



Japan LDP's Secretary General Toshihiro Nikai Visits ERIA

INDEX

Featured Story	1
Thoughts from ERIA	3
Top Stories	5
Publications	10
Call for Proposals	11
Upcoming Events	12

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia was very honoured to receive a special visit from the Secretary General of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Honourable Toshihiro Nikai, on Saturday 20 January 2018.

Mr Nikai was in Jakarta as the special envoy on behalf of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to celebrate the 60th anniversary of bilateral ties between Indonesia and Japan. Considered the 'father of ERIA' since he conceived ERIA as the 'OECD of East Asia' in 2006, Mr Nikai was pleased with ERIA's progress over the past ten years since it was created.

'It gives me a great pleasure to see that ERIA has extended its activities and received high international recognition as I engaged in the launch of ERIA,' said Mr Nikai.

President of ERIA Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura and the Special Advisor to the President of ERIA Prof Akiko Yamanaka welcomed the delegation. Prof Nishimura acknowledged Mr Nikai's enormous contributions to ERIA, saying that 'the position of ERIA as an international organisation was established with the assistance of Mr Nikai.'

Mr Nikai was accompanied by a delegation that included Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN Amb Kazuo Sunaga, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Indonesia Amb Masafumi Ishii, as well as other diplomats and dignitaries. The new ASEAN Secretary General Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi also joined the meeting. After a meeting in ERIA's Chairman's room to discuss ERIA's past achievements and future plans, Mr Nikai and his delegation proceeded to ERIA's newly opened Information Centre. Mr Nikai viewed ERIA's publications and a short video about ASEAN@50, ERIA's signature project in 2017 with the Philippines government who was chair of ASEAN during its 50th anniversary. ■

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Mr Toshihiro Nikai and his delegation visit ERIA's newly opened Information Centre.

Members of the Delegation

- Hon Toshihiro Nikai, Secretary General, Liberal Democratic Party Member of the House of Representatives
- Mr Koichi Hagiyuda, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary of LDP
- Mr Motoo Hayashi, Acting Secretary General of LDP
- Mr Tetsushi Sakamoto, Deputy Secretary General of LDP
- Mr Keiichiro Tachibana, Deputy Secretary General of LDP
- Mr Hideki Miyauchi, a member of House of Representatives
- Mr Toshitaka Oooka, a member of House of Representatives
- Mr Takaaki Katsumata, a member of House of Representatives
- Mr Toru Miki, a member of the House of Councilors
- Mr Shigeki Kobayashi, a member of House of Representatives
- Mr Nobuyasu Nikai, Executive Secretary to SG of LDP
- Mr Hiroto Izumi, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister
- Mr Kazuo Sunaga, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
- Mr Masafumi Ishii, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Indonesia. ■



Rizqy Anandhika
Research Associate at ERIA

Rethinking a Circular Economy in the Face of Climate Change

' Most climate scientists agree the main cause of the current global warming trend is the burning of fossil fuels, which emits greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and trap heat. '

World leaders and climate negotiators have continued efforts to address climate change despite the United States relinquishing leadership. So it was perhaps with some irony to observers when US President Trump visited Viet Nam earlier this month, just after Typhoon Damrey claimed scores of lives amid widespread flooding, since researchers believe that extreme environmental events like hurricanes and typhoons are likely exacerbated by climate change.

The 2017 Atlantic hurricane season is now among the top 10 all-time most active seasons on record after Harvey, Irma, and Maria and these seemingly back-to-back catastrophic events should make us look deeper at ourselves.

Most climate scientists agree the main cause of the current global warming trend is the burning of fossil fuels, which emits greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and trap heat. Other human activities, from

everyday activities to agriculture and deforestation, also contribute to the increase in greenhouse gases. The trapped heat increases the Earth's temperature and changes the climate.

With cheap fossil fuels as the main engine of economic growth, many political and corporate leaders are reluctant to reduce or replace it. And the business community has often seen environmental policies as a threat to competitiveness - but there are reasons to view resource efficiency (in other words, profitability and sustainability) as an opportunity.

Resource efficiency is the hallmark of the 'circular economy', a concept that has been around for decades and is gaining traction as a reaction to the traditional 'linear' business model of 'take, make and dispose'. It encourages firms to change the way they operate, and pursue sustainable economic growth by managing resources more effectively through

reusing, recycling, and minimising landfills.

