

Foreword

Prof. Tetsuya Watanabe,

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I am delighted to introduce a remarkable book that explores the profound significance of infrastructure for the growth and development of Indonesia. As the President of ERIA, I take great pleasure in highlighting the pivotal role that infrastructure plays in the progress of any nation, particularly within East Asian economies.

Infrastructure serves as the backbone of any economy, and Indonesia is no exception. The country's unique geography, expansive archipelago, and ever-increasing population pose distinctive challenges in the realm of infrastructure development. However, investing in infrastructure is imperative for Indonesia to sustain its economic growth and enhance the quality of life for its citizens.

This book presents an in-depth examination of Indonesia's infrastructure, not only chronicling its achievements but also shedding light on the obstacles it has encountered along the way. It underscores the necessity of investing in transportation, energy, and communications, all of which have the potential to deliver a wide array of benefits to the nation.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Her Excellency Sri Mulyani Indrawati, the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia, for her unwavering support of ERIA's mission to facilitate the economic development of ASEAN Member States, including our assistance in producing this book. Her steadfast commitment to Indonesia's development is truly inspiring, and it is an honour for ERIA to collaborate with such a dedicated group of individuals. Her insightful input and guidance have undoubtedly enriched the content of this book, and I am confident that it will serve as a valuable resource for those interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the intricacies of Indonesia's economic landscape, especially within the infrastructure sector.

I extend my appreciation to the authors for their profound insights and their ability to present this complex subject in an accessible and informative manner. Their passion for this topic shines through on every page, and their dedication to this work is truly inspiring.

I wholeheartedly recommend reading this book with enthusiasm and reflecting on the messages it conveys. Southeast Asian economies can glean valuable lessons from Indonesia's experience in leveraging infrastructure to promote inclusive growth and connectivity. As a strong advocate for ASEAN development, ERIA remains committed to advancing the region and is honoured to be part of the endeavour to achieve a prosperous ASEAN.

President of ERIA

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tetsuya Watanabe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Professor Tetsuya Watanabe