



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



EAST ASIA POLICY DIALOGUE ON 'LEVELLING UP INDONESIA'S VALUE ADDED'

17 April 2014, Indonesia

ERIA, the Government of Indonesia, and the Gadjah Mada University organised the East Asia Policy Dialogue on 'Levelling Up Indonesia's Value Added' in Yogyakarta with Indonesian Vice President Boediono. More than 450 delegates from all over Indonesia attended this event. Said dialogue, the first of its kind in Indonesia, is designed to serve as a forum for discussion and exchange of views on key policy issues between Indonesian policymakers and ERIA researchers.



SEMINAR OF INTERNATIONAL CULTURE FOR ASIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

25 April 2014, Japan

ERIA Executive Director, Prof. Nishimura, lectured about 900 students of the Wakayama Prefectural Hidaka High School at the event titled 'Seminar of International Culture for Asian High School Students'. Prof. Nishimura's talk, 'As a Leader Living in the Global Society: ERIA and Community Building in ASEAN and East', highlighted the close relationship between ASEAN and Japan, both of which are enjoying strong ties in the field of culture and people-to-people exchanges. Said seminar was held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the high school and to encourage the students, who will shape the next generation, engage in global society.



ERIA-OECD MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

5 May 2014, France

ERIA and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to conduct joint policy research on multi-dimensional issues. Signatories to the MoU are H.E. Mr. Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General, and Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA Executive Director. The event was witnessed by H.E. Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, former Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, who proposed said think tank in Asia as an East Asia OECD. Mr. Gurría said that this cooperation is a testimony of OECD's belief in ERIA's role in the region and the potential of Southeast Asian economies.



OECD AND ERIA PARLIAMENTARY LEAGUE JOINT MEETING

23 May 2014, Japan

Responding to the MoU signed between OECD and ERIA, an OECD-ERIA Parliamentary League Joint Meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan. Ms. Yumiko Murakami, Head of the OECD Tokyo Centre, said that ERIA will play a significant role in developing OECD's relationship with Asia. Prof. Nishimura, ERIA Executive Director, explained that 'the signing of the MoU was the first step for the implementation of a dream between H.E. Mr. Nikai of Japan and H.E. Mr. Gurría of the OECD'. This event signalled the strong support by Members of Japan's Parliament to the ERIA-OECD cooperation.



SEVENTH ERIA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AND ERIA-MONGOLIA DIALOGUE PARTNERS MEETING

30 May 2014, Indonesia

The Seventh ERIA Governing Board Meeting was held at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. Aside from approving ERIA's work and budget plan for fiscal year 2015, the ERIA Governing Board adopted a statement outlining the vision of ERIA in the coming years. ERIA likewise held a dialogue partners meeting with Mongolia for the first time. H.E. Lundeg Purevsuren, National Security and Policy Advisor to the President of Mongolia, expressed Mongolia's desire to integrate with the economic linkages and grouping in the region.



ERIA ENERGY WORKSHOP 2014 ON 'ENERGY SECURITY LANDSCAPE AND CHALLENGES'

12 June 2014, Lao PDR

Discussions in this energy workshop, which was held simultaneously with the 32nd Senior Officials Meeting on Energy, centred on the energy security landscape and challenges in the ASEAN region. The workshop had three panel discussions on energy efficiency, energy market integration, and clean coal technologies. Prof. Nishimura, ERIA Executive Director, closed the workshop, promising continued commitment of ERIA, through its research and capacity-building activities, to strengthen enabling policies and regional architecture towards attaining energy security.



EAS MEMBER STATES CONGRATULATE ERIA ON ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

26 June 2014, Indonesia

In a meeting attended by ambassadors and representatives of 16 countries in 26 June, Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoj, Chair of ERIA's Governing Board, praised the work of the Institute, it having achieved much progress with the expansion of research activities to help East Asia integration.

Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA Executive Director, reported on the accomplishments and plans of ERIA at said meeting. ERIA's research projects on different aspects of economic cooperation and integration in East Asia have been valuable inputs to various reports of ASEAN and other leading international organisations.

H.E. Min Lwin, Ambassador of Myanmar, likewise congratulated ERIA for its achievement and acknowledged that its research and recommendations have been and will continue to be useful references for ASEAN Community building processes by and beyond 2015.

