

ERIA 10th Anniversary

Mr Toshihiro Nikai, Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, proposed to establish a think tank called 'Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).'

The formal establishment of ERIA was agreed upon by all the leaders of the East Asia Summit at the Third East Asia Summit (EAS) in Singapore on 21 November 2007.



- On 3 June 2018 at ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, 16 EAS founding members – ASEAN 10 plus six (Australia, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand)- and Surin Pitsuwan, the then Secretary-General of ASEAN, attended an inaugural board meeting.
- EAS Energy Outlook and Energy Saving Potential was prepared (after 2008, the EAS energy outlook and energy saving potential has been updating every year until 2015 and after that updating every two years).

2006

2007

2008



2018



2017



2016

- ERIA Information Centre was established.
- Project on "ASEAN Vision 2040" was launched.
- ERIA celebrated its 10th anniversary with the Economic Ministers on the sideline of the 50th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting.
- MoU between ERIA and Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) was signed off.

- ERIA published a five-volume book set on the making, substance and future of ASEAN to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN.
- ERIA helped the Philippines and the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee (ATF-JCC) with development of the ASEAN Seamless Trade Facilitation Indicators (ASTFI).
- The EAS Mid-term Energy Policy Research Roadmap supported by ERIA was welcomed by the EAS Leaders.
- MoU between ERIA and Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF)

- Policy Design Department was established.
- ERIA published "Lao PDR at the Crossroads: Industrial Development Strategies 2016-2030."
- MoU between ERIA and ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) was signed off.

- ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Scorecard project for monitoring and review of AEC Blueprint 2015 started.
- ERIA was appreciated by the EAS Leaders for the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP).
- ERIA worked with ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) for the first Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC).



2010



2015

- ERIA submitted "CADP 2.0" to the EAS.
- ERIA worked with ASEC on the project, "Framing the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Post 2015."
- ERIA published ASEAN Public Private Partnership Guidelines.
- ERIA published the Southeast Asia Energy Outlook 2015 in collaboration with IEA.

ERIA started the development of an ASEAN SME Policy Index with OECD and ASEAN SMEWG.



2011



2014

- The Energy Research Institute Network (ERIN) was established.
- ERIA published "ASEAN Rising: ASEAN and AEC Beyond 2015."
- ERIA, OECD and ASEAN SMEWG published ASEAN SME Policy Index 2014.
- ERIA started to develop a comprehensive and public database of Non-tariff Measures (NTMs) with UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- MoU between ERIA and OECD was signed off.

- The Energy Unit was established.
- Executive Summary of Mid-term Review of the Implementation of AEC Blueprint was published.
- ERIA was identified as one of the institutions to implement the initiatives for ASEAN in close consultation with EAS participating countries (Phnom Penh Declaration).



2012



2013

- The first East Asia Energy Outlook was published in collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- ERIA supported Myanmar to develop the Myanmar Comprehensive Development Vision.



ERIA Holds the 11th Governing Board Meeting and Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

25 May 2018 | Jakarta, Indonesia

ERIA's 11th Governing Board (GB) meeting was of significance because of the re-appointment of Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura as the President of ERIA for 2018 to 2023 – Prof Nishimura was unanimously re-elected to lead ERIA for the third time – and the appointment of the new Chairperson of the ERIA Governing Board, Mr Adrian Cristobal, replacing Hon. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, who now serves as the Secretary General of ASEAN. Mr Cristobal is the President of SteelAsia Manufacturing Corp. of the Philippines and previously served as ERIA's Governor from 2014 to 2016.

During the afternoon session, the Governors were joined by Ambassadors to ASEAN for presentations on several of ERIA's key projects. ERIA's Chief Economist, Prof Fukunari Kimura; ERIA's Senior Policy Fellow, Tan Sri Dr Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria; and ERIA's Senior Policy Fellow for Energy and Environment Prof Jun Arima briefed the diplomatic corps on ERIA's future projects as well as on issues related to the international economy, including the future of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The meeting was followed by all participants joining a celebration for ERIA's 10th Anniversary with a gala dinner and music performance at Motion Blue, Jakarta.

Ministers Celebrate ERIA's 10th Anniversary

30 July 2018 | Singapore, Singapore

ERIA celebrated its 10th anniversary with the Economic Ministers and representatives as well as ASEAN Secretary General, Hon Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, at a cake cutting ceremony on 30 August at Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore.

In his opening remarks, Prof Nishimura expressed his gratitude for the Ministers' ongoing support of ERIA's activities and for celebrating the institute's 10th anniversary. He also thanked Dato Lim Jock Hoi for his guidance during his 6 years as Chair of ERIA's Governing Board. Dato Lim Jock Hoi congratulated ERIA on being recognised as an important think tank globally and emphasised that ERIA is an important partner of ASEAN.

The Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore, H.E. Chan Chun Sing, expressed his appreciation for ERIA's research, especially on the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, the five-volume book marking ASEAN's 50th anniversary, studies on trade facilitation such as the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Index (ASTFI), and the NTM database.

H.E. Hiroshige Seko, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan also expressed his respect for Prof Nishimura and ERIA's 'tireless efforts' to achieve its three guiding objectives – deepening economic integration, narrowing development gaps, and sustainable economic development.

