



SUMMARY OF
ERIA PROJECT ACTIVITIES
2026



**Economic Research Institute
for ASEAN and East Asia**

SUMMARY OF **ERIA PROJECT ACTIVITIES 2026**



About this Booklet

The energy crisis triggered by disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz has served as a systemic stress test for ASEAN's energy security and economic resilience. It has underscored the urgent importance of secure and affordable energy supplies, diversified energy sources and routes, emergency preparedness, supply chain resilience, and stronger regional co-ordination amongst stakeholders. In this context, **energy security is a central focus of ERIA's work for the 2026 Fiscal Year (FY2026).**

Reflecting these circumstances and broader regional challenges, **ERIA's FY2026 activities are structured around several challenge-based priorities:**



Advancing energy security and the energy transition



Responding to population ageing and health challenges



Building resilient supply chains while promoting trade and investment



Achieving a sustainable environment while managing climate and disaster risks



Utilising artificial intelligence and broader science and technology



Enhancing skills and human capital development

Across these priorities, ERIA will also support integrated and practical policy responses, including through industrial policy approaches that may be further developed in the following years.

Through these efforts, ERIA aims to provide a platform for co-ordination across sectors and countries, and for partnerships between governments and businesses.

This booklet presents ERIA's research projects for FY2026, organised according to the challenge-based priorities. These projects remain firmly anchored in the three strategic pillars that have guided ERIA since its inception: Deepening Economic Integration, Narrowing Development Gaps, and Achieving Sustainable Development.



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P R I O R I T Y 1

Advancing Energy Security and the Energy Transition





ASEAN Oil Stockpiling Strategy and Roadmap

Han Phoumin, Kentaro Noma

Summary

1. Purpose:

Rising geopolitical uncertainties, increasing oil import dependence, and exposure to supply disruptions, particularly through the Strait of Hormuz, have elevated ASEAN's energy security risks. ASEAN's current stockpiling systems remain fragmented, uneven, and below international benchmarks in many Member States.

In response to the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship priorities, as well as growing regional policy momentum and requests from Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME), ERIA is undertaking the development of an ASEAN Oil Stockpiling Strategy and Joint Stockpiling Roadmap. The initiative also reflects strong support from President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for advancing practical and co-ordinated ASEAN stockpiling arrangements.

2. Strategic Objectives:

- a) Develop a comprehensive ASEAN Oil Stockpiling Strategy
- b) Assess ASEAN's stockpiling gaps and infrastructure readiness
- c) Evaluate strategic stockpiling models and financing pathways
- d) Conduct scenario analysis and economic impact assessments
- e) Develop phased implementation pathways for joint stockpiling arrangements

3. Key Analytical Areas:

- a) Oil supply disruption risk assessment
- b) Cost-benefit and macroeconomic impact analysis
- c) Joint stockpiling and hybrid stockpiling models
- d) Financing and public-private partnership frameworks
- e) Infrastructure and logistics assessment
- f) ASEAN Minus X implementation approach



Policy Implications

- The key outcome is the ASEAN Oil Stockpiling Strategy Roadmap, to be adopted by the ASEAN Summit.
- The project also strengthens ASEAN's preparedness against future energy supply disruptions and contributes to broader regional economic resilience, industrial continuity, and energy security through practical and scalable stockpiling co-operation mechanisms.

Partner Organisation(s)

- ASEAN
- ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE)





AZEC Policy Insight Report 2026

Satoshi Shimayoshi, Kentaro Noma

Summary

1. Purpose:

The *AZEC Policy Insight Report 2026* is a practical, policy-oriented knowledge product aimed at supporting partner countries of the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) in advancing energy transition co-operation under the 'One Goal, Various Pathways' principle. Building on the *AZEC Progress Report 2025*, this edition moves from broad market mapping to actionable policy insights, identifying priority themes and concrete recommendations that inform the 2026 AZEC Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings.

2. Background:

Asian economies are experiencing rapid growth in energy demand, driven by industrialisation, urbanisation, and population growth. At the same time, continued reliance on coal and other fossil fuels makes decarbonisation particularly complex. Given the diversity of AZEC partner countries' energy systems, industrial structures, development stages, geographies, and social contexts, practical transition pathways that are both credible and context-specific are essential.

Recent geopolitical disruptions, including the Strait of Hormuz disruption during the project period, have further highlighted the importance of energy security, supply resilience, and diversified transition pathways in shaping AZEC's policy agenda. AZEC provides a platform for advancing policy co-ordination and project development in response to these challenges. The *2026 Policy Insight Report* will translate ERIA's recent research and AZEC policy discussions into a coherent set of messages and recommendations for AZEC's future direction.

3. Activities:

The analysis will focus on three priority themes: Low-Carbon Transition Solutions, Infrastructure & Resilience, and Finance/Market Mechanisms. The report will identify key themes and selected projects for in-depth analysis based on existing and ongoing ERIA research and initiatives. Insights from AZEC partner countries will be incorporated, including outputs from AZEC LEAF, AZEC Senior Officials Meetings, and other relevant stakeholder consultations. The report will also capture and reflect AZEC partner countries' evolving policy perspectives following the Hormuz disruption, particularly regarding energy security, supply resilience, and the balance between decarbonisation and affordability.



Policy Implications

- The project provides AZEC partner countries with a concise policy reference for translating the 'One Goal, Various Pathways' concept into practical co-operation.
- It supports policy co-ordination across low-carbon transition solutions, resilient infrastructure, and finance/market mechanisms.
- It identifies concrete projects, implementation bottlenecks, and enabling policy actions that strengthen AZEC's contribution to regional energy transition.
- It contributes to the policy discussions of the 2026 AZEC Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings and helps guide future AZEC initiatives.

Partner Organisation(s)

Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. (MRI)





ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality Work Plan

Maiko Uga

Summary

1. Purpose:

The primary objective of this project is to operationalise the eight strategies and their corresponding 16 initiatives of the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality. This will be achieved by developing a phased, monitorable, and implementable Work Plan for all 16 initiatives, while leveraging the nine identified quick-win initiatives as the starting point for prioritisation and phasing. The project will be undertaken in close co-ordination with the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Task Force for Carbon Neutrality.

2. Background:

In 2023, the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality was adopted. Further to the Strategy's adoption, carbon neutrality strategies were enhanced and integrated in two region-wide frameworks, *ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future and the accompanying AEC Strategic Plan 2026–2030*, adopted in 2025. This framework sets out eight strategies to strengthen co-operation amongst ASEAN Member States (AMS) and accelerate regional decarbonisation. To implement these strategies, 16 initiatives to guide the region's transition towards a low-carbon future were developed.

3. Activities:

The project commences with a stocktaking exercise to prevent duplication of existing efforts and to identify any co-ordination gaps where necessary (Activity 1). Subsequently, findings from Activity 1 will inform further analysis to cluster the 16 initiatives based on their readiness to deliver quick wins – namely, near-term results achievable before mid-century (Activity 2). From the initiatives covered in Activity 2, a subset will be selected for deeper analysis in (Activity 3). The approach to this project will primarily be qualitative, drawing on data collected through key document reviews and stakeholder consultations.

This project will produce a final output comprising the comprehensive Work Plan with clearly defined and structured phases, designated as short-, medium- and longer-term priorities, along with a regional set of indicators and milestones for systemic monitoring, reporting, and evaluation.



Policy Implications

- The project operationalises the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, which sets out strategies and initiatives to strengthen regional co-operation amongst AMS towards decarbonisation.
- The policy implications of this collaboration are transformative for the region's regulatory, economic, and energy landscapes.
- Additionally, ERIA can strengthen its institutional connections with the ASEAN Secretariat across various policy areas.
- This will increase ERIA's visibility and credibility in shaping ASEAN's long-term transition agenda across multiple sectors.

Partner Organisation(s)

ASEAN Secretariat

Related ERIA Publications

ERIA (2026), *Layered Market Approach to ASEAN Power Grid Development*. Jakarta: ERIA. <http://eria.org/publications/layered-market-approach-to-asean-power-grid-development>

ERIA and the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (2026), *Carbon Pricing in AZEC Partner Countries: Design, Effectiveness, and Implications for the AZEC–DCM Policy Dialogue*. Jakarta: ERIA. <https://www.eria.org/publications/carbon-pricing-in-azec-partner-countries--design--effectiveness--and-implications-for-the-azec%E2%80%93dcm-policy-dialogue>

Phoumin, H. and R. Nepal (eds.) (2024), *Energy Transition and Carbon Neutrality in ASEAN: Developing Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage Technologies*. Jakarta: ERIA. <https://www.eria.org/publications/energy-transition-and-carbon-neutrality-in-asean--developing-carbon-capture--utilisation-and-storage-technologies>

Phoumin, H., F. Taghizadeh-Hersary, F. Kimura, and R. Nepal (eds.) (2026), *Green Finance and Energy Transition in ASEAN*. Jakarta: ERIA. <https://www.eria.org/publications/green-finance-and-energy-transition-in-asean>





Young People's Perceptions of Transitional Energy Technologies: A Survey Experiment on the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC)

Fusanori Iwasaki

Summary

1. Purpose:

This project investigates how citizens in AZEC partner countries perceive competing decarbonisation pathways – renewable energy versus cleaner fossil-based technologies, specifically co-firing and Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS) – and how different information frames shape those perceptions. The study aims to generate evidence from public opinions to inform AZEC policy dialogue and broader regional energy transition governance.

2. Background:

As AZEC partner countries navigate the energy transition, a fundamental trilemma has emerged between decarbonisation, economic growth, and geopolitical risk management. While these imperatives are treated as complementary in policy discourse, they generate conflicting pressures in practice – particularly around transitional energy technologies and critical minerals supply chains. Public and stakeholder understanding of these tensions remains limited, and the distributional consequences of mineral development (who bears environmental and social costs versus who captures economic benefits) are insufficiently addressed in existing research.

3. Activities:

The study employs an online survey experiment with a between-subjects design. Approximately 2,100 respondents per country are randomly assigned to one of four information frames – neutral control, energy security, cost-efficiency, or geopolitical risk – and asked to allocate a hypothetical US\$100 billion budget between renewable energy and cleaner fossil-based technology projects. Awareness of AZEC initiatives is also measured. The survey instrument has been developed and submitted to a survey company, with preliminary results expected by mid-May to feed into the *AZEC Policy Insight Report*.



Policy Implications

- Findings will clarify which framing conditions – energy security, cost-efficiency, or geopolitical risk – most effectively build public support for specific decarbonisation technologies, providing actionable guidance for AZEC partner countries' communication and policy design.
- The result will address the distributional dimensions of the energy transition – who bears costs and who captures benefits – offering evidence-based recommendations for inclusive and legitimate decarbonisation frameworks relevant to AZEC partner countries and regional institutions.





TRIFORCE – Transition Finance Framework for Resilient & Sustainable Economy

Satoshi Shimayoshi

Summary

1. Purpose:

The initiative aims to address Indonesia's clean energy transition challenges by developing a credible transition finance framework tailored to national circumstances while aligning with regional and international guidelines. The project supports PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PLN), Indonesia's state-owned electricity company, in translating the framework into eligible project categories, financial instruments, and implementation arrangements.

2. Background:

To achieve its Net-Zero Emissions target by 2060, Indonesia is undertaking a major shift from coal dependency to renewable energy. This transition requires an estimated US\$1.1 trillion in power infrastructure investments up to 2060. However, a critical 51% investment gap remains to meet the nation's 2030 NDC climate commitments. As the country's primary utility provider and sole electricity buyer, PLN plays a central role in this transition and is exploring transition finance to mobilise investment. This creates an urgent need for specialised regulatory, analytical, and framework support from UNDP and ERIA. The project supports this effort by aligning PLN's transition finance approach with international and regional standards, including ICMA's Climate Transition Finance Handbook and the ASEAN Transition Finance Guidelines, while ensuring consistency with Indonesia's Sustainable Finance Taxonomy and national energy and development planning documents.

3. Activities:

- a) Framework Design and Alignment Assessment: Crafting the Transition Finance Framework (TFF) in compliance with ICMA and ASEAN guidelines, assessing its alignment with Indonesia's Sustainable Finance Taxonomy, and structuring PLN's phased Transition Plan.
- b) Financial Instrument Formulation: Designing specialised transition bonds, use-of-proceeds transition loans, and alternative flexible funding options tailored to PLN's clean energy projects.
- c) System Implementation: Developing robust emissions tracking and reporting architecture to ensure the transparency, verifiability, and proper allocation of proceeds.



- d) Capacity Building and Market Engagement: Conducting international benchmarking with entities such as Malaysia's TNB, delivering workshops for PLN staff, preparing strategic implementation toolkits, and engaging global investors through outreach roadshows.

