

Press Release



Economic Research Institute
for ASEAN and East Asia

Laos Gears Up for AEC

Vientiane, October 12, 2012 - *Laos needs to improve its human resource development as the country in moving toward integration with regional economy, according to Siasawath Savenguksa, Vice Minister of Ministry of Industry and Commerce.*

Siasawath said that Laos has placed priority in human resource development as the deadline of Asean Economic Community (AEC) is approaching. Laos joined ASEAN in 1997 and joined the ASEAN Free Trade Area in 1998.



As part of the capacity building, Economic Research Institute for Asean and East Asia, Ministry of Industry and Commerce as well as National Economic Research Institute have jointly organized a two-day workshop on 11-12 October 2012 for the Laotian officials and private sectors. The workshop, which was attended by more than 100 participants, focuses on connectivity and logistics development and potential industry in Laos.

Experts from the region shared their experience and knowledge of models of economic development. Speakers including Dr. Dionisius Narjoko, ERIA, Dr. Rajah Rasiah of University of Malay, Mr. Akinori Okazaki of DENSO International Asia Co. Ltd and Dr. Leeber Leebouapao, Director General of National Economic Research Institute.

Dr. Dionisius said that Laos has done well on non-tariff measures while other performances need to catch up. He reiterated that improvement of trade facilitation, customs reforms, the use and upgrade of ICT and other logistic sectors should be stepped up.

Dr. Rajah Rasiah pointed out that in transitional economies such as Laos, it is pivotal to promote good governance to facilitate transfer of technology and knowledge.

On capacity building in his country, Dr. Leeber said that increased coordination among intra-government agencies are necessary to have better implementation of policies.

On the second day, participants divided into two working groups concentrating on issues to improvement of connectivity and logistic development and tourism development.

Their reports and recommendations will be submitted to relevant ministries in Laos for future consideration and planning. ERIA will also follow-up on the outcome of workshop.

Over the years, ERIA has conducted a series of workshops in capacity building in Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar helping the new members of ASEAN to integrate with the regional economy.

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