



General Affairs

Two major developments marked 2015 for ERIA's general affairs.

ERIA held the first Extraordinary ERIA Governing Board Meeting in Tokyo in 12 March to discuss the future work of ERIA. The meeting was honoured by the presence of H.E. Mr Toshihiro Nikai, Chairman of the General Council of the Liberal Democratic Party, Japan; H.E. Mr Motoo Hayashi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary General of ASEAN; and H.E. Dr Surin Pitsuwan, Former Secretary General of ASEAN and now Special Advisor to ERIA; as well as Governing Board representatives.

The Members of the Governing Board mandated ERIA to submit a draft reform plan at their next meeting, to be held in Jakarta on 16 June 2016, including the following elements:

- (i) Strengthening the capacity of its academic research, capacity building programmes, and advocacy activities;
- (ii) Setting up formal bridging mechanisms, such as policy workshops, to enhance interaction among policymakers in the region;

- (iii) Enhancing its own organisational capacity to offer concrete and actionable policy options to address structural issues for the growth and development of the region.

ERIA also created a new post, Capacity Building Coordinator, to implement a robust capacity building programme. With its strong relations with governments in the region, this programme focusing on the CLMV countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam) can bridge the gap between research and national policymaking.