Policy Implications

- The initiative establishes a credible, policy-aligned transition finance framework for PLN, supporting Indonesia's clean energy transition and its goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2060.
- By formalising a transparent tracking framework aligned with international, regional, and national standards, this project enhances investor confidence and market acceptance of transition finance instruments.
- It strengthens PLN's institutional capacity, governance, emissions tracking, and reporting systems, supporting scalable and verifiable implementation of transition finance for clean energy projects.

Partner Organisation(s)

- UNDP
- PLN (beneficiary)



P R I O R I T Y 2

Building Resilient Supply Chains While Promoting Trade and Investment





PED under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship 2026 – ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strategic Trade Management for Secure Regional Trade

Anna Maria Rosario D. Robeniol

Summary

1. Purpose:

To contribute to the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship in 2026 by supporting its Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs), including the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strategic Trade Management for Secure Regional Trade.

2. Background:

Strategic Trade Management (STM) is one of the eight PEDs supported by ERIA under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship.

3. Activities:

ERIA will contribute to: (i) the drafting of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strategic Trade Management for Secure Regional Trade, which is targeted for finalisation by August 2026 and subsequent submission to the Leaders for their notation at the 49th ASEAN Summit in November 2026; and (ii) capacity-building workshops on STM.

On item (i), ERIA has already transmitted its inputs to the zero draft of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration, which would outline possible commitments to a regionally integrated STM approach. This Declaration is expected to initiate work on a comprehensive and harmonised framework for STM across ASEAN to ensure more efficient, secure, and resilient supply chains. In addition, the Leaders' Declaration should strengthen ASEAN's position as a viable investment destination by aligning trade practices with international standards.

On item (ii), ERIA will lend its technical expertise for the implementation of capacity-building workshops. Three workshops have been planned and ERIA has participated in the first two.



Policy Implications

- Position ASEAN as a trusted trade partner and prevent illicit trade activities
- Foster an environment that balances trade facilitation and economic security

Partner Organisation(s)

Strategic Trade Management Office, Department of Trade and Industry of the Philippines





Readiness and Capacity of Applicant Economies to Accede to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement

Anna Maria Rosario D. Robeniol, Dionisius Ardiyanto Narjoko,
Doan Thi Thanh Ha

Summary

1. Purpose:

To assess the readiness and capacity of applicants seeking accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement, including each applicant economy's institutional, regulatory, market access, and economic preparedness to comply with RCEP obligations.

2. Background:

Article 20.9 (Accession) of the RCEP Agreement provides for accession by any State or separate customs territory 18 months after the date of entry into force. The study and its recommendations are expected to provide advisory support for ASEAN Member States throughout the accession process.

3. Activities:

The study will comprise two parts: (i) a readiness assessment covering legal and regulatory alignment of the applicants' trade regimes with RCEP disciplines, as well as their potential market access commitments; and (ii) an impact analysis using computable general equilibrium (CGE) simulations (GTAP) and the Gravity Model to assess the effects of RCEP expansion on ASEAN Member States.



Policy Implications

- An assessment of applicants' readiness and capacity to accede to RCEP
- Economic modelling to assess the impact of RCEP expansion on ASEAN Member States
- Recommendations for the RCEP Joint Committee (ASEAN) on an optimal approach to considering the requests for accession.

Partner Organisation(s)

- RCEP Support Unit
- ASEAN Secretariat





Mapping Critical Mineral-Intensive Supply Chains to Support ASEAN Industrial Policy

Dionisius Narjoko

Summary

1. Purpose:

The project produces empirical intelligence on supply chains in critical mineral-intensive industries, including semiconductors, electric vehicles (EVs), steel, and clean-energy products. The purpose is to inform a coherent ASEAN industrial policy focused on localisation, regional complementation, and value capture. It directly supports the Policy Brief for PED on ASEAN Critical Minerals under the Philippines' 2026 ASEAN Chairship.

2. Background:

According to the *ASEAN Geoeconomics Report 2025*, while ASEAN has historically prioritised trade facilitation, the region must now develop competitive industries capable of producing higher-value and more sophisticated products. Supply chain reconfiguration amidst geopolitical fragmentation presents a strategic opening to capture higher value-added activities, drive 'ASEAN-isation' of regional supply chains and strengthen resilience. The report recommends a sector-specific approach that engages industry stakeholders and technical experts, and this project responds by combining product-level value chain mapping with corporate ownership analysis at critical nodes.

3. Activities:

The research applies a two-stage methodology. Stage 1 maps product-level value chains using Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC) trade data at the HS4/HS6 level via the Karbevaska–Hidalgo backward-and-forward inference method. Stage 2 analyses corporate ownership at critical nodes using Moody's Orbis to identify ultimate beneficial owners, ASEAN-owned capacity, and investment dynamics. Findings will be validated through industry consultations and a policy workshop with ASEAN policymakers or ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC).

Two parallel studies – one on Indonesia's semiconductor industry and another on clean-energy product value chains – will test the methodology. A complementary study on private investment frameworks for critical mineral industries will also support the PED.



Policy Implications

- An evidence base for sectoral industrial co-operation, providing inputs to the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Strategic Plan 2026–2030 and the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, while supporting enhanced utilisation of the RCEP.
- Targeted national-level strategies on industrial policy, investment liberalisation, investment promotion, and skills planning aligned with sectoral upgrading needs.
- Concrete recommendations on localisation, regional complementation, and ASEAN-isation of supply chains to support ASEAN Member States in capturing greater value and generating quality jobs in critical mineral-intensive industries.
- A multi-sector supply chain intelligence base for ASEAN that maps value chains and analyses industry ownership, providing actionable insights for ASEAN bodies engaged in the AEC Strategic Plan 2026–2030 and related industrial co-operation frameworks.
- An ASEAN value chain model that is capable of predicting likely outcomes under policy shocks across the ASEAN Member States and other countries. The model maps forward and backward linkages across value chains, at the national level, and across countries.

Related ERIA Publications

ASEAN Geoeconomics Task Force (2025), *ASEAN Geoeconomics Report 2025 – This Time Is Different: ASEAN's Agency in Shaping the New Global Agenda*. <https://asean.org/book/asean-geoeconomics-report-2025-this-time-it-is-different-aseans-agency-in-shaping-the-new-global-agenda>





PED under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship 2026 – ASEAN Semiconductor Roadmap: Enabling Pathways for Strategic Investment

Han Phoumin

Summary

1. Purpose:

The roadmap responds to ASEAN's need to move beyond fragmented national approaches towards a co-ordinated regional semiconductor ecosystem. It aims to position ASEAN not only as a production platform but increasingly as an innovation and technology ecosystem through strategic investment, technology upgrading, talent development, and regional policy co-ordination. The project supports ASEAN's transition towards higher-value semiconductor activities and strengthens ASEAN's position as a complementary and resilient regional production ecosystem. It also aims to reduce vulnerability to global disruptions while improving ASEAN's competitiveness in strategic industries.

2. Background:

The semiconductor industry has become a strategic foundation for economic competitiveness, digital transformation, and national security. Amidst rising geopolitical fragmentation and global supply chain diversification, ASEAN is increasingly viewed as a reliable and scalable production and innovation base. Building on the ASEAN Framework for Integrated Semiconductor Supply Chain (AFISS) endorsed in 2025, this Philippines-led PED aims to develop an ASEAN Semiconductor Roadmap that strengthens regional industrial co-ordination and investment attractiveness.

3. Activities:

- a) Conducting a series of workshop with stakeholders to develop ASEAN Semiconductor Roadmap to strengthen ASEAN's role in resilient global semiconductor value chains
- b) Enhancing strategic investment co-ordination and industrial complementarities
- c) Upgrading ASEAN capabilities in Integrated Circuit (IC) design, advanced packaging, and selected fabrication segments
- d) Promoting semiconductor talent mobility, R&D collaboration, and innovation ecosystems
- e) Improving regional supply chain resilience and investment facilitation mechanisms



Policy Implications

ASEAN Semiconductor Roadmap endorsed under the ASEAN Economic Community

Partner Organisation(s)

- Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Philippines
- ASEAN Secretariat





International Investment Forum on Critical Minerals

Han Phoumin

Summary

1. Purpose:

The International Investment Forum on Critical Minerals is designed as a high-level regional platform to connect ASEAN governments, industry leaders, investors, development finance institutions, and strategic partners to support investment mobilisation for ASEAN critical minerals value chains. The forum supports the implementation of the ASEAN Critical Minerals Strategy and contributes to the development of financing pathways and investment partnerships for ASEAN's critical minerals ecosystem.

2. Background:

The forum strengthens ASEAN's investment ecosystem and financing readiness while supporting diversification of strategic investment partnerships and reducing excessive concentration risks in critical mineral supply chains.

3. Activities:

- a) Establishing a regional investment dialogue platform
- b) Developing strategic financing and policy recommendations
- c) Building a pipeline of bankable investment opportunities
- d) Enhancing public-private collaboration mechanisms
- e) Providing input into the ASEAN Critical Minerals Policy Brief financing architecture

Policy Implications

- Promoting ASEAN as a strategic investment destination for critical minerals
- Facilitating dialogue between governments, investors, industry, and multilateral development banks
- Mobilising financing for strategic mineral and industrial corridor projects
- Supporting responsible, resilient, and ESG-aligned mineral development
- Strengthening regional and international investment co-operation



Partner Organisation(s)

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- ASEAN Secretariat
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines

Related ERIA Publications

Phoumin, H., R. Nepal, and F. Taghizadeh-Hesary (eds.) (2026a), *Critical Minerals Supply Chains Security and Resiliency in the ASEAN, Vol.1*. Jakarta: ERIA. <https://www.eria.org/publications/critical-minerals-supply-chains-security-and-resiliency-in-the-asean--vol.1>

_____ (2026b), *Critical Minerals Supply Chains Security and Resiliency in the ASEAN, Vol.2*. Jakarta: ERIA. <https://www.eria.org/publications/critical-minerals-supply-chains-security-and-resiliency-in-asean--vol.2>





PED under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship 2026 – ASEAN Critical Minerals Strategy for Regional Resilience and Sustainable Growth

Han Phoumin

Summary

1. Purpose:

The project operationalises the ASEAN Minerals Development Vision (AMDV) 2045 and the Philippines-led Action Line under the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP-IV 2026–2030). It builds on prior ASEAN-IGF and ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF) initiatives on critical minerals supply chains and governance.

2. Background:

The accelerating global energy transition and digital transformation are significantly increasing demand for critical minerals such as nickel, cobalt, lithium, rare earth elements, tin, and copper. ASEAN possesses substantial mineral resources, growing industrial capabilities, and downstream manufacturing potential, positioning the region as an emerging strategic hub in global critical minerals supply chains.

3. Activities:

- a) Conducting series of regional workshop to with relevant stakeholders
- b) Developing an ASEAN regional definition and criteria for critical minerals
- c) Identifying ASEAN priority critical minerals and strategic value chains
- d) Formulating an ASEAN Critical Minerals Policy Brief and regional strategy
- e) Preparing an ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Critical Minerals
- f) Strengthening ESG governance, responsible investment, traceability, and sustainable supply chains



Policy Implications

- The project strengthens ASEAN's strategic positioning in global critical minerals supply chains.
- It supports regional resilience, industrial upgrading, energy transition objectives, and sustainable economic growth.
- It also enhances ASEAN's capacity to attract diversified and responsible investment into critical mineral ecosystems.

Partner Organisation(s)

- DENR, Philippines
- Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals, and Sustainable Development (IGF)
- ADB
- ASEAN Secretariat





ASEAN Digital Outlook

Lurong Chen

Summary

1. Purpose:

In support of the ASEAN Digital Senior Officials' Meeting (ADGSOM) and ASEAN Telecommunications Regulators' Council (ATRC) Working Group, Phase 1 of this project is scheduled to produce a thematic report on emerging technologies and digital skills to be published in 2027, followed by a consolidated ASEAN-wide Digital Outlook Report to be published in 2028.

2. Background:

At the 5th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting (ADGMIN) in January 2025, ministers endorsed the Secretary-General of ASEAN's proposal to develop the ASEAN Digital Outlook (ADO) – a regular publication to guide regional co-operation and provide data-driven insights for policy planning. It will provide a comprehensive, data-driven, and forward-looking assessment of ASEAN's digital transformation, serving as a regional reference to benchmark progress, identify policy gaps, and inform strategic, evidence-based digital policymaking across Member States.

3. Activities:

Conducting in-house research with presentations at workshops and meetings.



Policy Implications

- The thematic report will address gaps between new technologies and current skill sets in ASEAN and recommends governmental responses to address these gaps through human capital development, education, and regional co-ordination.
- The report seeks to answer the following questions:
 - How should emerging digital technologies be aligned with the future of human capital development in ASEAN Member States?
 - How should the cross-border mobility of digital professionals in ASEAN be facilitated to meet the future regional demands?
 - What are the most critical gaps between each country's current digital talent base and the skill demand in key sectors that utilise emerging technologies?
 - What are the key lessons learned from prior digital skill initiatives?

