

Acknowledgements

At the bilateral meeting held in September 2016, we agreed to form the follow-up mechanism of the report *Lao PDR at the Crossroads: Industrial Development Strategies 2016–2030* that was published and submitted to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) in June 2016. With the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), and other relevant agencies, such as the Embassy of Japan in the Lao PDR, this follow-up mechanism aims to discuss how the MOIC is implementing the policy recommendations presented in *Lao PDR at the Crossroads* to realise the Eighth Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016–2020).

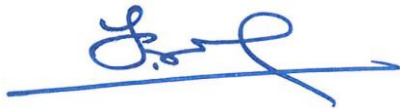
So far, ERIA and the MOIC have held five workshops attended by the organisations mentioned above, and have conducted follow-up activities to establish four working groups in the following areas: (i) agriculture and food processing, (ii) labour-intensive industries, (iii) small and medium-sized enterprises, and (iv) industrial estates. This project report, which is one of the most important deliverables produced by the ERIA and MOIC team, focuses strongly on the Lao PDR's advantages, bottlenecks, and plausible policies in each industrial sector based on solid analyses and observations. It provides ideas to help policy makers implement measures and programmes, as well as useful guidance for aid agencies that are cooperating to work with the Government of the Lao PDR.

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