maritime logistics.

The workshop concluded that regional cooperation is essential to developing seaports, logistics networks, security and maritime services. With this in mind, participants offered the following ten key recommendations:

1. To enhance ASEAN-India partnership in the field of Blue Economy, ASEAN and India need to engage in finding ways and means to strengthen maritime safety at the operational level and help realize the vision of SAGAR – Security and Growth for All in the Region.
2. For a robust Blue Economy framework, ASEAN and India shall jointly encourage investments in R&D for judicious and sustainable utilization of marine resources.
3. For effective use of marine resources, ASEAN and India need to actively work together for the joint development of viable cost-effective technologies for effective utilisation of marine resources.

4. ASEAN and India need to work to establish a formal code that outlines access, use and protection of marine resources.

5. In light of the growing common threat of Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, ASEAN and India need to work together to set up joint mechanisms for reporting and sharing of technical data.

6. While affirming importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, ASEAN and India need to jointly uphold their commitment to freedom of navigation and overflight in the region, other lawful uses of the seas and unimpeded lawful maritime commerce and promotion of peaceful resolutions of disputes, through the UNCLOS and similar international treaties.

7. To ensure free and unimpeded commerce in the global commons, ASEAN and India need to make joint concerted efforts to control and mitigate common non-traditional threats.

8. ASEAN and India need to promote maritime transport cooperation, and encourage potential private sector participation in the development



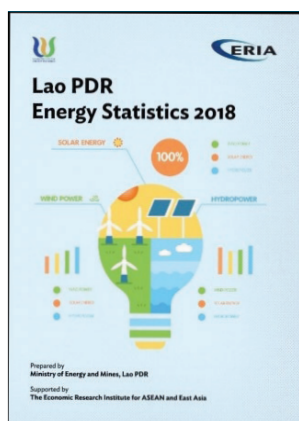
Dr Fauziah Zen, ERIA's Senior Economist, as the chair at the first session 'Blue Economy and Maritime Connectivity' in The Second ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy which was held in New Delhi on 18 July 2018.

of seaports, maritime logistics network and maritime services. Early conclusion of the ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Agreement would be a good step in this direction.

9. To advance knowledge and expertise sharing in Blue Economy, ASEAN and India need to work together to exchange information on white shipping. Joint efforts need to be made to facilitate increased institutional and educational collaborations on Blue Economy development.

10. ASEAN and India need to work together to establish an ASEAN-India Forum on Blue Economy to facilitate regular exchange of experiences and knowledge and to help develop an Action Plan on Cooperation under Blue Economy. Setting up of an ASEAN India Centre of Excellence for Cooperation in the Maritime Domain would be an important step in this direction. ■

Publications

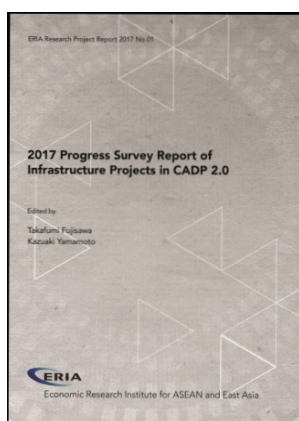


Lao PDR Energy Statistics 2018

Provided by Ministry of Energy and Mines, Lao PDR and supported by ERIA

Insufficient information and inadequate capacity to carry out comprehensive energy planning are identified as the main contributing factors to the current circumstances of the energy sector in Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). To overcome such constraints, the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) requested technical support from the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). ERIA's president responded very positively to Lao PDR's request for support, and ERIA subsequently deployed technical staff and its expertise to support staff of MEM from Department of Energy, Policy and Planning (DEPP) to collect data and conduct analysis for the formulation of this 'Lao National Energy Statistics'.