Partner Organisation(s)

Ministry of Digital, Malaysia



Summary

1. Purpose:

- a) To examine and strengthen IP protection systems and patent examination frameworks in ASEAN Member States (AMS) through research on the semiconductor supply chain
- b) To analyse global technological trends using patent data and assess ASEAN's economic position in the semiconductor ecosystem
- c) To identify challenges in patent protection and examination systems across AMS and develop targeted capacity-building programmes
- d) To support ASEAN's development as a competitive hub in the global semiconductor supply chain
- e) To strengthen collaboration between AMS and the Japan Patent Office (JPO) in building robust and regionally harmonised patent examination standards for semiconductor technologies

2. Background:

- a) Semiconductors are critical to the digital economy and ASEAN's future growth, with patent activity in the sector accelerating rapidly across Asia.
- b) ASEAN plays a significant role in assembly and testing but needs stronger integration into higher-value segments of the supply chain to remain globally competitive.
- c) Strengthened IP protection and patent examination systems are essential to encourage investment, innovation, and technology transfer.
- d) Regional co-operation, including collaboration with Japan, supports human resource development and IP system improvement following ASEAN–Japan commitments.

3. Activities:

- a) Conducting patent-based analyses of global semiconductor supply chain trends and key industry players
- b) Undertaking an economic analysis of ASEAN's semiconductor supply chain through stakeholder interviews
- c) Reviewing patent examination systems related to semiconductor technologies in AMS
- d) Developing policy recommendations on IP protection strategies and key challenges

- e) Implementing capacity-building programmes, including one regional training session (during Phase 1) and three tailored training sessions (during Phase 2)
- f) Publishing a final report by September 2027

Policy Implications

- This project is expected to enhance the capacity of patent examiners across AMS in assessing semiconductor-related technologies, thereby improving the predictability, consistency, and quality of examination.
- The preliminary research reflects ASEAN's growing role in the semiconductor sector, including increasing patent activity and emerging capabilities in areas such as die bonding, hence underscoring the need for stronger examination readiness.
- This project strengthens legal certainty and transparency, as well as investor confidence in the region's patent systems.
- This initiative supports ASEAN governments in addressing gaps in IP frameworks and advancing integration into higher-value segments of the semiconductor supply chain.

Partner Organisation(s)

The Institute of Intellectual Property (IIP) of the Foundation for Intellectual Property, Japan



P R I O R I T Y 3

Utilising Artificial Intelligence and Broader Science and Technology



PED under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship 2026 – Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Programme for AI in Health

Aladdin D. Rillo, Lurong Chen

Summary

1. Purpose:

To foster and support ASEAN's regional efforts towards the safe, ethical, equitable, and sustainable adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) across sectors, while strengthening capacity building and advancing broader science, technology, and innovation amongst ASEAN Member States.

2. Background:

AI is rapidly reshaping healthcare and enhancing diagnostics, prevention, patient care, and administrative efficiency through data analysis and predictive capabilities. To fully realise these benefits, this PED addresses key challenges, including the need for robust standards and data protection, security, and responsible research; investment in capacity building and expertise; strong data governance mechanisms; and regulatory harmonisation through a regional plan and standards for health-related AI product development. Furthermore, the Regional STI Programme for AI in Health is intended to provide a concrete, actionable first step, generate momentum, and establish the foundational elements for safe, ethical, and effective AI deployment within this critical sector.

3. Activities:

- a) Conducting a situational gap and landscape assessment
- b) Developing a regional plan of action and implementation



Policy Implications

- Increased understanding of current knowledge, practices, opportunities and gaps – including ethical, legal, socio-economic, and environmental issues – related to AI in science and technology for health R&D
- Increased regional collaboration on activities related to AI in science and technology for health, alongside implementation of other recommendations from the Regional Action Plan
- Robust data governance in science and technology for health R&D

Partner Organisation(s)

Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippines





E-DISC Innovate Bridge

Chieko Tanabe

Summary

1. Purpose:

E-DISC Innovate Bridge promotes and showcases innovations from ASEAN and India on the global stage through participation in international start-up conferences and other activities. The programme also facilitates cross-border partnerships and business opportunities amongst ASEAN, Indian, Japanese, and international stakeholders by providing start-ups with targeted business matching, site visits to relevant institutions, and opportunities for engagement with other start-up ecosystem players. Additionally, the programme aims to better understand the realities of cross-border collaboration through participant insights and feedback gathered from surveys and stakeholder engagement activities.

2. Background:

ERIA organised E-DISC Innovate Bridge in response to the growing interest amongst ASEAN and Indian entrepreneurs in pursuing cross-border business opportunities. The programme was conducted from 26 April to 1 May 2026, in conjunction with SusHi Tech Tokyo 2026, one of Asia's largest start-up events. In line with the conference's focus on sustainability and smart city innovation, ERIA supported 12 ASEAN and Indian start-ups across the cleantech, edtech, agritech, artificial intelligence, and IoT sectors in advancing their cross-border business aspirations.

3. Activities:

- a) Start-up exhibition at the SusHi Tech Tokyo Conference
- b) Start-up pitching sessions at the SusHi Tech Tokyo Conference and Japan-ASEAN/India Open Innovation Exchange events in Osaka & Tokyo
- c) Knowledge exchange sessions (venture capital panel discussions and presentations on the ASEAN-India ecosystem landscape) at the Japan-ASEAN/India Open Innovation Exchange events in Osaka & Tokyo
- d) 1-on-1 business matching between start-ups and start-ups ecosystem stakeholders
- e) Site visits to a university and start-up hub centres (Matsuo Lab at the University of Tokyo, Cambridge Innovation Centre Osaka, Nakanoshima Cross)
- f) Follow-up activities related to the 1-on-1 business matching and site visits



Policy Implications

The E-DISC Innovate Bridge programme:

- highlights the importance of integrated regional platforms in facilitating cross-border partnerships, market access, and business collaboration between start-ups and other members of the start-up ecosystem;
- illustrates how co-ordinated support, targeted matchmaking, and ecosystem engagement can accelerate innovation and internationalisation opportunities;
- demonstrates the need for policymakers to strengthen regional collaboration through dedicated committees or by empowering ecosystem builders to actively connect networks, opportunities, and resources across regions; and
- ensures that cross-border opportunities remain accessible, inclusive, and sustainable, particularly for emerging start-ups seeking partnerships, investment opportunities, and long-term regional expansion across ASEAN, India, and Japan.

Partner Organisation(s)

- Tokyo Metropolitan Government
- Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

Related ERIA Publications

ATLAS and ERIA (2025), *Unlocking Southeast Asia's Innovation: Bridging Borders for Startup Growth*. <https://www.eria.org/publications/unlocking-southeast-asia-s-innovation--bridging-borders-for-startup-growth>





ERIA Health Innovation Spark for Women (HITS4WOMEN)

Manami Uechi, Chieko Tanabe

Summary

1. Purpose:

Advancing women's health requires a life-course approach that integrates evidence with culturally sensitive interventions and patient-centred research. By integrating perspectives from research, technology, policy, workplace practices, and patient advocacy, the Health Innovation Spark for Women (HITS4WOMEN) initiative addresses structural and behavioural barriers to healthcare. Through this multisectoral approach, the programme strengthens collaboration amongst researchers, practitioners, and communities to identify actionable strategies for health promotion, disease prevention, early detection, and equitable access to quality services.

The main objectives of HITS4WOMEN are to:

1. raise awareness of key women's health challenges across Asia;
2. showcase innovative solutions dedicated to women's health; and
3. strengthen local communities and cross-sector collaboration within the Medical Excellence in Asia framework.

2. Background:

In November 2025, ERIA's Health and Social Welfare (HSW) Unit and E-DISC organised Health Innovation Spark for Kids (HITS4KIDS), a start-up-focused initiative dedicated to advancing innovation in children's health. Building on the strong outcomes and positive stakeholder feedback, the HSW Unit and E-DISC hosted HITS4WOMEN, focused on promoting innovation in women's health across Asia.

As a vital economic and social determinant, women's health not only influences individual outcomes but also shapes families, communities, and future generations. However, significant gaps remain in addressing women's health challenges across the life course. Non-communicable diseases, including mental health and psychosocial issues, are deeply connected to modifiable risk factors and intersect with broader health trends. In Asia Pacific, cultural norms, workplace pressures, and gender and structural inequities compound these risks, creating barriers to care-seeking and hindering women from balancing health with career development.



3. Activities:

- a) Pitching challenge & award ceremony
- b) 1-on-1 business matching between start-ups and other ecosystem stakeholders
- c) World Café session
- d) Site visit to a women's health clinic

Policy Implications

The HITS4WOMEN initiative:

- highlights the importance of raising awareness of key women's health challenges across the Asia-Pacific region;
- showcases innovative solutions provided by start-ups; and
- promotes innovation-driven community engagement across the region.



PED under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship 2026 – Study on Brunei Darussalam's Readiness for the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA)

Mahirah Mahusin

Summary

This study assesses Brunei Darussalam's readiness to implement the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA), ASEAN's first region-wide, legally binding digital economy agreement. The study evaluates the institutional, regulatory, and ecosystem preparedness for prospective commitments against the following evaluative frameworks.

Foundational Pillars:

- a) Digital Infrastructure Readiness: Availability and reliability of core digital infrastructure required for digital trade.
- b) Institutional Frameworks (Legal and Regulatory): Existence and adequacy of laws, regulations, and regulatory mandates relevant to DEFA commitments.

Enabling Pillars (factors that strengthen implementation effectiveness):

- c) Skills and Talent for Innovation-Led Growth: Adequacy of skills development and talent systems to support participation in the digital economy.
- d) Supportive Ecosystem for Private Sector Growth in the Digital Economy: Digital adoption in the private sector, government support, investment opportunities, start-up growth and digital entrepreneurship.

Findings will form the basis for actionable policy recommendations to support Brunei Darussalam's alignment with DEFA commitments and complement national digital strategies, including the Brunei Digital Economy Masterplan 2025.

Complementing desk research, this study adopts an explanatory sequential design, whereby quantitative findings are collected and analysed first through the Digital Economy Framework Agreement Survey (DEFARIS) and subsequently elaborated through qualitative inquiry via a stakeholder engagement workshop. The DEFA Readiness Index (DEFARI) constitutes an institutional implementation-maturity assessment based on structured expert judgement and does not represent a formal legal compliance audit against future DEFA obligations. Rather, it evaluates the extent to which relevant systems, frameworks, institutional arrangements, and operational practices are in place and functioning effectively.

Policy Implications

- For Brunei Darussalam, DEFA presents a strategic opportunity to accelerate national digital economy ambitions as outlined in the Brunei Digital Economy Masterplan 2025, which envisions *Wawasan Brunei 2035* (Brunei Vision 2035), Smart Nation, and digital economy objectives. DEFA could also support Brunei's broader objective of economic diversification by enhancing digital trade, expanding market access, and fostering innovation. The study aims to support Brunei Darussalam in achieving these national development goals and promote a more contextualised understanding of the country's digital economy context and governance in an evolving and fast-changing policy landscape.
- In parallel, the survey and stakeholder workshop will provide policymakers with insights into how stakeholders perceive the effectiveness, predictability, and trajectory of the digital economy framework in relation to DEFA.

Partner Organisation(s)

- Authority for Infocommunications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam
- Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications, Brunei Darussalam
- Universiti Brunei Darussalam





ASEAN Digital Screening Policy for Childhood Development: Indonesia Implementation Study

Manami Uechi, Sarah K. Abe

Summary

1. Purpose:

To assess the feasibility of implementing digital developmental screening (provided by Malaysian start-up TOY8) in the Indonesian population. This includes operational feasibility, cultural appropriateness, and the pathway from screening to intervention.

2. Background:

Developmental delays affect approximately 25% of children in low- and middle-income countries (Gil, et al., 2020), yet most remain undetected until the children enter school, by which time for effective intervention may have been missed. This challenge is particularly acute in ASEAN, where structured developmental surveillance after the age of two is largely absent. Indonesia, with its large population and limited developmental screening infrastructure, presents both a significant challenge and a substantial opportunity for impactful interventions.

A Malaysian case-control study by Toh et al. (2025) demonstrated high accuracy in digital developmental screening, with parental perceptions showing no significant differences across education, gender, or ethnicity. Additionally, a report by Takano, Chong, and Ishibashi (2025) established the policy foundation for early identification and intervention systems across ASEAN. This feasibility study directly responds to the report's recommendations and aligns with the Indonesian Health Ministry's priorities for early childhood development.