On the production side, the circular economy aims to minimise any negative effects to the environment, and waste from the production process is minimised or even eliminated as firms shift toward 'closed loop' production cycles. Hence, ensuring an efficient use of resources is the best way to balance economic growth and environmental concerns.

On the other hand, the circular economy can optimise consumption while minimising waste through the mindset of the consumer who embraces extending product lives. Such a consumer would repair an item rather than replace it, or choose a more durable product instead of a cheaper but less durable alternative.

And leading the way of the circular economy, are millennials and their propensity for a 'shared economy'. According to a 2015 Goldman Sachs

report, millennials are poised to reshape the global economy because they are reluctant to buy items like cars, homes and luxury goods, preferring instead to access products without the burdens of ownership. Juniper Research's latest attempt to quantify the so-called 'sharing economy' sees it place a value on the sector of US\$40.2 billion by 2022, compared with this year's US\$18.6 billion.

The circular economy is forecast to generate US\$4.5 trillion in additional economic output by 2030 according to Accenture, which identifies business models that decouple growth from natural resources and turn the focus to generating revenue from waste and innovative, customer-focused products and services. By comparison, PricewaterhouseCoopers predicted that Germany's gross domestic product by purchasing power parity in 2030 would be the seventh largest at US\$4.707 trillion.

However, there are four main challenges to the circular economy.

First, is integrating the entire product lifecycle from raw material extraction to disposal (or preferably reuse and recycle) and completely closing it. Governments can promote the demand of circular products by fiscal incentives such as VAT reduction for secondary raw materials, tax on landfilling and tax incentives for producers or public procurement, which favour circular products.

Second, is the lack of a common framework that supports a circular economy and modes of sustainable production and consumption. With one, there would be greater international cooperation, and certainty and facilitation for investments.

Third, is the disruptive nature of

circular models that highlights the uncertainty and risks regarding the value of circular inputs, balance sheet extensions, longer lifetime of assets and the cross-industry nature of circular models. Financial institutions should redesign investment strategies and eligibility criteria to ensure the benefits of circular supply chains.

Finally, it is undeniable that we need energy to recycle waste. But it doesn't take away from the necessity to substantially reduce the consumption of natural resources, to intensify reusing and repairing, and enforce longer product durability.

Many politicians are wary of the circular economy model because the effects of reducing the use of materials and the production of goods, and an extended use and lifespan of goods, do not all count towards economic growth. Therefore, governments have to support innovative business models based on closed cycles and resource efficiency.

In many developing countries, population numbers and economies are forecast to grow in the coming decades. The increased demand would have an impact on commodity prices, and pressure industries to use cheaper alternatives like second-hand raw materials. Hence, there would be room for negotiations between governments, businesses and civil societies to consider social, business and commercial benefits.

The circular economy model is still far from perfect, but it has a necessary objective to restructure the economy in a sustainable way. Policymakers have a responsibility to set a regulatory environment

that encourages corporations to think creatively about the circular economy and cooperate on a global level. This would hopefully reduce the pressure on natural resources and temper the human-induced climate change. ■

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ERIA and IDE-JETRO Hold Roundtable on Connectivity and Innovation



The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and the Institute of Developing Economies - Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO) held a Roundtable on Connectivity and Innovation in Jakarta on 30 January 2018.

The one-day event was held in conjunction with the annual Research Institutes Network meeting for fiscal year 2017 that was held the day before. Several foreign dignitaries attended the event, namely H.E. Amb Elizabeth P. Buensuceso, Ambassador of the Philippines to ASEAN; H.E. Amb Kim Young Chae, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN; H.E. Amb Suresh Reddy, Ambassador of India to ASEAN; H.E. Amb Stephanie Lee, Ambassador of New Zealand to ASEAN; and H.E. Amb Phasporn Sangasubana, Ambassador of Thailand to ASEAN.

In his opening remarks, ERIA President Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura underlined the urgency of discussing connectivity and innovation towards ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025.

'Under the concept of the third

unbundling, the image of infrastructure will be also deconstructed, from physical to digital. I am looking forward to discuss with you how this movement change the concept of connectivity, and what is necessary towards the AEC 2025 on connectivity issues,' said Prof Nishimura.

Moreover, he stated that innovation would become an important element for ASEAN member states to escape from the middle income trap and whether the economic policy of each country could promote innovation.

ERIA's Chief Economist Prof Fukunari Kimura delivered an insightful presentation How Can Connectivity Support Innovation?, which supported Prof Nishimura's statements. Prof Kimura emphasised the need for countries to acknowledge the imminence of the third unbundling and to incorporate it into the development strategy. He stated that AEC, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), and Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) must be reorganised in order to take care of old agenda and to prepare for new challenges.

'Today, countries are at least facing two unbundling tranches: the second (manufacturing) and the third (the new wave), this should serve as an impetus for policymakers to address the distinct challenges that come with the second and third unbundling'

Both Prof Nishimura and Prof Kimura used the concept of the third unbundling introduced by Prof Richard Baldwin, one of the world's greatest thinkers on globalisation, in his book *The Great Convergence: Information Technology and the New Globalization* published in 2016. ERIA and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) held a private discussion with Prof Baldwin last year in Jakarta.

The afternoon sessions of the roundtable were divided into two sessions, the first session discussed Connectivity in East Asia and the second session discussed Innovation in East Asia.

In her closing remarks, Dr Yuri Sato, the executive vice president of IDE-JETRO reiterated the key message of the day.

'Today, countries are at least facing two unbundling tranches: the second (manufacturing) and the third (the new wave), this should serve as an impetus for policymakers to address the distinct challenges that come with the second and third unbundling,' she said. ■

ERIA and IDE-JETRO Hold Research Institute Network Meeting for FY 2017



'I hope today's discussion leads the future research direction, not only for next year, but also for the next ten years,' said Prof Nishimura.

The annual Research Institutes Network (RIN) meeting was held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 29 January 2018, organised by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia together with the Institute of Developing Economies - Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO).

The meeting was attended by RIN members from 15 organisations across East Asia Summit countries, moderated by Dr Hank Lim Giok-Hay from the Singapore Institute of International Affairs.

ERIA President Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura welcomed the RIN members as he delivered his opening remarks. He went on to briefly explain ERIA's deliverables in 2017 as well as mentioning a milestone that ERIA will pass in 2018 as it celebrates

its 10th anniversary.

'I hope today's discussion leads the future research direction, not only for next year, but also for the next ten years,' said Prof Nishimura.

Mr Daisuke Hiratsuka, President, Bangkok Research Center, JETRO Bangkok / IDE-JETRO applauded ERIA's achievements, adding that 'there is much work should be done by ERIA.'

After the opening remarks, the morning session continued with short presentations from two Malaysian research institutes and ERIA. Shigeki Kamiyama, ERIA's Director General for Research Administration, delivered a presentation on ERIA's Research Projects in FY 2017, followed by several presentations on ERIA's

key projects in FY 2017 by ERIA researchers.

In the afternoon, presentations were made on collaborative research projects between ERIA and RIN members in FY 2017. Prof Fukunari Kimura, ERIA's Chief Economist, also presented ERIA's future study plans including the calls for proposal for collaborative research projects in FY 2018.

The last presentation was delivered by Mr Daisuke Hiratsuka on a key research project by Bangkok Research Center, JETRO Bangkok / IDE-JETRO.

Dr Hank Lim, who was also the Chairperson of RIN, wrapped up the meeting and delivered his closing remarks. ■

ERIA Holds 'Why Think Tank Matters' Discussion



'Think tanks play an important role in shaping public policy around the world,' said Izuru Kobayashi.

Think tanks play an important role in shaping public policy around the world, said Izuru Kobayashi, the Chief Operating Officer of ERIA, in his opening remarks for the discussion 'Why Think Tanks Matter More Than Ever'.

The event, held by ERIA in its Jakarta office, was part of Why Think Tanks Matter Events held by more than 160 organisations worldwide in more than 100 cities in anticipation of the launch of this year's Global Go To Think Tank Index (GGTTI) launch. The GGTTI is organised by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania to acknowledge the important contributions of think tanks worldwide.

Lydia Ruddy, ERIA's Director of Communications, acted as the host and moderator of the discussion. The panellists include Rahimah Abdulrahim, the Executive Director of Habibie Center; Rainer Heufers,

the Executive Director of the Centre for Indonesian Policy Studies (CIPS); and Dr Krishnamurthy Ramanathan of Sydney Graduate School of Management, Western Sydney University and Former Director of the United Nations ESCAP Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology.

