

President's Report

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President

The Role of ERIA ----- Support the Chair of ASEAN



- **The establishment of ERIA** was agreed upon by the leaders **at the 3rd East Asia Summit in 2007.**
(EAS in 2007: ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand)
- Since then, **ERIA and its contributions have been continuously referred in EAS Statements.**
- **ERIA is encouraged by EAS to support the Chair of ASEAN and the East Asia Summit.**

Excerpt from Chairman's Statement of the 3rd East Asia Summit in Singapore, 2007

13. We agreed to the establishment of the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to be accommodated temporarily at the ASEAN Secretariat.

Excerpt from Chairman's Statement of the 10th East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, 2015

13. We encouraged ERIA to continue its support to the Chair of the ASEAN Summit and the East Asia Summit.

- “Plan of Action to Implement the Phnom Penh Declaration on EAS Development Initiative (2015-2017)” (POA) defines ERIA as a key institute to implement EAS cooperation.

1. Environment and Energy Cooperation

1.4 Support the implementation of the initiatives, action plans, and research studies on energy cooperation being undertaken under the ASEAN framework and between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners as follows:

1.4.4 Research Studies on the following areas by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), for EAS Energy Cooperation:

- (i) EAS energy outlooks for the medium-to-long term;
- (ii) strategic usage of coal through Clean Coal Technology;
- (iii) optimum electric power infrastructure;
- (iv) nuclear power safety management;
- (v) smart urban traffic promoting energy efficiency of the transport sector; and
- (vi) sustainable natural gas market in the EAS region.

1.5 Conduct joint research and development (R&D) and investment on renewable and alternative energy:

1.5.2 **Support the new research studies by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)**

1.7 Promote the deployment of advanced technologies on energy efficiency and conservation.

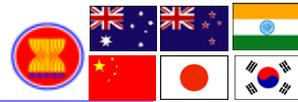
1.7.1 Encourage the active role of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Work Stream and support the research study on smart energy management by ERIA.

6. Cooperation on ASEAN Connectivity

6.3 Encourage the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) to also engage with other external partners, including **the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)**, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and World Bank in implementing the Declaration of the 6th EAS on ASEAN Connectivity.

9. Institutional and Financial Arrangements for the Implementation of this Plan of Action

9.1 The initiatives mentioned in this Plan of Action will be implemented through existing regional frameworks and mechanisms of ASEAN, in close consultation with and support from EAS participating countries, and with appropriate support and from relevant regional and international organizations, including Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), World Bank, and Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).



- “ASEAN Rising” became a foundation document of AEC Blueprint 2025.
- ERIA is among the key institutions to support implementation of AEC Blueprint 2025.

Excerpt from ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT 2025

I. INTRODUCTION

2. ASEAN recognises that regional economic integration is a dynamic, ongoing process as economies as well as domestic and external environments are constantly evolving. In this context, **ASEAN has initiated two studies for the AEC Blueprint 2025. The AEC Blueprint 2025 has been developed taking into account the recommendations of the two studies, namely, by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA),** and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), as well as inputs from other stakeholders. The measures taken have to lead in creating a networked, competitive, innovative, and highly integrated and contestable ASEAN.

B.7. Effective, Efficient, Coherent and Responsive Regulations, and Good Regulatory Practice

v. Undertake targeted capacity building programmes with knowledge partners such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and **ERIA** to assist ASEAN Member States in the regulatory reform initiatives, which takes into account the different development levels, development needs and regulatory policy space of each ASEAN Member State.

A.2. Other Institutions

86. The support of and strategic collaboration with other institutions involved in the work on regional economic integration, such as, but not limited to, the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, **ERIA**, and OECD, will also be essential in achieving the goals of AEC Blueprint 2025.

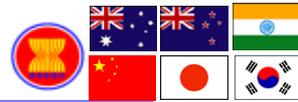
The Challenge for ERIA --- Go beyond Research Institute



- Region's recognition to ERIA
 - ✓ ERIA is well recognized as an important and indispensable 'research institute' to the ASEAN/East Asia Economic Integration.
 - ✓ The academic studies, policy directions, and conceptual policy frameworks developed by ERIA have been well received by the region.

- New Challenges
 - ✓ Ministers and Officials request ERIA to provide actionable policy recommendations, which is outside the scope of a normal 'economic research institute'.
 - ✓ To respond to the request, ERIA needs to build a bridge and conduit between policymakers in the region and ERIA's academic research programmes.

ERIA aims for a hybrid of 'research institute' and 'policy think tank'.



- Organize policy workshops to enhance interactions between policy makers and leading academics in the region, possibly back to back with the meetings of ASEAN/EA bodies
- Establish a 'Policy Innovation Department' that aims for:
 - ✓ Drawing from ERIA's studies to develop concrete and innovative policy options for the region that can be discussed, decided and implemented by the frameworks of ASEAN and East Asia, or by individual Member States,
 - ✓ Translating policy initiatives of the region into research agendas and initiate policy innovations, together with the ERIA research team, which address structural or growth bottlenecks and then would be completed with concrete implementation steps and mechanisms.

ERIA wishes the endorsement of the transformation and seeks necessary support from the member countries.