
Capacity Building Programme



In 2018, the Capacity Building Programme (CBP), which was initiated as a stand-alone programme in 2014 through a generous grant from the Government of Australia, completed its first cycle of funding. ERIA is now pleased to be implementing a follow-up programme with a new grant from the Australian Government. This consistent funding has allowed ERIA's Capacity Building Programme to become an important outreach tool by which ERIA can interact closely with government officials from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam to share our research and expertise.



In 2018, the CBP was pleased to develop two special events. The first was the joint 'ERIA-AIPA Dialogue: Parliamentarians Supporting the 'Quiet Revolution' for Better Regulatory Governance.' Held in Jakarta, 19-20 April 2018, this was the first joint activity with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), with which ERIA signed a Memorandum of Understanding in December 2016.

The objective of the Dialogue was to increase awareness about good regulatory practices (GRP) and non-tariff measures (NTMs) and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) amongst parliamentarians from ASEAN Member States. The Dialogue gives parliamentarians an opportunity to discuss their roles in the implementation and supervision of GRP and NTMs in their respective countries. The workshop was opened by Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, the President of ERIA; H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, the Secretary General of ASEAN; and Hon. Mr. Isra Sunthornvut, the Secretary General of AIPA.

The second special event the CBP organised was at the request of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR. This was for a workshop on, 'Ways Forward to Develop Industrial Parks and Special Economic Zones in Lao PDR.' The workshop, held in Vientiane on 8 February 2019, was organised to increase government understanding of business sector needs to make industrial parks and special economic zones successful. Speakers at the event included representatives of the national and international private sector, with the latter also offering comparative experience from elsewhere in the region.

The ERIA CBP was pleased to be invited to contribute to two events and facilitate one other. The first it was asked to contribute to, at the request of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Cambodia, was their, 'National Workshop on Addressing NTMs and NTR for Greater Asian Economic Integration.' This was held in November 2018 for around 60 government officials from a range of line ministries. Then in March 2019, ERIA was asked to participate



in a workshop co-organised by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and MOIT entitled, 'Capacity Building on Domestic Consultation in RFAs/FTA Negotiations.'

On behalf of the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT), Viet Nam, ERIA was asked to facilitate a workshop on, 'Utilisation of Free trade Agreements: Impact on the Economy and Industries of Viet Nam'. This two-day workshop was held in December 2018 for around 25 participants.

In 2018, the CBP was pleased to contribute to ERIA's publication, 'Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens: Country Studies' through its collaboration

with the Research Department. This publication, which highlights case studies from around ASEAN, showcases the RURB methodology, with both the challenges and achievements of applying the RURB approach to reducing the regulatory burdens on business. The book provides a practical overview for policy makers on this experience.

The remaining 14 activities the CBP organised over the year, which reached out to around 170 government officials and 50 from the business sector, fell into one of two components. Highlights include:

Component 1: Participation in Research

Integrating government officials in research alongside national and international academics allows officials to gain a strong understanding of the complexity of issues, exchange data, promote a policy focus to the study, and network with peers from the region and beyond. In FY2018, officials continued their participation in two ERIA studies started in FY2016.

1) Global Production Value Chain, Cities and Urban Amenities: Implications for Services Trade Liberalisation in East Asia and ASEAN

This research looks at the relationship between the growth of cities, trade, and global production value chains – key to understanding how cities can become the focal point for trade, investment, and the services liberalisation required to support it. At the third workshop of this study, held in October 2017, academics presented their research findings, which government officials were asked to comment on, as well as discuss policy issues and implications for their own countries.

2) Stakeholder Engagement Workshop on roadmaps for disaster Resilience and Climate change Adaptation

Concerted efforts are needed to address the issue of climate change-induced disasters and their impact on socio-economic development, health, and the environment. At this follow-up workshop, held in August 2018, participants shared drafts of their national roadmaps for disaster resilience.

Component 2: Increased Research Capacity

1) Policy Modelling Workshop Series

The year ended with final events for the workshop series, 'Sustainable Development and Policy Modelling' in which around 40 young officials from Cambodia and Lao PDR refined their skills to undertake policy modelling, employing methodologies such as gravity modelling, quasi incentive, and difference of difference modelling. The officials were divided into groups, with each group tasked to conduct research on topics set by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Cambodia and the Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao PDR. At final events in each country in May 2018, prizes were awarded to the best studies.

In November 2018, a new series of policy modelling, under the theme, 'Inclusive and Sustainable Development in an Open Economy' began for officials in Cambodia.