Abdulrahim kick-started the discussion by saying that 'think tank bridges the gap between academics and stakeholders.' She then explained how think tanks and their capabilities to reach stakeholders such as policymakers and the public would be able to help create studies that benefit people.

Rainer Heufers, who founded CIPS, added into the topic by elaborating the importance of think tank now with the rise of populism because without think tanks that inform people, populism can be used for personal agenda of some groups. 'We try to break issues down to the things that

matters to people,' he said. Using CIPS as an example, he stated that think tank can even do more, 'We are research-based advocacy group, as we work to inform the public and make a change.'

Discussing the use of technology in policy and the society, Dr Ramanathan said that with the technological advancement today, technological issues and challenges came along that created another gap in the current world. He stated that think tanks could fill in and help policymakers understand the implication of the situations.

As the discussion widened into realm of technological advancement, Rainer Heufers touched upon the importance of using social media for think tanks. 'Do you really need social media? Yes, but what do you get from that? Does it make a difference? Sometimes being printed in Kompas is more important,' said Heufers, referring to Indonesia's largest daily newspaper.

Ima Abdulrahim stated that in emerging economies, social media can bridge the society and policymakers. 'In Indonesia (the use of social media) is important, because there is a big gap between politicians and the members of their constituents... I think, think tanks may end up having to fill that gap,' said Abdulrahim. Dr Ramanathan then added on how social media is also important to think tanks as it enable think tanks to have a wider reach.

This last part of the discussion prompted a question from the

audience which questioned the panellist on how to reach the younger generations who, as mentioned by Dr Ramanathan, mostly have a 'data driven instant gratification mentality.' Using the Talking ASEAN series from Habibie Center as an example, Rahimah Abdulrahim answered, 'When we do our events, we keep them open, we encourage university and high school students to join.'

Heufers shared his organisation's experience working with the young generation. 'You need to develop this content for the youth, but we are not

at that age group anymore,' he said, adding that they conduct several focus group discussions with the youth in order to get their insights when developing an online course about faith for the young generation.

ERIA was recognised as one of the best regional studies centres in the world and improved its ranking in several categories of the 2016 GGTTI. In the last five years, ERIA has managed to continuously improve its rankings and recognition in more categories. ■

Zalora CEO: Indonesia can be One of the World's Largest Digital Economies

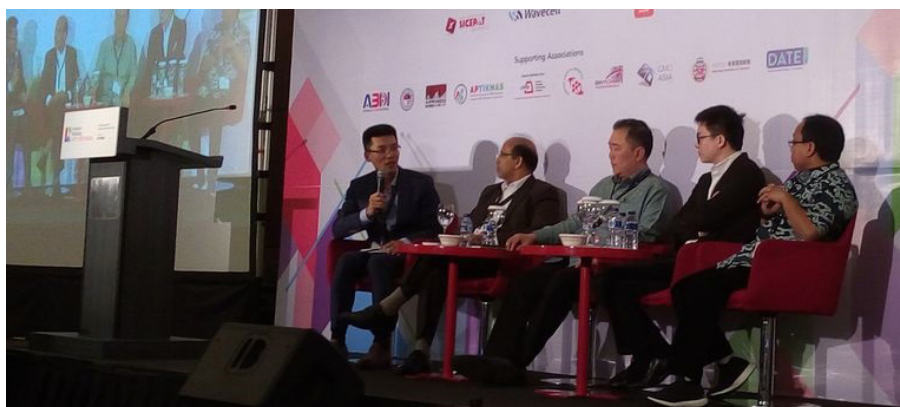


Photo credit: Dignation

Indonesia has the potential to be one of the biggest digital economies in the world, said Anthony Fung, Chief Operating Officer of e-commerce site Zalora Indonesia, in a panel discussion The State of E-commerce in Indonesia in Jakarta on 24 January 2018.

ERIA's economist Dr Lurong Chen

moderated the panel, which was part of the Internet Retailing Expo Asia (IRX Asia) 2018 held at Pullman Hotel Jakarta. IRX Asia 2018 was the third edition of IRX for Asia and it brought together more than 3,000 attendees and 80 exhibitors in the two-day event.