This project and publication have greatly enhanced energy policy planning in Lao PDR. For the sustainability of the Project, the DEPP of the MEM will establish a systematic collection of energy data from various energy supply companies and other government agencies/corporations, so that energy data and statistics can be published continuously into the future. Having a good energy statistics will allow Lao PDR to contribute to and share data with ASEAN, International Energy Agency, Joint Organization Data Initiative (JODI), and other international forums and arenas.

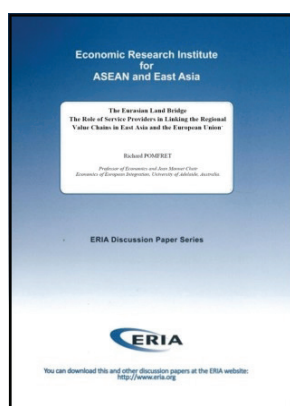


2017 Progress Survey Report of Infrastructure Projects in CADP 2.0

Edited by Takafumi Fujisawa and Kazuaki Yamamoto

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) submitted the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan 2.0 (CADP 2.0) to the East Asia Summit in 2015. CADP 2.0 updates the infrastructure projects from the first CADP, reformulates the conceptual framework for connectivity and innovation, and discusses the quality of infrastructure projects. It lists 761 East Asian infrastructure projects in a wide range of sectors – such as roads and bridges, railroads, ports, and electric power – which were surveyed in 2016–2017.

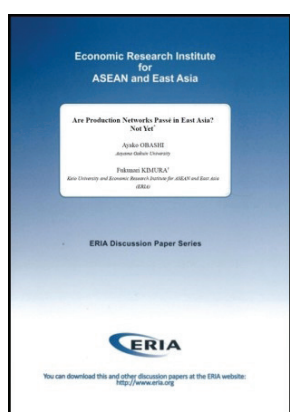
This study presents the progress of those infrastructure projects and summarises the trends and prospects obtained from the survey. The results reflect to some extent the political and economic situation in each country and the influence of its policies.



Technoeconomic Assessment of Microgrids in Myanmar

By Masako Numata, Masahiro Sugiyama, Gento Mogi, Wunna Swe, Venkatachalam Anbumozhi

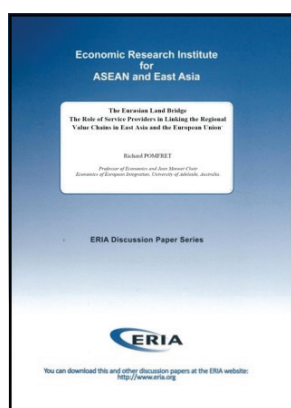
The electrification rate of Myanmar is the second-lowest in Asia, so its improvement is an urgent matter. Sustainable Development Goal 7 recognises the importance of energy access and calls for finding a way to realise the Government of Myanmar's goal to reach 100% electrification by 2030. To achieve this ambitious target, both centralised (main-grid extension) and decentralised approaches should be considered. In this study, we focused on distributed microgrids amongst electrification options. In Myanmar, as in other developing countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), diesel generators are widely used as power sources of microgrids. Considering the global trend of renewable energy, especially opportunities available for solar photovoltaics (PVs), power sources should be selected carefully. When discussing possible power sources, cost-competitiveness is an important aspect. Therefore, we researched the question: How cost-competitive are microgrids powered by solar PVs compared to conventional diesel power source? We used the primary data collected through interviews and field surveys and calculated the levelised cost of electricity (LCOE) of microgrids. Our results show that solar PVs and batteries are cost-competitive compared with diesel in off-grid areas where diesel fuel prices are much higher than in urban areas. However, to improve efficiency, daytime use of electricity (e.g. productive use) needs to be promoted.



Are Production Networks Passé in East Asia? Not Yet

By Ayako Obashi and Fukunari Kimura

Many people have a vague notion that the room for expanding international production networks is almost exhausted and that this is why international trade has slowed down since the recovery from the great trade collapse. This paper presents evidence against such belief in the East Asian context by classifying finely disaggregated international trade data into five categories based on the stages of the production process. Our thorough data examinations show that the slowdown in world trade and East Asian trade was attributed mainly to sluggish growth in trade of primary goods and processed raw materials. In contrast, East Asian trade in manufactured parts and components and the assembled end products within international production networks mostly seen in machinery industries, continued to expand steadily, underpinned by the intensive margin growth. We argue that East Asian production networks did not slow down and the potentiality of the production networks has not been exhausted yet.



The Eurasian Land Bridge: The Role of Service Providers in Linking the Regional Value Chains in East Asia and the European Union

By Richard Pomfret

Rail links between China and Europe are typically analysed in the context of China's Belt and Road Initiative, focusing on China's economic rise and the implications for international relations. This paper argues that establishment of the China–Europe Land Bridge predated the Belt and Road Initiative and has been market-driven, as service-providers identified and responded to demand for efficient freight services along pre-existing railway lines. Governments' role was trade facilitating, i.e. reducing delays and costs at border crossing points, rather than investing in hard infrastructure. Service-providers responded by linking European and Asian value chains (e.g. in automobiles and electronic goods) and reducing costs for traders shipping between China and Europe. The Eurasian Land Bridge provides a case study of 'servicification' as a component of increased trade in the 21st century.



ERIA Annual Report 2017

ERIA's 2017 Annual Report presents the Institute's various research and research-related activities, events, and seminars, and its capacity building, policy design, communication, and publications achievements during fiscal year 2017. ERIA celebrated the ASEAN's golden anniversary with the ASEAN@50 Project, by publishing a five-volume set of books, and holding three public seminars and a High Level Forum with the Government of the Philippines. The message from the ERIA President, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, also shows how ERIA expanded the scope of its research in fiscal year 2017, through inclusion of research on ageing populations and health care, and through the establishment of a policy design department.



Publications Catalogue 2018

ERIA publishes books, research reports, discussion papers, and policy briefs to share and disseminate its research findings and policy recommendations. These publications cover a wide range of subject matter on deepening economic integration, narrowing development gaps, and sustainable development – the three pillars under which ERIA conducts research. ERIA is also highly involved in energy-related research. ERIA also co-publishes with international academic and professional printing houses. In fiscal year 2017, ERIA produced five books in commemoration of the golden anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. We also produced 10 research project reports, 14 discussion papers, and 7 policy briefs.

Upcoming Events

Technical Workshop on ASEAN Vision 2040: ASEAN Single Market; Transformative ASEAN Community; and ASEAN Centrality and East Asian Collective Leadership

Date: 9-11 August 2018
Venue: Jakarta, Indonesia

The First Workshop of The Enforcement of IPR Protection for Asian Development

Date: 20-21 August 2018
Venue: Bangkok, Thailand

ERIA – UNESCAP Joint Policy Dialogue: Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2018

Date: 23 August 2018
Venue: Jakarta, Indonesia

The Second Executive Committee Meeting Project 2045

Date: 27 August 2018
Venue: Jakarta, Indonesia

ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement (Preparation of Negative List)

Date: 27-29 August 2018
Venue: Jakarta, Indonesia

Stakeholder Engagement Workshop on Roadmaps for Disaster Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation

Date: 30-31 August 2018
Venue: Siem Reap, Cambodia

The First workshop of Collaborative Research Project between ERIA and IDE-JETRO on “Human Resources for Health and Elderly Care in Asia”

Date: 3 September 2018
Venue: Bangkok, Thailand

The Ninth ASEAN Connectivity Symposium

Date: 6 September 2018
Venue: Singapore

About Us

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) is an international organisation based in Jakarta, Indonesia that conducts in-dept research on issues facing the people and governments of ASEAN and East Asia.

ERIA works closely with the ASEAN Secretariat and research institutes from across East Asia and beyond to provide innovative and analytical research and policy recommendations. Our projects are organised under three research pillars:

- Deepening Economic Integration
- Narrowing Development Gaps
- Achieving Sustainable Development



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