On the same day, a dialogue partners' meeting was held with the Russian Federation and the United States. H.E. Alexander A. Shilin, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the Russian Federation, said that the Russian Federation has identified Southeast Asia as a priority for investment and expanding connectivity in Asia. 'There is also a vast potential in the ASEAN–Russia relations ... and we want to make sure there is real cooperation.' He added that the meeting with dialogue partners organised by ERIA will strengthen cooperation with key ASEAN stakeholders.

H.E. Larry Miles Dinger, Senior Advisor of the United States Mission to ASEAN, likewise acknowledged ERIA's important role in supporting the goals of the ASEAN Economic Community 2015, amongst others. He stressed that ASEAN remains central to the US as the global centre for economic growth.

These three meetings reaffirmed the importance of enhancing connectivity and relation in East Asia.



ERIA CAPACITY BUILDING SYMPOSIUM

12 August 2014, Viet Nam

ERIA and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam organised this symposium on 'Upgrading Viet Nam's Position towards AEC 2015 and Beyond'. H.E. Mr. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam, welcomed the participants whilst H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, ASEAN Secretary-General, delivered the keynote speech. ERIA Executive Director Prof. Nishimura moderated the panel discussion on 'Maximising the Benefits of AEC and RCEP for Enhancing the Supply Chain'. More than 100 Vietnamese from concerned ministries, the private sector, and think tanks attended the symposium.



ERIA AND NEWLY ESTABLISHED NETWORK ON ENERGY RESEARCH SIGN MOU ON COLLABORATIVE UNDERTAKINGS

6 September 2014, Brunei Darussalam

ERIA, prominent energy institutes from 16 countries, and the newly formed Energy Research Institute Network (ERIN) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Brunei Darussalam on 6 September 2014. Said MoU formulates and establishes a mechanism for collaboration in terms of conducting joint research and other cooperative undertaking that would provide valuable policy recommendations to key decision-makers on energy issues in the East Asia region.

Since the region contributes to most of the increase in global energy demand, it should consider initiatives to cope with energy issues. Thus, energy research institutions that are familiar with the energy policy of each country gathered and established ERIN to tackle these regional energy challenges.

Signatories to the MoU are H.E. Dr. Weerawat Chantanakome of the Brunei National Energy Research Institute (BNERI) and Chairperson of ERIN, and Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA Executive Director. The ceremony was witnessed by Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned, Acting Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam.

Annex D lists the members of the Energy Research Institute Network.



FIFTH ASEAN CONNECTIVITY SYMPOSIUM

10 September 2014, Myanmar

ERIA, the Ministry of National Planning and Development of Myanmar, and the ASEAN Secretariat held this symposium on 'Catalysing Public-Private Partnership to Finance ASEAN Connectivity' in Nay Pyi Taw. The one-day symposium featured Myanmar and international speakers who are highly experienced on public-private partnership and ASEAN connectivity. About 150 participants from concerned ministries and the private sector attended the event.



SECOND EAST ASIA POLICY DIALOGUE

12 September 2014, Indonesia

ERIA and the Ministry of Trade of Indonesia organised this dialogue on 'How can Indonesia gain benefits from regional agreements?' Prof. Nishimura, ERIA Executive Director, emphasised in his welcome remarks that 'ERIA will continue to work for the realisation of the AEC, including providing support for RCEP negotiations.' H.E. Mr. Pascal Lamy, former Secretary-General of the World Trade Organization, said in his keynote speech that it is important for ASEAN countries to adopt a system of harmonisation of standards to ease intra-ASEAN trade, and to maintain dialogue with partners as ways to capture market shares in the global value chains. More than 150 representatives from ministries related to economic affairs, the private sector, and academia participated in this dialogue.



HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT BETWEEN ERIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA

13 October 2014, Indonesia

The Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat of the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia was signed by Foreign Affairs Minister of Indonesia, H.E. Dr. R.M. Marty Natalegawa, and ERIA Executive Director Prof. Nishimura. Through this agreement, the Indonesian government grants ERIA special legal treatment accorded to an international organisation, including privileges and immunities, that will enable ERIA to perform its functions and operations effectively.