ERIA Holds 10th Anniversary Symposium in Tokyo

18 October 2018

ERIA held the 10th Anniversary Symposium at Imperial Hotel Tokyo, Japan on 18 October 2018.

In his opening remarks, ERIA's President, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura expressed his sincere gratitude to ERIA's stakeholders and partners, especially the Government of Japan, that had made substantial contributions to ERIA's development in the last 10 years as an international organisation – the 'OECD of East Asia'.

Tan Sri Datuk Dr Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria, Senior Policy Fellow of ERIA and former Secretary General of Malaysia's Ministry of International Trade and Industry, moderated the panel discussion entitled 'ERIA's 10th Anniversary: Achievements and Future Prospects'. The three distinguished panelists were very familiar with ERIA's activities and provided interesting points of discussion and suggestion for ERIA going forward.

The first panelist, Tan Sri Rafidah binti Aziz, Former Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia, shed light on global and regional level changes that happened in the last decade in the economic and social environments. The changes have altered the course of policies, steering many countries towards isolationism and protectionism, exemplified by looming trade wars between great powers. She showed her intriguing view that 'irrational decision making' particularly of developed economies, i.e. not necessarily based on sound economic principles, has generated the current economic distortions across borders

and has negatively affected investment and trade of the world. Amid such unanticipated events, she stressed the critical role of ERIA to promptly present well-considered policy recommendations regarding measures that can be taken to promote economic integration in cooperation with regional policymakers. She also described the necessity of starting to nurture younger generations as soon as possible so that they can understand the importance of regional economic integration in East Asia.

The second speaker, Mr Adrian S. Cristobal Jr., is the Chairman of ERIA's Governing Board and Former Secretary of Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines. He expressed his admiration for ERIA's strenuous efforts to expand its research horizon to energy, agriculture, health care, and other topics, while at the same time organising many high-level roundtables, symposiums, and workshops. ERIA's efforts had resulted in its recognition as the 24th Top International Economic Policy Think Tank according to the Global Go To Think Tank Index published by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania. He emphasised ERIA's unique ability to help form consensus of policies in East Asia through dialogue and discussion with leaders, ministers, and high-level officials. On the other hand, he pointed to necessary reforms ERIA has to undertake to catch up with changes in intellectual and social situations. Concretely, he emphasised that ERIA needs to do further work to bridge various gaps between academic knowledge, practical policymaking, and people in general, as well as produce innovative policies that improve the whole of society and reduce poverty.



Prof Fukunari Kimura, Chief Economist of ERIA, was the last person in the panel to speak. He expressed his preparedness to cooperate with policymakers to resolve many economic and social problems in East Asia. As he explained, ERIA's researchers have provided much academic input to shed light on real issues such as economic integration, non-tariff measures, technology spillovers, infrastructure connectivity, small and medium enterprise promotion, digital economies, energy, and health care, most of which is published as discussion papers, policy briefs, and newspaper articles. He showed his sense of pride in having helped to gradually enhance the capacity of regional researchers involved with various ERIA projects over the years. Giving examples of possible cooperation with the countries that act as ASEAN Chair, he concluded that ERIA will need to continue working closely together with policymakers while improving the quality of its academic research.

H.E. Mr. Tadahiko Ito, Member of the House of Representatives in the Japanese Diet, Former Vice Minister of the Environment, and Former Minister of State for Disaster Management, delivered his special remarks after the panel discussion. He talked about his experience in proposing the Japan-ASEAN Environment Cooperation Initiative in 2017 in association with ERIA to address environmental issues such as air and water pollution, waste management, and urbanisation in ASEAN. He underlined the significance of encouraging ASEAN to realise a circular and sustainable society with the support of ERIA. He also showed his determination to continue his commitment to ERIA as a member of the ERIA Parliament League.

In the discussion session the panelists highlighted the importance of connectivity to develop a mindset of unity of ASEAN and East Asia. They observed that not only physical connectivity was needed, but also soft, institutional, and psychological connectivity. The Q&A session touched on economic integration through bilateral free trade agreements, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and the regional initiatives of China's One Belt One Road.

Prof Nishimura concluded the event by announcing the winners of the 4th Asia Cosmopolitan Awards (ACA). He invited two winners of the Cultural Prize – the art collective teamLab and renowned glass artist Ms Mieko Noguchi – as representatives. The Nara Forum will be held in Nara, Japan on 10 January 2019 to congratulate the laureates. Mr Shogo Arai, the Governor of Nara Prefecture who organised the Nara Forum, also delivered his remarks.

Following the Symposium, ERIA's 10th Anniversary Dinner Reception was held at the Imperial Hotel Tokyo attended by around 250 people who have supported ERIA. At the opening, Mr Hiroshige Seko, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, Mr Fujio Mitarai, CEO of Canon and Japanese Governor of ERIA, and Mr Toshihiro Nikai, Secretary-General of Liberal Democratic Party, Japan and Chairman of Parliamentary Leagues for ERIA congratulated ERIA on its 10th anniversary. Tan Sri Rafidah binti Aziz and Mr Adrian S. Cristobal, Jr. also delivered their remarks, including praising ERIA's contribution to ASEAN and summing up their expectations of ERIA's activities in the future.