During the same panel, the Director

'Many Indonesian MSMEs still need capacity building to grasp the development opportunity brought by economic digitalisation.'

of E-commerce of Indonesian retailer PT Mitra Adiperkasa Tbk (MAP), S. Ravi Kumar, said that e-commerce is the way for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to grow as it provides equal opportunity for SMEs to do a nationwide promotion that previously was a privilege of big companies. However, the CEO of Indonesian

e-commerce site Blibli.com, Kusumo Martanto, warned that online presence would not automatically translate to higher sales without efforts to improve the online store's visual presentation and product packaging. In this regard, many

Indonesian MSMEs still need capacity building to grasp the development opportunity brought by economic digitalisation.

Dr Chen is the project leader of ERIA serial research projects on 'Digital

Economy, Innovation, and East Asia's Competitiveness in GVCs'. With focus on ASEAN and East Asia, one of the ERIA project's goals is to advance the international discussion on the development of e-commerce. ■

Prof Yamanaka and DSG Vongthep Discuss Human Security, Gender



Jakarta, 19 Jan 2018: Dr Akiko Yamanaka, Special Advisor to the President of ERIA, met with Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, HE Vongthep Arthakaivalatee to discuss matters of concern to both organizations.

Prof Yamanaka was accompanied by Ms Hikariko Ono, Minister, Deputy Chief of Mission, Mission of Japan to ASEAN and Ms Lydia Ruddy, Director of Communications, ERIA. DSG Vongthep was accompanied by Ms Rodora Turalde-Babaran, Director of Human Development Directorate; Ms Intani Kusuma, Technical Officer, Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance; and

two other staff from the ASCC Department.

HE Vongthep welcomed Prof Yamanaka to the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) and expressed appreciation of the good relationship between ASEC and the Government of Japan and especially with ERIA. He stated that the SG's priority this year is to enhance analytic capability at the Secretariat, which fits nicely with the work that ERIA does. 'ERIA and ASEC can find many areas to work together, especially with ERIA's strong research capacity.'

Prof Yamanaka thanked the DSG for his warm welcome and outlined her interests and experience in

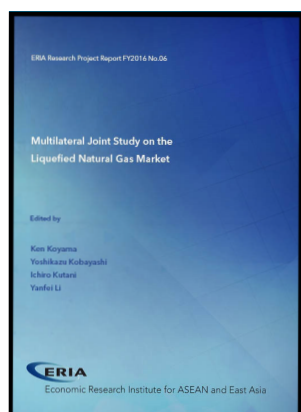
'ERIA and ASEC can find many areas to work together, especially with ERIA's strong research capacity.'

gender issues, human security and non-traditional security, preventative diplomacy, resilience and disaster management. HE Vongthep expressed strong interest in all those topics and added preventing violence and health.

Ms Ono stated that the Japanese mission would be ready to support any possible collaborative projects between ASEC and ERIA on gender issues.

The discussion lasted for two hours with input from everyone present about possibilities to work together. ■

Publications

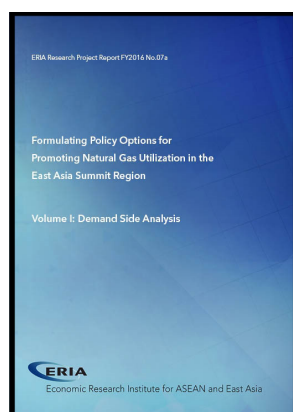


Multilateral Joint Study on the Liquefied Natural Gas Market

Edited by Ken Koyama, Yoshikazu Kobayashi, Ichiro Kutani, and Yanfei Li

The increased use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) is expected to solve many of the energy and environmental problems of the East Asia Summit region by ensuring a stable energy supply at an affordable price. This is especially true considering its abundant and geographically diversified resource base, as well as reducing carbon emissions by replacing more of the carbon-intensive energy. The LNG market in the region, however, has not expanded as much as expected in the early 2010s. This paper thus proposes recommendations to policymakers and the LNG producers and consumers on how they can use natural gas more in Asia.

The expanded use of LNG in Asia will depend on two conditions: its competitiveness against other energy sources, and sufficient investment in every part of the value chain. The report summarizes 'who does what' to achieve these two conditions.



