



CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

One of ERIA's mandates is to help enhance research capacities in countries in the ASEAN region in need of improvement of public policymaking and research abilities in order to build up confidence in these countries as they join and enter the regional integration process. In this connection, ERIA has regularly conducted capacity building seminars and workshops in the CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam) countries, in particular, over the past five years.

In FY 2013, ERIA held capacity building seminars on the topics of Public Private Partnership as a framework for efficient infrastructure development; Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP); consumer protection; intellectual property right (IPR); and strengthening of competitiveness in regional integration in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam and Myanmar. For Myanmar, the seminars were specially tailored to respond to the challenges that Myanmar faces ahead as ASEAN Chair for 2014. In addition, a Media Capacity Building workshop was also held in Myanmar to acquaint news editors and journalists on the issues that would be taken up during the entire year of discussions under Myanmar's ASEAN chairmanship in 2014 and prepare them in shaping and disseminating information on ASEAN and AEC beyond 2015.

Fiscal year 2013 also saw the start of ERIA's very first Executive Capacity Building Seminar-Workshop which is designed for government officials in the CLMV countries and Thailand at the level of Deputy Director General who would eventually become key players as senior officials in their respective countries in the fields of transport, development planning, trade and commerce. A two-part seminar-workshop on connectivity for regional development was held in Bangkok and then Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai in Thailand for these officials. About 30 participants from CLMV and Thailand were in attendance.

Annex K enumerates the capacity building seminars and workshops held in FY 2013 that were jointly organised by ERIA and its partner institutions in the countries concerned, with the support of the Bangkok Research Center-JETRO Bangkok. ■

In FY 2013, ERIA held capacity building seminars on the topics of Public Private Partnership, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and competitiveness, among others.