3. Activities:

- a) Generating evidence-based recommendations for integrating digital developmental screening into Indonesia's national early childhood development framework, aligned with the Health Ministry's priorities
- b) Developing a scalable implementation model applicable to other ASEAN Member States



Policy Implications

- Policy recommendations for the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) Work Plan 2026–2030 on digital innovation in social welfare delivery
- Cost-effectiveness evidence to support budget planning for national-scale deployment

Partner Organisation(s)

- Toybox Creations and Technology Sdn. Bhd. (1290599-A), Malaysia
- Breakthrough for Life Centre (BFL), Indonesia

Related ERIA Publications

Takano, B.A., C.Y. Chong, and M. Ishibashi (2025), *Advancing Inclusive Education from the Early Ages in ASEAN using AI and Digital Technologies*. ERIA Research Project Report 2025-29. Jakarta: ERIA. <https://www.eria.org/publications/advancing-inclusive-education-from-the-early-ages-in-asean-using-ai-and-digital-technologies>

References

Gil, J.D., F. Ewerling, L.Z. Ferreira, and A.J. Barros (2020), 'Early Childhood Suspected Developmental Delay in 63 Low - and Middle-Income Countries: Large Within - and Between-Country Inequalities Documented Using National Health Surveys', *Journal of Global Health*, 10(1), 010427. <https://doi.org/10.7189/jogh.10.010427>

Toh, T.H. et al. (2025), 'Case-control Diagnostic Accuracy Study for Digital Developmental Screening Tool for Detecting Delays Among Children Aged 3–5 Years', *Frontiers in Pediatrics*. <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/pediatrics/articles/10.3389/fped.2025.1706162/full>





Strategies and Partnerships for Women's Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Peace

Neha Bansal

Summary

1. Purpose:

This project aims to provide stronger evidence for policies that leverage women's digital economy participation as a critical enabler for women's involvement in ASEAN's peace and security agenda, with their participation in the digital economy being an important enabler. While the digital economy holds the promise of linking women to markets, financing, platforms, means of organisations, capacity building, and employment, this project specifically examines how these promises can be practically realised within the ASEAN/Asian context.

2. Background:

The project addresses a gap in regional frameworks, where Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and Women in the Digital Economy (WDE) agendas have largely developed in silos. While the Regional Plan of Action on WPS and the 2020 ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Strengthening Women's Role for Sustainable Peace and Security underscore the link between women's economic empowerment and sustainable peace, the region's rapid digital transformation makes narrowing the digital gender divide essential for economic inclusion. Yet few frameworks explicitly articulate the mutually reinforcing links between women's digital economic participation and peacebuilding outcomes, creating the gap this study seeks to address.

3. Activities:

- a) A high-level conference was conducted on 17 November 2025 in Tokyo, Japan, to launch this project.
- b) ERIA and the ASEAN-IPR are conducting a joint research project on WPS–WDE comprising fieldwork and case studies across Cambodia, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste. The final report will provide evidence-based insights, scalable examples, and policy recommendations on how digitally enabled women's economic empowerment contributes to sustainable peace and prosperity, while examining gaps, good practices, and the dual nature of digital opportunities and risks in post-conflict settings.



- c) Consultations with ASEAN policy specialists and national-level policymakers of the four countries will be conducted through high-level regional and country-level symposia.

Policy Implications

Areas of potential implications:

- Investments in digital infrastructure and digital capacities as a conflict prevention and peacebuilding measure
- Organisation of the informal economy – particularly long-standing women's entrepreneurship networks and information channels – as a response mechanism in times of conflict and disasters
- Enhancement of ASEAN-level co-ordination for WPS and WDE through knowledge exchanges, funding mechanisms, and policy harmonisation

Partner Organisation(s)

- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
- ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR)



Responding to Population Ageing and Health Challenges





ASEAN Diagnostics Security and Self Reliance (ADxSSR)

Hiroyuki Kiyohara, Achmad Solikhin

Summary

1. Purpose:

ASEAN Diagnostics Security and Self Reliance (ADxSSR) seeks to enhance universal health coverage and emergency preparedness of ASEAN through the implementation of a collaborative network. This network aims to address the gaps in the equitable availability and access to quality diagnostics, including through One Health approaches while utilising outcomes from the ASEAN Essential Diagnostics Lists Initiative (AEDLI) as baseline references.

2. Background:

In 2024, ERIA recognised the leadership of the Ministry of Health of Indonesia in advancing ASEAN diagnostics and supported the development of a regional situational analysis. The analysis was presented at the first regional meeting in Bali in June 2025 and has since evolved into the ADxSSR framework, developed by ERIA in April 2026.

In parallel, Indonesia's Ministry of Health has drafted an ASEAN Leaders' Declaration (ALD), currently under review, while ERIA continues to develop the Action Plan for ADxSSR. Complementing these efforts, FIND is using the data from ERIA and JIHS to create a regional plan through its diagnostic network optimisation AI software. Additionally, PATH has secured funding focused on development of Indonesia's diagnostics network.

3. Activities:

The upcoming regional meeting in Brunei (17–20 August) will provide a platform for AMS to discuss the ADxSSR framework and the status of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on ADxSSR. These discussions will support its adoption at the ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) and subsequent declaration at the ASEAN Summit.

Note: Dr Uechi and Dr Villanueva shared ERIA's ASEAN experiences with a global audience at the World Health Assembly's GDxC side event in Geneva on 25 May 2026.



Policy Implications

ADxSSR and ERIA, drawing on aggregate outcomes from AEDLI and FIND's diagnostic network optimisation, will recommend regional diagnostics policies, including pooled procurement mechanisms and annual screening programmes for high-burdens diseases based on the life-cycle approach. These recommendations are expected to:

- support the establishment of collaborative governance for diagnostics in ASEAN;
- contribute to the harmonisation of access to and availability of quality diagnostics in ASEAN; and
- strengthen diagnostic capacities in ASEAN through proposed self-reliance mechanisms, preceded by technology transfer.

The initiative is also expected to strengthen ASEAN's role as a source of diagnostics good practices, with the WHO diagnostics team seeking guidance from ERIA for other developing regions.

Partner Organisation(s)

- Ministry of Health of Indonesia as the lead country for ADxSSR, and respective Ministries of Health of ASEAN Member States (AMS)
- ASEAN Secretariat Health Division, ASEAN Health Cluster 3 (AHC3)
- Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) – Headquartered in Geneva with a Regional Office in New Delhi
- Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) – Regional Office in New Delhi
- World Health Organisation (WHO) – Headquartered in Geneva, with Regional Offices for Southeast Asia in New Delhi and Western Pacific in Manila, as well as Country Offices of Indonesia and other ASEAN Member States; also the WHO Global Diagnostics Coalition (GDxC), of which ERIA is one of 13 members of the steering committee
- Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS) – Bureau of Global Health Cooperation (BGHC)





ASEAN Essential Diagnostics Lists Initiative (AEDLI)

Hiroyuki Kiyohara

Summary

1. Purpose:

To improve access to diagnostics, which are essential to strengthening patient care, supporting Universal Health Coverage, and enhancing emergency preparedness – ultimately leading to better health outcomes. The World Health Organization (WHO)'s Model List of Essential Diagnostics (EDL) outlines priority diagnostics tests for disease detection, helping countries focus their efforts and ensure accessible healthcare.

2. Background:

In line with the WHO resolution adopted by the 76th World Health Assembly (WHA76.5) in May 2023, ERIA collaborates with WHO and ASEAN ministries to advance the development of National Essential Diagnostics Lists (NEDLs), under the leadership of the Philippines. Initiatives include conducting gap assessments and fostering advocacy through regional conferences.

3. Activities:

- a) Organising regional consultative meetings on implementation and monitoring, followed by the development of an aggregate ASEAN EDL in Brunei Darussalam in July 2026 and Timor-Leste in early 2027
- b) Sharing the progress of NEDL development amongst ASEAN Member States (AMS), thereby forming a basis for consensus-building and political leadership within ASEAN



Policy Implications

- Regional guidance and progress-sharing for the creation of NEDLs may be utilised by ASEAN and the ministries of health of AMS. ASEAN's unique progress is also being observed by WHO towards the enhancement of the current WHO model list.
- These resources will serve as references to support respective NEDLs and related initiatives, including the formation of the ASEAN Diagnostics Security and Self Reliance (ADxSSR) implementation framework as well as the disease detection initiative of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases under the purview of the Health Division of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.
- Moreover, the ASEAN Economic Community Standards and Conformance is expected to play a role in the next phase by aggregating standards for a regional diagnostic list, in alignment with the ASEAN Medical Device Directive (AMDD), whose harmonisation has thus far been guided by Japan's Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency.

Partner Organisation(s)

- World Health Organization
- Japan Institute for Health Security
- Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND)
- ASEAN Secretariat Health Division and ASEAN Health Cluster 3 (AHC3)
- Ministries of Health in ASEAN Member States, in particular the Department of Health of the Philippines (lead country)





ASEAN One Health Operationalisation Framework and M&E Guideline

Achmad Solikhin

Summary

The ASEAN One Health Operationalisation Framework and Monitoring and Evaluation Guideline (hereafter referred to as the *Collaborative Project*) aims to support ASEAN Member States (AMS) in operationalising the ASEAN One Health Joint Plan of Action (ASEAN OH JPA) through a structured, practical, and regionally contextualised approach. Following the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the One Health Initiative and the implementation of the ASEAN OH JPA Short-Term Plan (2023–2024) and Medium-Term Plan (2025–2030), there is increasing demand from AMS for practical frameworks and guidance to translate high-level commitments into co-ordinated, measurable, and sustainable actions.

Led by the Indonesian Ministry of Health (MoH) in partnership with the ERIA, the project will develop a regional framework and guideline that integrates One Health implementation with a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism. This will support countries in adapting and implementing the ASEAN OH JPA while strengthening co-ordination, accountability, and evidence-based decision-making.

The project will deliver four key outputs: (1) the ASEAN One Health Guideline on Monitoring and Evaluation; (2) the ASEAN One Health Operationalisation Framework; (3) a policy paper analysing the current status of One Health implementation and M&E systems in ASEAN; and (4) capacity-building activities and regional evaluation outputs, including mid-term and terminal review reports of the ASEAN OH JPA.

Key activities include a regional study, stakeholder consultations, capacity-building activities, and regional-level evaluation. The project ultimately aims to enhance coherence, effectiveness, and accountability of One Health actions, contributing to a more integrated and sustainable approach to health across humans, animals, plants, and the environment in ASEAN.



Policy Implications

- Strengthened implementation, co-ordination, capacity-building, and collaboration pillars of the ASEAN OH JPA through the development of the OH operationalisation framework,
- Improved and sustainably balanced health outcomes for humans, animals, plants, and the environment through the development of robust M&E guidelines.

Partner Organisation(s)

- ASEAN Secretariat
- Ministry of Health, Indonesia
- ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases
- ASEAN One Health Network

Related ERIA Publications

Solikhin, A., R. Susanti, M. Nabighah, A.F.D.R. Villanueva, Y. Mitsuhashi, and M. Uechi (2025), *Mapping One Health Research Priorities, Operationalisation, and Implementation in ASEAN*. ERIA Policy Brief 2025-04. Jakarta: ERIA. <https://www.eria.org/research/mapping-one-health-research-priorities--operationalisation--and-implementation-in-asean>



PED under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship 2026 – Financial Sustainability of Integrated Care for Older Persons (FISCO)/Silver Economy

Wan Seok Chang, Liem Thanh Nguyen, Narihiro Hirai

Summary

1. Purpose:

The project aims to strengthen the financial sustainability of integrated care for older persons in ASEAN by applying the World Health Organization's Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE) framework. The initiative promotes person-centred, co-ordinated, and continuous care that supports active and healthy ageing. It aligns with the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) and contributes to advancing Universal Health Coverage by improving accessibility, equity, and the long-term sustainability of care systems. Drawing on lessons from East Asia, the project seeks to assess existing financing models, predict future financial burdens, and develop practical policy recommendations and guidelines. In doing so, it also aims to enhance analytical capacity, strengthen governance through evidence-based planning, raise regional awareness, and foster cooperation amongst ASEAN Member States (AMS).

2. Background:

The ASEAN region is experiencing rapid population ageing, with a growing feminisation of old age that places increasing pressure on health, social, and long-term care systems. These demographic changes raise urgent concerns about the financing and sustainability of care for older persons. While care financing has been acknowledged under ASEAN's Comprehensive Framework on the Care Economy, major knowledge gaps remain regarding existing financing arrangements, future financial needs, and effective policy responses. This lack of clarity limits the ability of AMS to plan and invest in sustainable, equitable care systems for ageing populations.

3. Activities:

This project encompasses a range of activities designed to achieve its objectives, including policy dialogues, support for programme and policy development, awareness raising, research, evidence dissemination, promotion of research application in policy formulation, and capacity building. Many of these activities will be carried out concurrently and are closely interconnected.

