



**STATEMENT OF THE ERIA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

16 June 2016

Jakarta, Indonesia

**A Decade of Integration in East Asia**

1. The year 2015 marked the Declaration of the ASEAN Community and the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the East Asia Summit (EAS). The region has reaffirmed its commitments for strategic dialogue and cooperation on political, security, and economic issues of common regional concern aimed at promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity in the region. The deepening economic integration in East Asia is irreversible, though institutions and mechanisms are required to make the process sustainable.

**ERIA Fulfils its Commitment to Support East Asia Integration and Regional Growth**

2. The past decade of East Asia and ASEAN Community is also the decade of ERIA and the future of the two are closely entwined. ERIA has provided strong research and policy inputs to policymakers and businesses during these years. Its capacity building activities in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam (CLMV) have imparted research-based knowledge to policymakers to strengthen the policy environment. ERIA's advocacy activities for growth and development in East Asia have had a benign influence on the regional economic architecture.

3. ERIA has become a key support agency for the implementation of EAS economic cooperation programmes. ERIA has been engaged in implementing the 'Plan of Action to Implement the Phnom Penh Declaration on EAS Development Initiative (2015–2017)' and contributed to the development of the 'ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025' and 'ASEAN Socio-cultural Community Blueprint 2025'. ERIA shall continuously work with ASEAN to realise inclusive ASEAN Community and East Asia integration.

**Extraordinary Governing Board Meeting**

4. To respond to rising expectations of ERIA, the First Extraordinary Meeting of the ERIA Governing Board was held in Tokyo, 12 March 2016. The Extraordinary Meeting mandated the ERIA to submit a draft reform plan at the Ninth Governing Board Meeting, including the following elements:

I. Strengthening the capacity of its academic research, capacity building programmes, advocacy and communications activities.



II. Setting up formal bridging mechanisms, such as policy workshops, to enhance interaction between 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.

The Extraordinary Meeting requested ERIA to pay due consideration to (i) deepening East Asian integration, (ii) realising an inclusive ASEAN Community, and (iii) addressing issues extending beyond the region, such as innovation.

5. Based on the mandate, ERIA submitted the 'Medium-Term Work Plan' to the Governing Board, which is attached as an Annex of this Statement. The plan includes establishing the Policy Design Department, setting up formal bridging mechanisms to enhance interaction with policymakers in the region and various measures to further enhance ERIA's research, capacity building, and outreach activities. Issues of global importance will be added to its mandate. ERIA committed to consolidate its functions to deepen and improve the quality of its outputs. To achieve this goal, ERIA will further improve efficiencies in its operations.

#### **Directions from the Governing Board**

6. The Governors endorsed the renewed commitments of ERIA to the East Asia region as described in the 'Medium-Term Work Plan' and affirmed the restructuring of its activities and resources, together with its annual work plan and budget for fiscal year 2016. The Governors further recommended ERIA to:

- Consider conducting research with linkages with development issues and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Develop greater body of work on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) under the research on 21<sup>st</sup> Century regionalism.
- Create research work and develop expertise in hitherto unexplored and blue water issues.
- Create objective performance measures for the new Policy Design Department.
- Explore capacity building activities for countries beside CLMV, include issues of IPR and State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), and elaborate circular economies (Industry 4.0) in the Capacity Building programme.



- Employ sound asset management tools for greater flexibility and independence in designing ERIA's work programmes.
- Collaborate closely with other research and donor agencies in the region for maximum impact.
- Draw business sector into discussions on innovation and its appropriate application to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to enable them to participate in the development of the region.
- Engage further with business sectors of the region including through the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS), East Asia Business Council (EABC) and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Summit platforms.
- Ensure better communication of its policy works with the Governors, and leverage the Governors for communication with governments and businesses in their respective countries, and collectively with Ministers and businesses within the region.
- Work more closely for the APEC, particularly for the Vietnam chairmanship of APEC in 2017.

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