MYANMAR-ERIA-HARVARD SYMPOSIUM

29 October 2014, Myanmar

ERIA and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development of Myanmar organised this symposium on 'Maximizing AEC Benefits towards a Peaceful and Prosperous Community: Achievements and Prospects' in Nay Pyi Taw. ASEAN Secretary General, H.E. Le Luong Minh, stressed the milestone of the ASEAN Economic Community in his keynote speech. On the following day, ERIA Executive Director Prof. Nishimura and ERIA senior officials paid a courtesy visit to H.E. U Nyan Tun, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and handed over to him the outcomes and recommendations from the symposium.



ASEAN BUSINESS INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2014

11-13 November 2014, Myanmar

Prof. Nishimura, ERIA Executive Director, participated in the 11th ASEAN Business and Investment Summit which occurred alongside the ASEAN Summit. ERIA economists took part in the panel discussion on the role and policy challenges of CLM countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar) as the centres of future economic growth in ASEAN. Prof. Nishimura attended the session on the launch of *ASEAN Rising: ASEAN and AEC Beyond 2015*. Said book covers various areas related to ASEAN and AEC beyond 2015. It discusses the challenges of ASEAN and AEC, how to face such challenges, and how ASEAN should move forward towards AEC 2015 and beyond.

ERIA distributed the English and Myanmar versions of the book during the summit.



THIRD ERIA EDITORS' ROUND TABLE

25 November 2014, Myanmar

ERIA held its Third ERIA Editors' Round Table on 'Challenges for Rising ASEAN'. Editors and journalists covering ASEAN gathered and exchanged views on the future challenges and prospects of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). President U Thein Sein of Myanmar delivered the keynote speech on 'Myanmar and ASEAN Beyond 2015'. H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, ASEAN Secretary-General, answered questions posed by editors and journalists on issue related to the progress of the AEC and plans of action of ASEAN beyond 2015. The editors' round table aims to increase awareness and understanding amongst editors in the region on key issues affecting the AEC.



VISIT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OF CHINA

5 December 2014, Indonesia

A delegation from the National People's Congress of China (NPC), led by H.E. Fu Ying, Chair of the NPC Foreign Affairs Committee, and H.E. Ms. Yang Xiuping, Ambassador of China Mission to ASEAN, visited ERIA. The delegates were briefed on the progress of ERIA and its latest achievements from the Ninth East Asia Summit in November 2014. ERIA economists also introduced their major research product and exchanged views on the regional challenges under ASEAN Community building. The delegates acknowledged the importance of ASEAN maintaining its centrality and the momentum beyond 2015; ERIA's 'thinking products' will also be valuable to the region.



ERIA EXECUTIVE LEADERS' INITIATIVE OF 2014

10–12 December 2014, Lao PDR

ERIA, with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR, organised this event as part of its capacity building programme for new members of the ASEAN. Twenty-four participants at the level of deputy director-general from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam joined regional experts from Thailand and Japan to discuss issues on good governance, logistics, agricultural management, and vocational training. Participants were divided into three groups: (i) trade of high value added agricultural products, (ii) promotion trade along the East–West Economic Corridor, and (iii) vocational training for human resource development.



CASS-ERIA SYMPOSIUM ON 'REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND EAS'

15 December 2014, China

This symposium, organised by the Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS) and ERIA, discussed the development of production networks in East Asia, regional framework cooperation such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and future integration beyond free trade agreements. In his opening remarks, H.E. Liu Jianchao, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, stressed that CASS and ERIA should make good use of this symposium to provide more intellectual contribution to East Asia. Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA Executive Director, hoped that the symposium results would provide a direction for economic integration in East Asia. About 20 experts from academic institutions in East Asia Summit member countries attended.



PPP NETWORKING FORUM AND LAUNCH OF PPP GUIDELINES

16 December 2014, Philippines

ERIA launched the ASEAN Public–Private Partnership (PPP) Guidelines at the first PPP Networking Forum, organised by the Philippine Permanent Mission to ASEAN. The ASEAN PPP Guidelines are designed for ASEAN nations and provide a common set of principles for member countries. The Guidelines offer a broad framework based on best practice standards that will help government agencies manage the implementation of PPP projects. The common policy principles would provide consistency, confidence, and certainty to foreign private investors and help facilitate cross-border PPP projects. These will further enhance greater connectivity through harmonisation of members' regulatory requirements.