4. Specific Activities for 2026:

- a) Conducting a literature review on healthcare financing, long-term care, pension and social welfare, and integrated care/community care for older persons in ASEAN
- b) Investigating current health financing systems, social welfare systems, long-term care, community care/integrated care for older persons in each AMS
- c) Studying existing economic models related to the financial sustainability of healthcare, long-term care, or integrated care for older persons
- d) Developing economic modelling to capture the financial sustainability of healthcare, long-term care, and integrated care for older persons by the end of FY2026

Policy Implications

- Assess the current landscape of financing integrated care for older persons in ASEAN, with comparative insights from East Asia.
- Simulate and forecast the long-term financial burden and sustainability of integrated care for older persons in ASEAN.
- Provide policy recommendations to support the sustainable financing of integrated care for older persons in ASEAN.
- Promote awareness, applied research, and evidence-based policymaking on the financing of integrated care for older persons through active engagement and interactions amongst older persons, policymakers, and researchers.
- Strengthen local capacity in care financing analysis and monitoring, particularly amongst staff from national statistics offices and relevant ministries, to enhance the analysis and oversight of financing care for older persons.
- Establish a social network or collaborative platform to provide technical and policy support on the financing of care for older persons.

Partner Organisation(s)

- Japan's National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS)
- ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- US-ASEAN Business Council (USABC)
- World Health Organization (WHO)



Summary

1. Purpose:

Healthcare is often viewed as a costly sector in industrialised countries due to expensive services, pharmaceuticals, and devices. It also places a significant strain on national budgets in countries with national health insurance schemes. At the same time, healthcare drives innovation and is a high-value industry fuelled by substantial R&D investments.

Since 2021, in partnership with the Government of Japan and Medical Excellence Japan (MEJ), ERIA has been fostering unique multisectoral partnerships and action-driven programmes under Medical Excellence in Asia (MExx). The initiative facilitates multisectoral partnerships and projects adaptable to context-specific national, bilateral, or multilateral settings. MEJ plays a key role in convening stakeholders from industry, government, academia, and healthcare in Japan to develop sustainable, accessible, inclusive, and responsive healthcare system in the region.

2. Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic had detrimental impacts on the health and well-being globally. It further underscored the importance of integrating healthcare services into global and regional frameworks, highlighting the dependence of medical institutions worldwide on overseas resources. This has spurred policymakers and business leaders to enhance collaboration and advance the universal health coverage (UHC) agenda. In ASEAN and East Asia, priorities include optimising performance outcomes, establishing stable supply chains, and maintaining a sustainable market. However, challenges persist, including financing cutting-edge medical technologies and developing policies that balance safety and efficacy. Individual companies face limitations, while government-led public–private co-operation often struggles to establish lasting market entries and mutually beneficial networks.

3. Activities:

- a) Medical Excellence India: Antibiotics research and development, government–industry collaboration, and Medical Park establishment.
- b) Medical Excellence Viet Nam: Comprehensive cancer care, preventive medicine (Ningen Dock certification system), healthcare start-up implementation, and clinical and surgical training of healthcare professionals.

- c) Medical Excellence Thailand: Regenerative medicine research, promotion of the wellness industry including traditional medicine, long-term and home-based care for older adults, and the Japan–Bangkok Dusit Medical Services (BDMS) Proton Oncology Alliance.

Policy Implications

- Strengthening the healthcare systems in ASEAN through multisectoral partnerships and collaborations
- Fostering the academia–industry collaboration in medicine and health sectors that can lead to the betterment of health and well-being of the people in Asia
- Improving the quality of healthcare services by introducing medical technology and innovation
- Creating opportunities for professional development and capacity building in the health sector through regional collaborations

Partner Organisation(s)

Medical Excellence Japan (MEJ)





Longitudinal Study on Ageing and Health in the Philippines and Viet Nam (LSAH)

Liem Nguyen

Summary

1. Purpose:

To provide comprehensive information on the health and well-being of older persons, their caregiving, and the determinants of these factors over time.

2. Background:

Population ageing is advancing at a markedly faster pace in ASEAN Member States (AMS) than in many other regions worldwide. This rapid demographic transition is driven by sustained declines in fertility, rising life expectancy, urbanisation, and swift socio-economic transformation. As a result, AMS face increasing pressures on health systems, social protection schemes, labour markets, and long-term care arrangements, often before adequate institutional capacities are in place. Despite the growing urgency, many countries in the region still lack comprehensive, high-quality, and comparable data to fully understand ageing dynamics and their policy implications. This project is therefore designed to fill critical evidence gaps by strengthening data generation and analysis on population ageing and health, enabling more informed, timely, and effective policymaking to respond to the rapid ageing context across ASEAN.

3. Activities:

- a) Generating new knowledge by conducting the first nationally representative longitudinal surveys on ageing and health in the Philippines and Viet Nam, covering more than 6,000 respondents in each country. To date, two waves of survey were conducted in 2018 and 2023, providing comparable data over time, while the third wave is currently being conducted in 2026.
- b) Supporting evidence-based policymaking by translating research findings into policy analysis, technical inputs, and actionable advisory support for government agencies and other stakeholders.
- c) Promoting public awareness and policy engagement by disseminating research findings through regional and national conferences, policy dialogues, and academic and policy-oriented publications.



Policy Implications

- Enhanced evidence-based policymaking, as policymakers in ASEAN, particularly in the Philippines and Viet Nam, can make greater use of robust empirical evidence in developing laws, policies, and action plans on ageing, health, and well-being, while addressing socioeconomic inequalities and their underlying determinants.
- Greater public awareness and policy engagement on ageing issues through dissemination of findings via conferences, policy dialogues, and academic and policy-oriented publications.
- Strengthened national capacity for ageing-related research, data collection, and data-driven policy analysis.
- Enhanced regional and international visibility of ASEAN's research on population ageing, contributing to global academic and policy debates.

Partner Organisation(s)

- Demographic Research and Development Foundation, Inc. (DRDF), Philippines
- Institute of Population, Health and Development (PHAD), Viet Nam

Related ERIA Publications

LSAHP

Cruz, G.T., C.J.P. Cruz, and Y. Saito (eds.) (2019), *Ageing and Health in the Philippines*. Jakarta: ERIA. <https://www.eria.org/publications/ageing-and-health-in-the-philippines>

____ (2025), *Ageing and Health in the Philippines: Wave 2*. Jakarta: ERIA. <https://www.eria.org/publications/ageing-and-health-in-the-philippines--wave-2>

LSAHV

Vu, N.C., M.T. Tran, L.T. Dang, C-L. Chei, and Y. Saito (eds.) (2020), *Ageing and Health in Viet Nam*. Jakarta: ERIA. <https://www.eria.org/publications/ageing-and-health-in-viet-nam>

ERIA (2026), *Ageing and Health in Viet Nam: Wave 2*. Jakarta: ERIA. <https://www.eria.org/publications/ageing-and-health-in-viet-nam--wave-2>





Social Impact and Innovation

Neha Bansal

Summary

1. Purpose:

A range of social innovation initiatives are currently underway across the region, including the ASEAN Blue Economy Innovation project and the Social Change Innovators – Asia network. This ERIA programme aims to strengthen the evidence on how effectively these initiatives contribute to structural transformations, development goals, economic productivity, and operational efficiencies. This programme also identifies existing opportunities and future building blocks that governments and start-ups in ASEAN Member States can leverage to enhance innovation. Additionally, it seeks to map out effective policies and areas for regional co-ordination in order to harness the transformational potential of this social innovation wave.

2. Background:

Southeast Asia faces persistent development challenges such as economic vulnerabilities, energy and food insecurity, the climate crisis, as well as uneven access to technology, skills, and finance. Addressing these issues requires new forms of collaboration amongst governments, the private sector, and civil society. In an era of polycrisis, where public challenges are fast-evolving and increasingly complex, social innovation is becoming a core tool of public policy. Broadly defined as the development and scaling of new ideas, the introduction of new efficiencies, and the ability to reach more and peripheral populations, social innovation offers a promising approach to tackle regional challenges. By complementing existing market and state mechanisms, it directly contributes to efforts on economic resilience and productivity.

3. Activities:

- a) Organising the ASEAN Start-up Policy Roundtable on 25–26 May 2026, with a dedicated focus on social impact innovation
- b) Producing knowledge products and conducting a scoping study to map existing opportunities, building blocks, and key areas for policy leverage in the ASEAN region.
- c) Providing support for sector-specific accelerators to promote technology diffusion amongst social impact start-ups and social enterprises in ASEAN Member States, focusing on areas such as disability innovation and energy-focused social impact.



Policy Implications

Stronger ASEAN level framework, co-ordination, and capacity to support social innovation.

Partner Organisation(s)

- DFAT
- OECD (Potential)
- Impact Hub (Potential)
- UNIDO (Potential)



P R I O R I T Y 5

Achieving a Sustainable Environment While Managing Climate and Disaster Risks





Case Study on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture: Evidence from ASEAN and Best Practices in Asia

Masanori Kozono

Summary

Recent developments in artificial intelligence (AI) create new opportunities to dramatically increase productivity and enhance the climate resilience and sustainability of agriculture through more accurate, efficient, and data-driven solutions. For instance, AI has strong potential to optimise the use of agricultural inputs such as fertiliser and pesticide, reduce labour burdens and lessen the environmental load by improving farm-level decision-making.

However, AI adoption in agriculture remains uneven across ASEAN. An ERIA study on agricultural digitalisation in ASEAN shows that the use of AI in digital agriculture technologies varies across ASEAN Member States and remains limited, with only about 10% of farmers adopting it in the region. Nevertheless, when asked about the technologies most needed in the future, more than 40% of farmers identified AI as a promising option, suggesting that AI will play a more significant role in the future agricultural development.

The expansion of AI applications in ASEAN's agriculture requires both assessing the region's current status, including its challenges and opportunities, and learning best practices in other Asian countries such as Japan, where AI utilisation has been advanced in the similar agricultural context like rice-oriented and small-scale farming. In those countries, AI applications are supported through effective policies, strong research ecosystems, and public-private partnerships. These experiences can help ASEAN develop digital agriculture strategies that are better suited to local contexts and strengthen the role of AI in supporting more sustainable, productive, and climate-resilient agriculture.

Based on this background, the study aims to examine how AI is utilised across different agricultural systems and to develop policy recommendations to support its adoption. Through a comparative analysis between AMS and other Asian countries such as Japan, the study will analyse adoption patterns, key challenges, enabling factors, and policy implications. The findings will be compiled into a policy-oriented research report for dissemination through relevant ASEAN sectoral meetings.



Policy Implications

- The study will provide evidence-based inputs for ASEAN to strengthen regional policies and strategies to promote the adoption of AI in agriculture.
- The findings will support AMS in improving enabling factors for the use of AI in agriculture, including digital infrastructure, digital literacy, AI governance, innovation ecosystems, and public–private partnerships.
- Through dissemination in ASEAN sectoral meetings, the study can contribute to regional policy dialogue, knowledge sharing, and future ASEAN co-operation on AI application in agriculture.

Related ERIA Publications

Kozono, M., A.A. Cahyono, and S.M. Diyanah (2025), *Digitalisation in Agriculture and Food Systems in ASEAN: Pathways to Its Resilience and Sustainability*. Policy Brief No. 2025-12. Jakarta: ERIA. <https://www.eria.org/uploads/digitalisation-in-agriculture-and-food-systems-in-asean.pdf>

Kozono, M., S.M. Diyanah, A.A. Cahyono, and A. Sumiahadi (2025), *Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Development through Digitalisation in ASEAN*. ERIA Event Report. Jakarta: ERIA. <https://www.eria.org/uploads/Promoting%20Sustainable%20Agriculture%20Development-EventReport-Final.pdf>



Promoting the Transition to Regenerative and Resilient Agriculture System in ASEAN

Masanori Kozono

Summary

Regenerative and resilient agricultural systems go beyond conventional sustainability. In addition to minimising environmental harm, they also actively restore ecosystems and enhance the capacity of agricultural systems to withstand and adapt to future shocks. While sustainable agriculture aims to maintain productivity and limit environmental impact without compromising the needs of future generations, regenerative and resilient approaches are more comprehensive. They encompass the restoration of soil health, water resources, and biodiversity; carbon sequestration; and the integration of climate-adaptive practices.

Efforts to promote regenerative agriculture are emerging across ASEAN, but they remain fragmented and limited to pilot activities. To accelerate the transition to regenerative agriculture, a collective regional approach amongst ASEAN Member States (AMS) is required. At the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) meeting in October 2025, ministers agreed to develop the ASEAN Implementation Plan for Regenerative and Resilient Agriculture Systems as a PED under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship.

