



| Capacity Building
| Programme



The year 2019 was an extremely busy one for the Capacity Building Programme (CBP) which managed to organise and support the participation of 350 government officials, from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar, in 24 different activities and events. The CBP continues to be funded primarily through a grant from the Australian Government.

To streamline the management of the CBP and reflect both the activities it can offer and the needs of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar, the CBP was simplified to consist of three components (formerly five): 1. ERIA Research; 2. ASEAN Priorities; and 3. Increase Research Capacity.

The redesign of the Capacity Building Programme strengthened the alignment of CBP activities to the current work of ERIA – both its research and the work of the Policy Design Department (PDD), as well as the priorities of ASEAN. This ensured the CBP provided both forward looking opportunities, in relation to the research, as well as practical and actionable benefits in terms of skills building in relation to the regular work of government officials, whether in developing evidence-based research or being better prepared to offer and implement trade commitments.

In addition to organising its own events, the CBP, by working closely with PDD, was able to develop activities where there was a strong cross-over of interests, for example, on developing non-conforming measures' lists, non-tariff measures, and good regulatory practice. The CBP was also able to create opportunities for government officials to participate in non-ERIA events, such as the Good Regulatory Practice Network Meeting and the SME Digital Economy Summit, both of which are examples of activities that allow officials to learn about global trends and best practices, meet with peers from the region, as well as learn soft skills such as how government officials interact with the business sector elsewhere.

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 FY2019, officials participated in four ERIA studies.

1) Cities, Urban Amenities, and Global Production Value Chain: New Developments in Trade and Service 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.

2) Towards a Resilient ASEAN: Roadmaps for Disaster Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation

The final workshop for this study, at which participants have been looking at the efforts needed to address climate change-induced disasters and their impact on socio-economic development, health, and the environment, was held in June 2019. This workshop also focused on the financing aspects of resilience. Following the workshop, the officials from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam (CLMV) each developed their own national roadmaps for disaster resilience which have been included in ERIA's November 2019 publication resulting from this study.

3) Services Supply Chain: Impact on Trade and Development in RCEP Countries

Two workshops were held throughout the year to support this study. Through the CBP, seven government officials from Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar (CLM) were able to participate, and increase their understanding of issues related to service value added in manufacturing exports, in-house services in manufacturing, and the servicification bundled with goods and commodities.

4) Realising Smart Cities

New technological and digital solutions have the potential to relieve the pressures and problems arising in Asia's fast-growing cities but often inefficient urban sprawls. ERIA's study, which is assessing the readiness of cities to become smarter, is collecting and analysing

key knowledge performance indicators. Senior representatives from Lao PDR and Myanmar are invited to participate in this study and the deliberations on policies for realising smart cities.

Component 2: ASEAN Priorities

1) Workshops on E-Commerce for Trade Negotiators

Workshops were designed and held in CLM to equip officials with the skills, knowledge, and attitude needed for preparing and participating in e-commerce negotiations and support the implementation of commitments made during negotiations.

2) Developing ASEAN Schedule of Non-Conforming Measures under ATISA

Two-day workshops were held in each of CLM between October 2019 and January 2020, to support officials learn how to develop non-conforming measures list – the negative list approach – for services. Each country identified two or three priority sectors to attend the workshop, facilitated by experts from Japan and Australia.

3) In Country Trainings on NTM Classification

Two-day workshops were held in each of CLM for about 25 participants in November 2019. The objective of the workshop was to help officials classify non-tariff measures (NTMs) and differentiate between NTMs and non-tariff barriers. The workshops were co-facilitated by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), with which ERIA developed its Database on NTMs.

Component 3: Increase Research Capacity

1) Policy Modelling Workshop Series

This year's policy modelling was under the theme, 'Inclusive and Sustainable Development in an Open Economy'. Beginning in November 2018 for Cambodian officials from the Ministry of Economy and Finance and Ministry of Commerce, the second workshop, at which participants were divided into groups, each group tasked to conduct research on a particular topic as set by the ministries, was held in July.

The six research papers were presented at a symposium in November 2019, with prizes awarded to the best studies. The first prize went to a study entitled, 'Digital Economy: Emerging Challenges for Cambodia'. Dr Jayant Menon, Lead Economist, Asian Development Bank, delivered the Key-Note address.

2) Workshop on Global Production Value-Chain, SMEs, and Productivity: Sustainable and Inclusive Growth in Trade for Lao PDR

The key objective of this workshop was to build the capacity of Lao PDR government officials to develop strong economic and social policy modelling capabilities in support of sustainable and inclusive growth.

3) Workshop on Global Production Value-Chains, Services, and Economic Liberalisation: The Case of ASEAN LDCs

This workshop supported Lao PDR government officials to understand and negotiate mutually beneficial trade agreements and develop sound trade policy so as to capture the benefits of trade in services agreements at the bilateral, regional, and multilateral level.