SECOND ASIA COSMOPOLITAN AWARDS CEREMONY

21 December 2014, Japan

ERIA and the Nara Prefecture of Japan held an awarding ceremony, Nara Forum 2014, for the Second Asia Cosmopolitan Awards. Said awards recognise individuals or organisations that have significantly helped advance cultural integration, economic integration to narrow developmental gaps, and establishment of a sustainable growing society in East Asia. Grand prize awardee was Manmohan Singh, Former Prime Minister of India. For the economic and social science category, awardees are Peter Drysdale, Emeritus Professor of Economics and Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University, and Wang Gungwu, University Professor of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore. For the cultural category, awardees are Rithy Panh, Cambodian filmmaker, and The Takarazuka Revue Company, a Japanese theatrical music company.



ASCC POST-2015 FIRST TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

16–17, 19–20 January, Indonesia

This workshop, organised by ERIA, was attended by 29 thought paper authors, including Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA Executive Director, a number of high-level officials from the ASEAN Secretariat led by Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Alicia Bala, and representatives from the Malaysian government, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, the Chair of ASEAN in 2015. The thought papers and integrative reports are expected to provide significant inputs to the ASCC bodies in preparing the new ASCC Blueprint post-2015. DSG Ms. Alicia Bala sincerely thanked ERIA's contribution to the project, reiterating commitment to the ASCC, to which the thought papers could offer practical and measurable proposals on the issues and concerns of ASCC 2025 vision.



ERIA CAPACITY BUILDING SEMINAR ON 'ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY'

19–20 January 2015, Cambodia

ERIA and Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce organised the 'ERIA Capacity Building Seminar in Cambodia – Remaining Challenge for ASEAN Economic Community 2015'. ERIA Chief Economist, Prof. Fukunari Kimura, pointed out that Cambodia needs to prioritise its development strategies, especially in becoming part of the East Asian production networks. He encouraged Cambodia to not be overwhelmed by the many reforms that should be done in agriculture, land reform, education, corruption, and social capital, among others. The country should diversify export and improve human capital.



MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE OF MALAYSIA

11 February 2015, Malaysia

Prof. Nishimura, ERIA Executive Director, paid Dato Seri Mohamed Nazri bin Tan Sri Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture, a courtesy visit. He updated the Minister, who is the Chair of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council this year, on ERIA's recent works, highlighting the Institute's contribution to the ASCC. ERIA, with the ASEAN Secretariat, has initiated the development of the ASCC vision beyond 2015 through its first workshop on 'Framing the ASCC Post-2015' in January. The Minister expressed his appreciation for ERIA's strong support and effort toward ASCC community building, affirming that 'ERIA's continued assistance and inputs are very useful and important'.



DELHI DIALOGUE VII

11–12 March 2015, India

Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA Executive Director, attended the Delhi Dialogue VII on 'ASEAN–India: Shaping the Post-2015 Agenda'. The Delhi Dialogue is an annual conference amongst political and business leaders, academics, and policymakers from ASEAN countries and their Indian counterparts where they discuss ways to strengthen and broaden political, strategic, economic, and civil society interaction between India and ASEAN. ASEAN ministers and senior officials from the government also participated.

Prof. Nishimura moderated session four during which participants discussed the need for countries and institutions of the region to respond proactively to the security, economic, and sociocultural changes as the region spanning ASEAN and India faces new challenges.

The event was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs of India and Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis.



OECD SOUTHEAST ASIA REGIONAL FORUM

25 March 2015, Indonesia

Prof. Nishimura, Executive Director of ERIA, attended this forum and acted as rapporteur for the session on 'Productivity Enhancing Policies Supporting Regional Integration'. He summarised the discussion and provided strategic comments to the session, further stressing the importance of regional cooperation in building the capacity of institutions and bureaucracies for a better regulatory regime and in support of productivity growth in ASEAN. Dr. Dionisius Narjoko, ERIA economist, highlighted ERIA's relevant research on the importance and benefits of good regulatory practices and responsive regulatory regimes.