

# FOREWORD

---

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) is very pleased to present the *Brussels Report on Strengthening ASEM Connectivity: Drawing Synergy from Development Programmes and Global Governance* to the Leaders of the Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM), who are assembled in Brussels for the 12th ASEM Summit on 18–19 October 2018.

ERIA was a forerunner of connectivity-related studies in the ASEAN region. It has worked very closely with ASEAN and the East Asia Summit to develop the concept of holistic connectivity, which takes into account the physical, institutional, and people’s aspects of connectivity in a community or region. Our connectivity-related research is also helping closer economic cooperation between Asia and Africa, and Asia and Europe.

It gives me great pleasure to share this expertise, through this report, with the wider ASEM community. The Brussels Report has brought out a new paradigm of connectivity in which ASEM connectivity mechanisms are interlinked with sustainable development programmes and global governance mechanisms. We hope that this book will help the ASEM Leaders prepare the road map for ASEM Connectivity beyond 2018.

After 22 years of existence, there is every reason for ASEM to strengthen the group’s efforts in bringing the people of Asia and Europe closer together, and to integrate the two regions as deeply as possible. To help achieve this, ERIA will remain committed to providing all possible support and expertise that may be required to make ASEM a more responsive and creative platform for connectivity between Asia and Europe.

I believe that this book will contribute to the success of the 12th ASEM Summit in Brussels.



**Hidetoshi Nishimura**

President

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia