

ERIA's Contribution To AEC/ASCC

Ponciano Intal, Jr.
Senior Economist

Support to AEC and ASCC Blueprints 2025

ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025 and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025:

2 out of 3 ASEAN
blueprints for ASEAN
Community 2025

Vision, characteristics
and strategic measures

Support to AEC and ASCC Blueprints 2025

Key ERIA Supporting Studies:

ASEAN RISING: ASEAN and AEC Beyond 2015

- Tapped 48 experts from region, ERIA, and beyond to write 36 background studies
- Integrative report has proposed vision, targets, framework and strategies for moving ASEAN and AEC forward post 2015 towards sustained high and equitable growth in ASEAN, with focus on integrated and highly contestable ASEAN, competitive and dynamic ASEAN, inclusive and resilient ASEAN, and a global ASEAN.

Framing ASCC Post 2015

- Tapped 41 experts from region, ERIA, and beyond to write 28 thought papers
- Integrative report provides proposed vision, indicative outcomes, framework, and strategies towards an inclusive and caring ASEAN Community, resilient and sustainable ASEAN, engendering a deep sense of ASEAN identity and destiny.

Thoughts on the AEC/ASCC projects

1

ASEAN and AEC Beyond 2015

Arguably, the most successful of the ERIA projects on AEC

Substantial input to framing the AEC Blueprint 2025; acknowledgement of ERIA's contribution in the Blueprint itself although not in Chairman's Statement

Anticipatory (starting in 2011 with Indonesian government); strong support of HLTF-EI officials; strong foundation from earlier AEC Scorecard, MTR and other ERIA studies

Some involvement in crafting early draft of AEC Blueprint 2025

Thoughts on the AEC/ASCC projects

2

**Framing
ASCC
Post
2015**

Relatively successful; project papers and report to serve as “references” for ASCC bodies for SAPs

Very strong support and engagement of ASEC ASCC officials and SOCA officials

Involvement in ASEC workshop that crafted the zero draft of the ASCC Blueprint 2025, but involvement not as extensively as in AEC Blueprint 2025

SOCA acknowledged ERIA’s contribution

Project is ERIA’s first major project for ASCC:

Raised ERIA’s profile on ASEAN socio-cultural issues

Robust relationship between ERIA and ASEC ASCC Department

Lessons and Insights

Strength of both reports: Leveraging ERIA's internal robust research with external experts' insights

Both reports consolidated and showcased ERIA's extensive research and expertise. Both reports highlight remarkable coherence in ERIA's research program: E.g.,

**AEC Scorecard
and RCEP
study results**

**Production
networks.
Connectivity.
PPP**

**SME policy
index**

**Energy and
environment
studies**

**Disaster
management.
Social
protection**

**Myanmar
development
vision, etc.**

Lessons and Insights

Continuing engagement with and support from key ASEAN officials at the technical level (in addition to Ministerial level), is important for anticipating ASEAN initiatives, framing the research questions and strategies, and embedding ERIA outputs into the ASEAN process.

Publication of research results increases ERIA's leverage in its relationship with ASEAN.

* Public knowledge and debate of ERIA outputs, widens the advocacy reach, raises the potential impact, and supports participatory approaches in ASEAN.

Lessons and Insights

**ERIA-funded
country
reports can
contribute
to national
policy and
reform
debate and
initiatives**

- E.g., Philippines: ERIA-funded results used by PIDS to extensively inform policy and regulatory reform debate and major dissemination drive on AEC 2015
- ERIA may consider to give this channel more weight, focus and support; not just the regional level
- Co-funding arrangements with AMSs for their respective RIN joint researches with ERIA are advisable

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thoughts on the AEC/ASCC Projects

RMS and RURB Projects

Relatively successful

RMS and RURB projects brought in NZ finance, expertise and advocacy; and Malaysia's (MPC) experience, expertise and commitment

GRP and responsive regulations a key element in AEC Blueprint 2025; likely in MPAC 2025 also as regulatory excellence

Philippine report in RMS study served as key reference for PHL's growing initiatives

Project results well received by ACCC (for MPAC) and in the EAS Regulatory Roundtable

Key Insight

Partnerships with like-minded institutions (e.g., MPC, NZIER, OECD) and ASEAN dialogue partners (e.g., NZ, Australia) on issues of substantial interest to ASEAN can bring more weight on the ERIA research outcomes and more legs in the advocacy phase.