Formulating Policy Options for Promoting Natural Gas Utilization in the East Asia Summit Region Volume I: Demand Side Analysis

Edited by The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan

There is an increasing interest in understanding the demand potential of natural gas and its implication in the East Asia Summit region. This ERIA study was proposed by Japan at the 10th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting in 2016. Comprising two volumes, this report focuses on ASEAN and India markets and aims at understanding the future natural gas demand and estimating the size of the market on the demand side, and correspondingly deriving the necessary investment in infrastructure on the supply side. From both sides, the challenges and policy options are drawn.

This volume, dedicated to the demand side analysis, asserts that various policies are needed to maximize demand potential. These include clear policy indications for promoting use of natural gas, enhancing economic competitiveness of natural gas, support for developing supply infrastructure and institutional and capacity building.

Call for Proposals

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) invites submission of original research proposals for its project, Labour in East Asia. The project aims to improve understanding of labour market issues in the context of increasing fragmentation of production across countries in the East Asian region. We welcome proposals that take a trade-in-value added (TIVA) perspective and pursue questions pertaining to the labour market. The project objective, background, potential topics, and other information can be found in the accompanying Terms of Reference (TOR).

ERIA will provide financial support of US\$8,000 (eight thousand US dollars) for one paper (see Terms and Conditions in TOR). In addition, ERIA will cover the travel and lodging costs of the researchers to attend the project's workshops.

Research proposals should be submitted by email to Rashesh Shrestha (rashesh.shrestha@eria.org) no later than **5pm Jakarta time** (GMT+7) on Wednesday, **28 February 2018**. Earlier submissions are encouraged. We will notify the authors of selected proposals by 28 February 2018 at the latest.

The proposals and papers will ideally include a combination of theoretical and empirical analyses, and/or case studies to derive policy lessons for a developing country. Research using individual and household-level data is especially encouraged.

Proposals should be a maximum of 5,000 words and clearly lay out the research question, methodology, data sources, and relevance to the theme of the project. Authors who already have completed working papers may submit those in lieu of a research proposal. Please include the CVs of the main author and co-authors (if any) in the submission.

[Output]

- The final paper will be included as a chapter in an academic book co-published by ERIA-Routledge.

[Project timeline]

- 28 February 2018: Deadline for submission of research proposals
- 9 March 2018: Announcement of selected proposals
- 30 May 2018: First draft of paper due
- June 2018: Team workshop (dates and location TBD)
- 30 September 2018: Final draft of paper due

[Contact]

Please email Rashesh Shrestha with any questions.

More information:

Visit our website for more information here:

<http://www.eria.org/news/FY2017/11/call-for-proposals-labour-in-east-asia.html>

Upcoming Events

Public Acceptance Week for Nuclear Energy in FY2017 (organized by IEEJ)

Date: 5 - 9 February 20178
Venue: Tokyo, Japan

Technical 1st Workshop on Study on Formation of ASEAN Generation and Transmission System Planning Institution (AGTP) and ASEAN Transmission System Operators Institution (ATSO)

Date: 7 - 8 February 2018
Venue: Jakarta, Indonesia

Sustainable Development and policy Modelling

Date: 7 - 9 February 2018
Venue: Vientiane, Lao PDR

Workshop on Hanoi-Vientiane Highway

Date: 8 February 2018
Venue: Bangkok, Thailand

Book Dissemination: 'The Indonesian Economy: Trade and Industrial Policies' at Brawijaya University

Date: 22 February 2018
Venue: Malang, Indonesia

The 2nd Microdata Workshop FY2017: 'Export Dynamics and Export Industry Development'

Date: 22 - 23 February 2018
Venue: Siem Reap, Cambodia

RCEP Workshop for Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia: 'From Positive to Negative Lists'

Date: 26 February 2018
Venue: Phnom Penh, Cambodia

ERIA and ASEAN-Japan Centre: 'ASEAN 50th Anniversary Symposium IV'

Date: 1 March 2018
Venue: Tokyo, Japan

ERIA, IDE-JETRO, Kyoto University and Waseda University Joint International Economic Symposium

Date: 1 March 2018
Venue: Jakarta, Indonesia

The 2nd workshop on Second Phase of Service Supply Chain

Date: 2-3 March 2018
Venue: Jakarta, Indonesia

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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