The ASEAN Implementation Plan aims to accelerate the transition of agrifood systems across AMS towards regenerative and resilient models that restore natural capital, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance climate resilience, and improve farmers' income. The scope of the Implementation Plan covers the full range of priority agrifood systems, including rice, mixed cropping systems, livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture.

In response to a request from the ASEAN Secretariat and the Philippines' Department of Agriculture, ERIA is supporting development of the draft ASEAN Implementation Plan through this project. Specifically, ERIA provides technical experts for drafting the Implementation Plan and contributes through knowledge-sharing activities. ERIA also co-organised regional workshops in April and June 2026, bringing together government representatives from all AMS and experts within and beyond ASEAN to discuss and finalise the draft Implementation Plan.



Policy Implications

A draft of the ASEAN Implementation Plan for Regenerative and Resilient Agriculture Systems is being developed. The draft will be endorsed by SOM-AMAF in August and adopted by AMAF in October 2026.

Partner Organisation(s)

- ASEAN Secretariat
- Department of Agriculture, Philippines



Summary

1. Purpose:

The ASEAN Plastic Book Project aims to:

- a) provide updates regarding the status quo and outlook of plastic pollution, with a focus on the ASEAN+3 region;
- b) share the development and implementation of policies relevant to plastic waste management across the ASEAN+3 region;
- c) compile and disseminate practices, insights, and resources that can support the effective implementation of plastic waste management in ASEAN+3 region and its member states; and
- d) explore how countermeasures against plastic pollution can be enhanced or developed further in ASEAN+3 member states.

2. Background:

Since the publication of the ASEAN Plastic Book (Phase I), *Plastic Pollution Countermeasures: Effective Global Actions and Case Studies from East Asia*, on 8 June 2026, new research findings and policy developments have emerged. The environmental impacts of microplastics and nanoplastics have become increasingly well recognised and widely documented. New policy initiatives have also emerged, including successful community-level waste management projects, progress in the implementation of extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes in several ASEAN Member States, and the ongoing transition from the current craft village model to a more advanced circular economy model. Furthermore, Timor-Leste joined ASEAN in October 2025, after Phase I of the project was finalised, hence the need to incorporate the country's experiences into the updated publication.

3. Activities:

Taking into account the latest research findings on plastic pollution and emerging and successful policy initiatives in the ASEAN+3 region, this project involves co-publishing a new handbook to disseminate updated knowledge and developments not covered in the first edition. The publication will be developed in collaboration with IGES and experts from ASEAN+3 countries.

Policy Implications

- Greater awareness of the urgency of plastic pollution countermeasures, given that microplastics and nanoplastics have been detected not only in the beverages but also in rainwater and the atmosphere
- Wider dissemination, recognition, and adoption of best practices in plastic pollution countermeasures implemented by local governments in ASEAN Member States
- Stronger promotion of the transition towards a circular economy across business, agriculture, fisheries, and local communities to support more effective countermeasures against plastic pollution

Partner Organisation(s)

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Related ERIA Publications

Iwasaki, F., R. Kawamura, M. Kojima, P.J.D. Gamaralalage, and Y. Hotta (2026), *Plastic Pollution Countermeasures: Effective Global Actions and Case Studies from East Asia*. Jakarta: ERIA. <https://www.eria.org/publications/plastic-pollution-countermeasures--effective-global-actions-and-case-studies-from-east-asia>





Capacity Building for ASEAN Member States (AMS) Plastic Treaty Negotiation, Data and Policymaking, and Local-Level Action on Plastic Pollution in ASEAN

Indradhi Faisal Ibrahim

Summary

1. Purpose:

The FY2026 capacity-building initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of ASEAN Member States (AMS) and local stakeholders to address plastic pollution more effectively at multiple governance levels by: (i) enhancing AMS' negotiating capacity for global plastic treaty processes; (ii) strengthening government officials' ability to utilise data for evidence-based policymaking; and (iii) empowering local stakeholders through practical capacity building on circular economy practices and inclusive engagement of the informal sector.

2. Background:

ASEAN faces multifaceted challenges in addressing plastic pollution, ranging from uneven technical readiness for international negotiations, fragmented data systems, and gaps in local implementation capacity. These needs were identified and further confirmed through ERIA's Capacity Needs Assessment, including an April 2026 focus group discussion with organisations working on capacity building such as the ASEAN Secretariat, GIZ, UNEP/COBSEA, AIT, IGES, and Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), and Kyoto University. Participants highlighted these issues as high-priority and cross-cutting challenges across ASEAN Member States. In response, this initiative will address the identified gaps while building on and ensuring continuity with ERIA's previous capacity-building programmes in 2025, including DECIDE, CIRCONOMICS, and INCLUSEA.

3. Activities:

- a) AMS Negotiation Capacity Building: A regional training workshop on international plastic pollution negotiations (INC process), covering treaty articles, cross-sectoral co-ordination, and negotiation strategies. Where feasible, the initiative will also support the development of a common ASEAN regional statement/perspective on the ongoing plastic treaty process.



- b) Data and Policymaking for Government: A hands-on training workshop for government officials on data collection, plastic monitoring methodology harmonisation, material flow analysis, and the translation of data into policy.
- c) Local Stakeholders in ASEAN: Practical training for local stakeholders (SMEs, the informal sector, community organisations, and local governments) on waste segregation, recycling, EPR implementation, and circular economy practices.

Policy Implications

Strengthening capacity across all three governance levels – international, national, and local – is essential to fostering a more integrated, inclusive, and impactful ASEAN approach to ending plastic pollution.

- At the international level, better-equipped AMS delegations can engage more effectively and strategically in global treaty processes, including the INC.
- At the national level, improved data literacy and data-to-policy skills will enable more targeted, evidence-based policy interventions.
- At the local level, practical capacity building bridges the implementation gap, ensuring that policies are operationalised by the communities and enterprises that matter most.

Partner Organisation(s)

- ASEAN Secretariat
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- United Nations Environment Programme/Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (UNEP/COBSEA)
- Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
- Vietnam-Japan Institute for Advanced Technology
- Econox Laos

Related ERIA Publications

Ibrahim, I.F., C. Kusnadi, B. Bhari, H.S.K. Mensah, and M. Kojima (2026), *Circonomics Training Book Transforming Businesses through Circular Economy Practices: For SMEs in the Philippines*. Jakarta: ERIA. <https://www.eria.org/publications/circonomics-training-book-transforming-businesses-through-circular-economy-practices--for-smes-in-the-philippines>

ERIA (forthcoming), *DECIDE Training Book and INCLUSEA Training Book*. Jakarta: ERIA.



Good Practices in Community-Based Waste Management: Lessons from Material Recovery Facilities in the Philippines

Ayako Mizuno

Summary

1. Purpose:

This research project aims to look at the cases of Apo Island and Barangay Potrero to identify the commonalities and differences between the interventions employed in each village from a behavioural change standpoint. Using quantitative and qualitative methods, this project seeks to extract the theory of change underpinning these two successful cases and capture key lessons learned in sustaining community-based Solid Waste Management practices. Results from this research are expected to encourage replication of practices across villages with comparable socio-economic backgrounds across the Southeast Asian region.

2. Background:

Through Republic Act No. 9003, the Philippines introduced a decentralised approach to solid waste governance, placing primary responsibility for waste management on local government units (Wynne et al., 2018). To support implementation, a community-based solid waste management system was piloted in 78 barangays across Metro Manila using the Act-Learn approach (Constantino et al., 2025).

Two locations that demonstrated particularly significant outcomes were Apo Island and Barangay Potrero. Apo Island became recognised as the Philippines' first Zero Waste Island Barangay after implementing household waste segregation, door-to-door segregated collection, composting, decentralised materials recovery facilities (MRFs), and waste assessment activities (Adobo Magazine, 2021). By 2021, the island had achieved a 53% waste diversion rate and 99% segregation compliance (Insider PH, 2025).

Meanwhile, Barangay Potrero processes around 500 kilograms of waste daily through a community-based segregation system centred on its MRF (Comitan, 2026). Community monitoring teams conduct awareness campaigns and enforce segregation compliance through penalties. The barangay has received several recognitions, including Best in Solid Waste Management in Metro Manila in 2016 and First Runner-Up for Best CEST Community in 2025 (Comitan, 2026).

3. Activities:

The project will undertake a comparative case study of Apo Island and Barangay Potrero using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Policy Implications

Findings from the project will be documented in a report, including:

- A comprehensive account of the development of community-based waste management in the two barangays (Apo Island and Barangay Potrero)
- An analysis of behavioural motivations and enabling factors behind the two barangays' success
- Key lessons learned from the two barangays
- Recommendations for case replication in ASEAN

Partner Organisation(s)

University of the Philippines Diliman

Related ERIA Publications

ERIA (forthcoming), *Community-Based Waste Management in ASEAN: Good Practices from Indonesia*. Jakarta: ERIA.

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Adobo Magazine (2021), 'Sustainability: Apo Island, Negros Oriental Is the First Zero Waste Island in the Philippines', *Adobo Magazine*, 21 September. <https://www.adobomagazine.com/sustainability/sustainability-apo-island-negros-oriental-is-the-first-zero-waste-island-in-the-philippines/>

Comitan, J.B. (2026), 'From Trash to Triumph: A Malabon Barangay's Campaign Against Waste', *Manila Bulletin*, 1 April. <https://mb.com.ph/2026/04/01/from-trash-to-triumph-a-malabon-barangays-campaign-against-waste>

Constantino, G.S., K.A.M. Luna, A.L.T. Tolesa, and R.R. Medina (2025), 'Reaching Inaccessible Communities: Demonstration of Community-based Solid Waste Management Sub-system in Metro Manila, Philippines', *International Journal of Integrated Engineering*, 17(4), pp.252–58. <https://publisher.uthm.edu.my/ojs/index.php/ijie/article/view/20379>

Insider PH (2025), 'Blueprints for Change: How 3 Philippine Islands Make Zero Waste Work', *Insider PH*, 10 June. <https://insiderph.com/blueprints-for-change-how-3-philippine-islands-make-zero-waste-work>

Wynne, A.L., P.M. Nieves, V.M. Vulava, H.N. Qirko, and T.J. Callahan (2018), 'A Community-based Approach to Solid Waste Management for Riverine and Coastal Resource Sustainability in the Philippines', *Ocean & Coastal Management*, pp.151, 36–44. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2017.10.028>



Enhancing Skills and Human Capital Development



ERIA School of Government
**Inaugural ASEAN Outlook on the
Indo-Pacific (AOIP) Lecture Series**



PED under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship 2026 – Cross-Border Movement of Digital Workers



Aladdin D. Rillo, Intan Ramli, Venkatachalam Anbumozhi

Summary

1. Purpose:

To facilitate the intra-ASEAN mobility of professionals in technical and digital sectors through a regionally co-ordinated pass, and to promote the movement of technology, digital skills, and technical expertise in the region to enhance the competitiveness of its services sector.

2. Background:

In response to the growing demand for skilled professionals in high-impact sectors, the proposed Leaders' Declaration mandates the development of an ASEAN Digital Talent Mobility Pass. Modelled, in part, on the APEC Business Travel Card, the ASEAN Talent Pass aims to provide a practical, co-ordinated mechanism to streamline entry procedures for eligible professionals in sectors such as digital services and technical vocations. Guided by this Declaration, ASEAN – through the Coordinating Committee on Services (CCS) – will explore the scope, design, and pilot implementation of the Talent Visa, with a view to enhancing workforce mobility, supporting digital transformation, and advancing ASEAN's competitiveness in the global economy.

3. Activities:

- a) Adoption of the endorsed Leaders' Declaration by ASEAN Economic Ministers
- b) Formulation of a 5-year workplan for the ASEAN digital talent mobility

Policy Implications

- Immediate (2026–2027): issuance of a formal mandate to the CCS to initiate work on the digital talent mobility certification framework.
- Short-term (2027): readiness of a pilot mechanism, alongside building regional awareness and stakeholder buy-in for launching the Digital Talent Mobility Visa initiative.
- Mid-term (2028 and beyond): launch of the ASEAN Talent Pass pilot phase.

Partner Organisation(s)

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Philippines





Leveraging Renewable Energy and Strategic Locations to Foster Lao PDR's Manufacturing Industry

Jeremy Gross, Souknilanh Keola

Summary

1. Purpose:

This study examines how Lao PDR can leverage its green energy advantage – based on its diversified energy portfolio of hydroelectric and solar power – to overcome the disadvantages of high transport costs and a small labour pool. In particular, it explores how Lao PDR can become a more attractive location for multinational corporations seeking access to clean energy. The project will provide a strategic roadmap for the Government of Lao PDR to transform its renewable energy surplus into a driver of industrial development and high-quality foreign direct investment.

