

STATEMENT OF THE ERIA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

10 June 2017

Jakarta, Indonesia

Asian Integration as Tailwind of the Global Economy

1. The year 2015 marked the Declaration of the ASEAN Community and the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the East Asia Summit (EAS). At this important stage, East Asia reaffirmed its commitments for strategic dialogue and cooperation on political, security, and economic issues of common regional concern to promote peace, stability, and economic prosperity in the region. In 2016, however, the world experienced a backlash against globalisation, trade and investment liberalisation and regional integration. Countries hitherto supportive of free and open trade and investment regimes want more control of their economies and borders, and are questioning the benefits of globalisation. With strong headwinds against globalisation, countries of East Asia region have to enhance their commitments on global partnerships that deepen economic integration, broaden trade and economic liberalisation, and make growth inclusive and resilient. At this juncture, ERIA rose to the challenge and exerted utmost effort to support the regional efforts and processes for economic integration. Its support for trade and investment liberalisation have been specially marked by its activities for supporting the negotiation process of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which participating countries hope to substantially conclude by the end of 2017.

ERIA Fulfils its Commitment to Support East Asia Integration and Regional Growth

2. ERIA closely supported growth and integration in the region with academic research, capacity building, and advocacy activities. It has provided strong research documents to policymakers and businesses on regional economic integration, economic partnership agreements, trade in goods and services, global value chains, infrastructure, good regulatory practice, connectivity, non-tariff measures (NTMs), small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), disaster management, social security, sustainable development, and energy, and plans to expand its research areas such as healthcare and human wellbeing. ERIA expanded its research activities beyond East Asia for the first time. In July 2016, responding to the request from Mongolia, ERIA's dialogue partner country, to support its chairmanship of the Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM), ERIA presented *Asia-Europe Connectivity Vision 2025: Challenges and Opportunities* to the ASEM Summit held in Ulaanbaatar.

Connectivity within and beyond the region is a driver for strong global value chains, supported by quality infrastructure and transparent trade and investment rules. ERIA, jointly with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and the Institute of Developing Economies–Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO), started to develop a vision document for Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), in fulfilment of the relevant ideas in the India-Japan Joint Prime Ministerial Statement of November 2016. ERIA is also supporting Viet Nam for its chairmanship of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). In October 2016, ERIA signed a memorandum of understanding with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) to provide input not only to the governments but also to the parliamentary members of ASEAN Member States.

Directions from the Governing Board

3. The Governors endorsed ERIA’s annual work plan and budget for fiscal year 2017 as well as the amendment of ERIA’s Articles of Association numbers 7 and 20. The Governors further recommended ERIA to:

Research and Policy Design

- Prioritise and focus the research agenda by deepening and broadening work on regional integration, sustainable development, and narrowing development gaps in balance with energy research
- Increase the number of interdisciplinary studies on sustainable development and especially the impact of climate change on East Asian societies
- Support RCEP negotiations to realise a high-level partnership agreement
- Work more on ASEAN-plus FTA studies like the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA review
- Work on coordinating different regional initiatives like ‘One Belt, One Road’ and ‘Asia Africa Growth Corridor’
- Communicate with governments to increase the acceptability of policy recommendations
- Develop a narrative for a regional conversation on the benefits of integration for citizens and policies for maximising those benefits
- Monitor global issues and respond more quickly in areas like digital economy, e-commerce, the ‘Fourth Industrial Revolution,’ services liberalisation, shared economy, and anti-globalisation

- Provide more assistance to MSMEs by researching and developing more pragmatic measures to enable them to directly participate in regional trade beyond global value chains
- Consider future policy outputs for work with APEC

Outreach, Publications and Capacity Building

- Consider broadening the scope of Capacity Building activities while enhancing its support for less developed ASEAN Member States
- Work even more closely with the ASEAN Secretariat and consider engaging with the Commonwealth framework
- Leverage relations with Governors, Academic Advisory Council members and Ambassadors to increase outreach efforts
- Create one to two pager policy briefs
- Translate key ERIA research into local languages
- Increase ERIA's presence on social media
- Increase relations with syndicated columns for op-ed dissemination
- Create a secondment and internship programme for visiting scholars

Operations

- Enhance efforts to diversify funding-base