2. Background:

Industrial development in Lao PDR is constrained by high transportation costs and a small labour pool. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) and ERIA have agreed to examine how the country's renewable energy resources can be utilised to attract investment and support industrial development despite these constraints.

3. Activities:

- a) Conducting an initial stakeholder workshop
- b) Examining global investment costs across selected cities using acquired data
- c) Examining the details of relevant regulations, such as the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)
- d) Conducting surveys, both in person and distributed, of companies in Lao PDR's special economic zones
- e) Organising a final workshop to discuss draft findings
- f) Developing a report based on the findings



Policy Implications

- Outline policy implications on how Lao PDR may respond to unilateral regulatory changes (e.g. CBAM) in major markets.
- Identify the challenges Lao PDR must overcome to further its manufacturing sector based on its renewable energy potential and strategic position.

Partner Organisation(s)

Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC), Lao PDR



Support for the Implementation of Commitments under the ASEAN Economic Community

Jeremy Gross

Summary

1. Purpose:

To support Timor-Leste in understanding and implementing its commitments under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), in line with the national implementation workplan currently being developed, while strengthening its understanding of the AEC's structures and processes.

2. Background:

Following its accession as the 11th member of ASEAN, Timor-Leste is obligated to align policies and practices with ASEAN commitments across all pillars, including those of the AEC.

3. Activities:

- a) Co-developing, contributing to, and participating in workshops in November 2025 and February 2026
- b) Co-ordinating with the international community on needs identified in the AEC implementation workplan
- c) Developing capacity-building workshops in line with the identified needs

Policy Implications

Aligning Timor-Leste policies and practices with its commitments to ASEAN under the AEC

Partner Organisation(s)

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Timor-Leste
- Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Timor-Leste

Workshop on Empowering Lao Women Entrepreneurs through Intellectual Property and Smart Exports



Jeremy Gross, Lina Maulidina

Summary

1. Purpose:

This project aims to close the ‘value gap’ for Lao women entrepreneurs by turning intellectual property (IP) from a perceived legal hurdle into a strategic business asset. By linking IP protection with export readiness, the initiative seeks to enable women-led MSMEs and disability-inclusive businesses to achieve premium pricing and enhance their competitiveness in global markets, especially within ASEAN and Australia.

2. Background:

Lao women play a crucial role in sectors such as handicrafts, agriculture, and manufacturing, but their presence in the formal IP system is limited. As a result, many high-quality local products are marketed as generic goods rather than under recognised brands. This initiative supports the Ministry of Industry and Commerce Development Plan (2026–2030), which aims to achieve 10% annual trade growth and increase the share of women-led enterprises to 50%. This project also promotes the implementation of the upgraded ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) by helping local SMEs access tariff benefits and IP protection systems.

3. Activities:

This 1.5-day Capacity Building Workshop and half-day excursion in Luang Prabang Province brought together 50 women entrepreneurs and government officials from four provinces. Day 1 featured eight sessions on IP tools, the IP–export connection, opportunities for free trade agreements under AANZFTA and RCEP, trademark registration, export finance, trade policy, a Training-of-Trainers (ToT) segment for officials of the Department of Intellectual Property, and a panel discussion. Day 2 offered a practical IP Audit and Commercialisation Clinic, featuring five specialist booths providing on-the-spot consultations on branding, packaging, geographical indications (GI) eligibility, and trademark design. The event concluded with a closing ceremony and a study visit to Luang Prabang’s top craft entrepreneurs.



Policy Implications

The project supports the implementation of the MOIC Development Plan 2026–2030 by facilitating the integration of informal businesses into the export sector; promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion for women and people with disabilities under AANZFTA and RCEP; turning DIP officials into proactive trade advisors; and helping Lao MSMEs achieve higher value through strategic branding and IP protection.

To date, the project has achieved the following:

- A total of 50 people with disabilities, entrepreneurs, and DIP staff members trained in Luang Prabang, with opportunities to consult with IP specialists.
- Ten new trademark registrations were secured for women entrepreneurs and people with disabilities.
- Around 5–10 DIP officials participated in ToT and are equipped to share this knowledge further with communities.
- Awareness of how IP supports export pricing and branding has increased.

Partner Organisation(s)

Department of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR



PED under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship 2026 – ASEAN Centre of Excellence for MSMEs (ACE-MSMEs)



Anna Robeniol, Dionisius A. Narjoko, Megawati

Summary

1. Purpose:

This project aims to provide ASEAN Member States (AMS), through ACCMSME, with an evidence-based assessment on whether ASEAN requires a new institutional mechanism such as the ASEAN Centre of Excellence for MSMEs (ACE-MSMEs), or whether existing ASEAN mechanisms can be strengthened to better support MSMEs. The study focuses on improving the visibility, accessibility, and utilisation of existing ASEAN MSME support initiatives while ensuring non-duplication and alignment with ASEAN processes.

2. Background:

ASEAN has developed multiple MSME support initiatives, including the ASEAN SME Academy, ASEAN Access, and the ASEAN Mentorship for Entrepreneurs Network (AMEN). However, these initiatives currently operate through multiple entry points, creating challenges for MSMEs in identifying relevant services, navigating available resources, and accessing support efficiently. AMS have emphasised the need to improve co-ordination and integration while avoiding duplication of existing institutional mandates. The Philippines, as ASEAN Chair, proposed exploring the establishment of ACE-MSMEs as a potential solution, which prompted this feasibility and scoping study.

3. Activities:

The feasibility study will be implemented through three main workstreams:

- a) **MSME Problem Definition:** Identifying barriers to regional internationalisation and cross-border expansion. This includes understanding the user journey and the practical difficulties MSMEs face when trying to access regional opportunities, particularly in finding trusted business partners, obtaining market information, and accessing trade support services. This workstream will also assess whether fragmented access and co-ordination across existing initiatives is a key constraint and whether stronger integration would provide clear value-added solutions. To ensure the findings reflect real business needs, this phase will involve focus group discussions, consultations, and validation workshops with MSMEs, business associations, trade agencies, and other ecosystem stakeholders.



- b) Ecosystem Mapping: Reviewing existing ASEAN-level and national MSME support initiatives, centres, platforms, and programmes. The objective is to better understand the current support landscape by identifying overlaps, complementarities, gaps, and existing access pathways across ASEAN. This workstream will produce an inventory matrix that consolidates key information on these initiatives, drawing on data and inputs provided by the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Member States.
- c) Options assessment: Evaluating potential models to strengthen ASEAN MSME support without duplicating existing initiatives. This includes assessing how a potential physical ASEAN MSME Centre could connect with MSME hubs across AMS, while also exploring a complementary online platform that would make ASEAN resources easier to access. The study will identify the most suitable co-ordination model by ensuring that any proposed arrangement enhances integration and accessibility rather than creating parallel structures. The assessment will be guided by key criteria, including value-added, non-duplication, resilience and readiness, sustainability, and alignment with ASEAN principles and priorities.

Policy Implications

- Providing ASEAN Member States with evidence-based recommendations on improving co-ordination across existing MSME initiatives
- Identifying practical pathways to improve MSME access to regional services without creating duplication
- Supporting ACCMSME in determining whether ACE-MSMEs should be established, redesigned as a virtual/network-based model, or replaced by strengthened existing mechanisms
- Contributing to the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for MSME Development (SAP MSMED) 2026–2030

Partner Organisation(s)

- ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME)
- ASEAN Secretariat
- Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Philippines
- Canada Mission to ASEAN (through ASEAN-Canada Plan of Action Trust Fund)
- U.S. Mission to ASEAN
- ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC)



Summary

1. Purpose:

The ERIA School of Government (SoG) aims to provide a dedicated platform to discuss global geopolitical developments and contemporary challenges from a Southeast Asian perspective. This initiative seeks to ensure that ASEAN Member States and their regional partners play an active role in shaping the geopolitical framework in this era of transformation. Through the ERIA–ASEAN AOIP Lecture Series, the SoG seeks to strengthen ASEAN’s agency in shaping regional and global narratives and reinforce the Indo-Pacific as a strategic space for dialogue, co-operation, and inclusive engagement. By convening high-level leaders, policymakers, and distinguished experts from across the region and beyond, the lecture series strives to position ASEAN as a central hub for strategic conversations on regional and global developments while facilitating constructive engagement with external partners.

2. Background:

Anchored in the principles of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), which was set out in 2019, the regional framework has now gained renewed strategic importance in light of great power competition and the instability in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The Indo-Pacific region has benefited from relative peace and stability, hence the time has come to set the norms and approaches that the Indo-Pacific region has carefully designed and implemented while addressing the key challenge to uphold and to enhance our regional stability and resilience collectively.

The lecture series promotes ASEAN’s approach of openness, inclusiveness, dialogue, co-operation, and mutual respect, while broadening discussions beyond narratives centred primarily on major power competition. The initiative aims to amplify regional perspectives and encourage open, outward-looking engagements with key Indo-Pacific partners. Through keynote lectures and interactive discussions, the ERIA–ASEAN AOIP Lecture Series provides opportunities to deepen understanding of regional dynamics, exchange diverse perspectives, and build policy-relevant communities capable of addressing contemporary geopolitical challenges.

The inaugural lecture was delivered by H.E. Kao Kim Hourn on 9 July, Secretary General of ASEAN, whose leadership has reinforced ASEAN’s principles of openness, inclusiveness, and dialogue amidst challenging times.



3. Period:

The ERIA–ASEAN AOIP Lecture Series is organised periodically as part of the ERIA SoG's leadership and policy dialogue initiatives.

4. Activities:

The ERIA SoG organises lectures and policy dialogues under the ERIA–ASEAN AOIP Lecture Series, bringing together leaders, policymakers, diplomats, academics, and experts from across the region and beyond to discuss key geopolitical and strategic issues affecting ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific region.

Policy Implications

The ERIA–ASEAN AOIP Lecture Series is expected to strengthen ASEAN's centrality and strategic agency in shaping discussions on the Indo-Pacific region. Through high-level policy dialogues, the initiative will promote the principles of the AOIP, facilitate policy exchange amongst regional stakeholders, strengthen engagement with external partners, and contribute to regional understanding, co-operation, and resilience in addressing emerging geopolitical and strategic challenges.



Summary

1. Purpose:

The ERIA Executive Training programme serves as the school's core intellectual engine and a networking hub for Southeast Asian public policy experts. It aims to enhance resilience, stimulate growth, and drive transformative governance practices in the region by facilitating the exchange of best practices and bridging the gap between research and practical application.

2. Background:

The ERIA School of Government (SoG) is dedicated to bridging countries across the region and connecting generations through the sharing of governance and leadership experiences. To pursue this mission, SoG is establishing a network of high-level mentors who will serve as lecturers and advisors for its executive seminars, public forums, and fellowship programmes.

3. Period:

The programme facilitates ongoing dialogue, including monthly leadership forums.

4. Activities:

The ERIA SoG organises executive training programmes, workshops, high-level policy dialogues, roundtables, forums, and expert seminars to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity development on strategic policy issues. It also convenes stakeholder engagement meetings that bring together policymakers, government officials, academics, researchers, and industry leaders to discuss emerging challenges and opportunities. Furthermore, the programme promotes collaboration amongst government agencies, research institutions, universities, and private-sector partners to strengthen regional co-operation, share best practices, and contribute to evidence-based policymaking across Southeast Asia and beyond.

Recent and upcoming activities include:

- a) Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB)–ERIA Microcredential Project
- b) ERIA–ITB master's degree programme
- c) ERIA critical minerals workshop and executive roundtable
- d) Timor-Leste training programme series in preparation for ASEAN Chairship and national strategic planning



- e) Facilitation of dialogue between BRIN and JST on strengthening science and technology co-operation on 5 March 2026
- f) Facilitation of Indonesia–National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) dialogue on advanced technology and research collaboration with the Chairman of BRIN, Vice Minister of Industry of Indonesia, and Dr Haruhiko Obara (Senior Vice-President at AIST) on 5 March 2026
- g) Semiconductor policy dialogue with Fujitsu Japan, Sakana AI, and NTT Data Japan on 21 November 2025
- h) Semiconductor policy dialogue with Micron Japan, Sumco Kubara Plant, and The Bank of Fukuoka on 20 November 2025
- i) Semiconductor policy dialogue with NEC Corporation on 19 November 2025 with Prof. Kazumi Nishikawa (Deputy Director-General for Economic Security and Deputy Director-General for Semiconductor, Information Policy at METI), H.E. Nezar Patria (Indonesian Deputy Minister of Communications and Digital Affairs), and H.E. Faisol Riza (Indonesian Deputy Minister of Industry)
- j) 2nd ERIA–APRC Workshop on Biomanufacturing on 30 October 2025, in collaboration with the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Asia-Pacific Research Center (APRC)
- k) Executive Roundtable on Regional Co-operation in Technology and Security on 15 October 2025 with Former Minister of Defence of Indonesia and Mr Osamu Nishiwaki, Director General for Trade and Economic Security at METI
- l) Seminar on Indonesia's Role in the Cambodia Peace Process on 29 April 2025
- m) High-Level Executive Roundtable on Semiconductor Policy on 11 April 2025
- n) High-level Policy Dialogue on Semiconductor Co-operation and AI Roadmap with H.E. Nezar Patria (Indonesian Deputy Minister of Communication and Digital Affairs) on 11 April 2025

Policy Implications

- Delivering executive training programmes and workshops to enhance participants' professional competencies, leadership capabilities, and policy-related skillsets
- Establishing the ERIA SoG as a premier intellectual hub connecting Southeast Asian and East Asian mentors, policymakers, and public policy experts
- Strengthening regional networks and fostering critical dialogue amongst government officials, academics, business leaders, and civil society representatives on key policy challenges
- Contributing to evidence-based policymaking and regional co-operation through the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and policy insights



Related ERIA Publications

ERIA (2025a), 'ERIA School of Government Hosts Second High-Level Executive Roundtable on Semiconductors', *ERIA*, 11 April. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-school-of-government-hosts-second-high-level-executive-roundtable-on-semiconductors>

ERIA (2025b), 'ERIA Highlights Indonesia's Key Role in Cambodia's Peace Process and ASEAN Stability', *ERIA*, 29 April. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-highlights-indonesia%E2%80%99s-key-role-in-cambodia%E2%80%99s-peace-process-and-asean-stability>

ERIA (2025c), 'ERIA School of Government Hosts Executive Roundtable on Regional Cooperation in Technology and Security', *ERIA*, 15 October. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-school-of-government-hosts-executive-roundtable-on-regional-cooperation-in-technology-and-security>

ERIA (2025d), 'ERIA School of Government Co-organises 2nd ERIA-APRC Workshop on Biomanufacturing', *ERIA*, 30 October. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-school-of-government-co-organises-2nd-eria%E2%80%93aprc-workshop-on-biomanufacturing>

ERIA (2025e), 'ERIA School of Government Hosts Inaugural ERIA Collaborative Partnership Forum on Biomanufacturing', *ERIA*, 31 October. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-school-of-government-hosts-inaugural-eria-collaborative-partnership-forum-on-biomanufacturing>

ERIA (2025f), 'ERIA School of Government Convenes 2nd Semiconductor Policy Dialogue with NEC Corporation', *ERIA*, 19 November. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-school-of-government-convenes-2nd-semiconductor-policy-dialogue-with-nec-corporation>

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ERIA (2025i), 'ERIA School of Government Features Degas in 3rd Round of Semiconductor Policy Dialogue', *ERIA*, 19 November. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-school-of-government-features-degas-in-3rd-round-of-semiconductor-policy-dialogue>



ERIA (2025j), 'ERIA School of Government Holds 7th Semiconductor Policy Dialogue at Micron Memory Japan in Higashi-Hiroshima', *ERIA*, 20 November. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-school-of-government-holds-7th-semiconductor-policy-dialogue-at-micron-memory-japan-in-higashi-hiroshima>

ERIA (2025k), 'ERIA School of Government Visits SUMCO Kubara Plant for 5th Round of Semiconductor Policy Dialogue', *ERIA*, 20 November. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-school-of-government-visits-sumco-kubara-plant-for-5th-round-of-semiconductor-policy-dialogue>

ERIA (2026a), 'ERIA SoG Facilitates Dialogue Between BRIN and JST on Strengthening Science and Technology Co-operation', *ERIA*, 5 March. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-sog-facilitates-dialogue-between-brin-and-jst-on-strengthening-science-and-technology-co-operation>

ERIA (2026b), 'ERIA SoG Facilitates Indonesia–AIST Dialogue on Advanced Technology and Research Collaboration', *ERIA*, 5 March. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-sog-facilitates-indonesia%E2%80%93aist-dialogue-on-advanced-technology-and-research-collaboration>

ERIA (2026c), 'ERIA SoG Facilitates Semiconductor Talks Between Indonesia's Industry Ministry and SUMCO', *ERIA*, 5 March. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-sog-facilitates-semiconductor-talks-between-indonesia-s-industry-ministry-and-sumco>

ERIA (2026d), 'ERIA SoG Facilitates Dialogue Between Indonesia and Japan's METI on Industrial and Tech Co-operation', *ERIA*, 6 March. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-sog-facilitates-dialogue-between-indonesia-and-japan-s-meti-on-industrial-and-tech-co-operation>



Summary

1. Purpose:

The ERIA School of Government (SoG) invites fellows to join a growing community of experts committed to addressing regional public policy challenges in ASEAN and East Asia. Based in Jakarta and working closely with ERIA's researchers and partners, the ERIA SoG work closely with the ASEAN Secretariat to cultivate expertise in ASEAN and regional affairs. This fellowship aims to establish and strengthen a network of policy professionals dedicated to advancing shared public interests and supporting community-building across Southeast Asia and East Asia.

2. Background:

The ERIA SoG serves as a hub for networking, supporting the creation of a strong public policy community across Southeast Asia and East Asia. In doing so, the SoG seeks to widen the horizon for the world to learn from Southeast Asia by identifying and nurturing regional interests, elevating the region's policy ideas and governance experience in international policy discourse, and positioning Southeast Asia as a meaningful reference point for governance and public policy practice.

3. Period:

The fellowship term is 3–11 months between 1 October 2026 and 31 August 2027.

4. Eligibility

Candidates must:

- a) hold a doctoral degree or higher (for academic individuals) or have at least 10 years of experience as a government official (for professionals);
- b) demonstrate proficiency in written and spoken English;
- c) be open to all nationalities with research interests addressing regional issues in ASEAN and East Asia; and
- d) demonstrate policy-relevant experience and/or knowledge in government, academia, think tanks, international organisations, or similar institutions.

5. Activities

Fellows will conduct research on key public policy issues and regional governance. They will also collaborate with ERIA's partners, including government agencies, academic institutions, and policy think tanks.



Recent activities include:

- a) ERIA School of Government Third Public Seminar and Final Fellowship Presentation on 5 June 2026
- b) ERIA School of Government Inaugural Public Seminar and Final Fellowship Presentation on 15 January 2026
- c) ERIA School of Government Fellowship Dialogue and Networking Event on 15 January 2026
- d) ERIA SoG 4th Research Seminar with Fellow on 1 December 2025
- e) ERIA SoG 3rd Research Seminar with Fellow on 12 November 2025
- f) ERIA SoG 2nd Research Seminar with Fellow on 10 November 2025
- g) ERIA SoG Research Seminar with Fellow on 29 October 2025

Policy Implications

A community of ERIA Fellows equipped to advance solutions to regional policy challenges

Related ERIA Publications

ERIA (2026a), 'ERIA School of Government Hosts Fellowship Dialogue and Networking Event', *ERIA*, 15 January. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-school-of-government-hosts-fellowship-dialogue-and-networking-event>

ERIA (2026b), 'ERIA School of Government Holds Inaugural Public Seminar and Final Fellowship Presentation', *ERIA*, 15 January. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-school-of-government-holds-inaugural-public-seminar-and-final-fellowship-presentation>

ERIA (2026c), 'Call for Applicants: ERIA School of Government Fellowship 2026', *ERIA Call for Proposals*, 18 March. <https://www.eria.org/research/call-for-applicants--eria-school-of-government-fellowship-batch-2>

ERIA (2026d), 'ERIA School of Government Seminar Examines Intellectual Property as a Driver of Export Competitiveness', *ERIA*, 5 June. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-school-of-government-seminar-examines-intellectual-property-as-a-driver-of-export-competitiveness>



ERIA Leadership Forum/Dialogue

Nobuhiro Aizawa



Summary

1. Purpose:

The ERIA School of Government (SoG) aims to foster high-level dialogue on governance, leadership, diplomacy, and public policy in Southeast Asia. Through leadership lectures, dialogues, and public forums, the SoG provides a platform for thought leadership, policy exchange, and the preservation of Southeast Asia's institutional memory, while strengthening ERIA's role in shaping regional and global policy discussions.

2. Background:

Southeast Asia's governance landscape has undergone significant transformations driven by political transitions, economic integration, and evolving regional and global dynamics. As the region faces increasingly complex challenges, there is a growing need for platforms that enable sustained dialogue amongst policymakers, scholars, business leaders, and civil society representatives.

The SoG addresses this need by convening distinguished leaders and practitioners from ASEAN and beyond. Through its Leadership Lecture Series and related initiatives, the SoG serves as a hub for knowledge exchange, leadership development, and policy dialogue, contributing to more informed decision-making and stronger regional co-operation.

3. Period:

Leadership Lectures and/or dialogue sessions will be organised periodically to sustain these exchanges.

4. Activities

The SoG organises Leadership Lectures, dialogues, and public forums on governance and public policy issues of regional and global significance. These activities bring together diplomatic representatives, government officials, academics, business leaders, and civil society actors to exchange of best practices and experiences.

Recent activities include:

- a) The Fourth ERIA Leadership Lecture delivered by H.E. José Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, on 2 June 2026



- b) The Third ERIA Leadership Lecture delivered by H.E. Abhisit Vejjajiva, 27th Prime Minister of Thailand, on 22 October 2025
- c) The ERIA School of Government Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Aceh Peace Agreement, held on 13–15 August 2025

Policy Implications

- Facilitation of regular high-level leadership forums that foster policy dialogue and collaborative approaches to public policy challenges
- Preservation of Southeast Asia's Institutional memory by sharing leaders' best practices and experiences

Related ERIA Publications

ERIA (2024), 'With ERIA, SBY Shares the Practical Steps that Secured Lasting Peace in Aceh', *ERIA*, 15 August. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/with-eria,-sby-shares-the-practical-steps-that-secured-lasting-peace-in-aceh>

ERIA (2025a), 'ERIA School of Government Marks 20 Years of the Aceh Peace Agreement, Highlights Lessons Learned and Future Challenges', *ERIA*, 13 August. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-school-of-government-marks-20-years-of-the-aceh-peace-agreement,-highlights-lessons-learned-and-future-challenges>

ERIA (2025b), 'ERIA School of Government Highlights the Role of Peacekeepers Beyond the Negotiating Table', *ERIA*, 14 August. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/eria-school-of-government-highlights-the-role-of-peacekeepers-beyond-the-negotiating-table>

ERIA (2025c), 'ERIA Highlights Thailand's Political Journey through Leadership Lecture with H.E. Abhisit Vejjajiva, 27th Prime Minister of Thailand', *ERIA*, 22 October. <https://www.eria.org/news-and-views/eria-highlights-thailand-s-political-journey-through-leadership-lecture-with-h.e.-abhisit-vejjajiva--27th-prime-minister-of-thailand>

ERIA (2026), 'President José Ramos-Horta Reflects on Peacebuilding and ASEAN's Future at ERIA Leadership Lecture', *ERIA*, 2 June. <https://www.eria.org/database-and-programmes/president-jos%C3%A9-ramos-horta-reflects-on-peacebuilding-and-asean-s-future-at-eria-leadership-lecture>



Summary

1. Purpose:

The ERIA School of Government (SoG) will act as ASEAN and East Asia's institutional memory tank/knowledge bank for public policy. It aims to enhance global recognition of East and Southeast Asian public policy knowledge, practices, and experiences by addressing the gap in institutional memory within Southeast Asian public policy. This institutional memory will serve as a platform to shape the public policy narrative, grounded in the regional context, and to share wisdom across generations.

Through its unique positioning as part of ERIA, the SoG offers a platform to elevate the region's voice in global public policy discourse. It is committed to enhancing the global recognition of Southeast Asian and East Asia policy approaches, leadership practices, and innovations in governance by showcasing region-specific experiences that are often overlooked in mainstream global policy dialogues.

2. Background:

The SoG believes that effective and future-ready governance must be informed by the past. As such, the SoG is dedicated to curating and sharing stories of leadership, resilience, and policy innovation that have defined the region's development. By doing so, it seeks to foster intergenerational learning, inspire future leaders, and inform policy decisions with contextual depth and historical insight.

3. Activities:

- a) To carry out oral history projects featuring the region's public policy leaders, documenting and preserving firsthand accounts from prominent public figures and policymakers in ASEAN and East Asia
- b) To publish oral history records and research results for global audiences through reports, interviews, digital archives, and academic publications accessible to both regional and global audiences
- c) To conduct and organise research on regional public policies

Policy Implications

To design feasible and effective policies for the region, a fundamental knowledge base is needed – an institutional memory. This memory will be built by sufficiently documenting publications, knowledge resources, and past regional governance initiatives.



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SUMMARY OF ERIA PROJECT ACTIVITIES 2026



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