

social action ideas. This competition was held to support and encourage young people to create innovative solutions to the world's socio-economic challenges, and

nurture young leaders by boosting their creativity and increasing their awareness of development gaps in the region.



Capacity Building

Despite the challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Capacity Building (CB) Programme (CBP) continued to design innovative programming in response to needs and requests. By making use of ICT platforms, online and hybrid activities were delivered to the primary target audience of government officials but CBP was also able to broaden out its reach to the private sector. In this way, the CBP fulfilled its mandate of being a bridge between ERIA research and expertise and government officials.

By the end of the year, over 500 government officials had participated in CB activities based around three components: Component 1: ERIA Research; Component 2: ASEAN and Regional Priorities; and Component 3: Increase Research Capacity. In addition, around 120 members of the public, primarily the business community, participated through public-private dialogue events held.

Component 1: Participation in Research

Integrating government officials into research under Component 1 continues to be beneficial for officials to understand the complexities of ERIA research. Throughout the year officials continued to participate in ERIA studies, 'Cities, Urban Amenities and Global Production Value Chain' and 'Vulnerability Analysis: Challenges and Policy Gaps in the Structural Transformation'. Through CB, officials also observed the ASEAN Secretariat led study, 'Enhancing Food Supply Chain Resilience and Food Security in ASEAN with Utilization of Digital Technologies.'

Component 2: ASEAN Priorities

In line with ASEAN and regional priorities, the CBP held several activities to support the recently ratified Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). In partnership with the Cambodian government, the CBP launched a series of public-private dialogues focusing on five key themes of RCEP. By the end of FY2021, dialogues

on E-commerce and Rules of Origin (ROO) had been held. The CBP also supported RCEP by facilitating workshops on Transposition of Tariff Commitment from ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) and the Rules of Origin, as well as conducting a regulatory gap analysis with commitments under the e-commerce chapter. In relation to ASEAN's Trade in Services Agreement (ATISA), the CBP conducted workshops around the Negative List Approach.

Component 3: Increase Research Capacity

To increase officials' research capacity, the CBP focus was to support government officials develop strategies for addressing COVID-19. Two webinars were held for each of Cambodia and Lao PDR around, 'Unlocking the Lockdown: Alignment of Domestic and Regional Policies.' The CBP is also running an ongoing policy modelling training series around RCEP Implementation in Cambodia.

The Capacity Building Programme continues to be funded through a grant from the Australian Government.



Strategy and Partnership Programme

The Strategy and Partnership Programme (SPP) continued to expand the development of programmes and knowledge products (policy briefs, discussion papers, event reports, and op-eds) on innovation, start-ups eco-systems, economic empowerment of women, disability, and social inclusion. SPP also contributes to strengthening and widening the collaboration with stakeholders in the region to advocate ERIA's work more broadly.

A. Post-Economic Recovery Policy Dialogues in Collaboration with ASEAN+6 Stakeholders

The SPP contributed to developing and strengthening partnerships and strategic outreach with key stakeholders. A number of policy dialogues and peer learning activities to discuss policy initiatives in catalysing the post-economic recovery of Covid-19 was conducted in partnership with relevant ASEAN+6 and international organisation stakeholders. Examples include:

- A webinar jointly organised with OECD, as part of a series on G20 economies during the year of the Italian Presidency of the G20 was conducted on 13 July 2021.¹ SPD represents ERIA to discuss the COVID-19 economic consequences in Indonesia and several strategies to rebuild the economy emphasising digital economy and human development skills. ERIA

also partnered with the OECD to contribute to two side events of the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP) Ministerial Conference held on 4 and 8 February. SPP together with the OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation held the online panel discussion 'Gearing up for a Post-Pandemic World: Designing Policies for an Innovative Sustainable Recovery in East and Southeast Asia.'²

- Participation in the ASEAN Creative Economy Business Forum (ACEBF) that was conducted by the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy was held from 17–18 November 2021. SPD was invited as a speaker to discuss the pivotal role of STEM and the interconnectedness between the digital and creative economy and the emergence of innovation ecosystems across ASEAN.³
- In collaboration with the CIIE.CO, a leading innovation centre and incubator at the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad with the support of the Government of India's Department of Science and Technology and the Government of Gujarat, ERIA SPP conducted peer learning across ASEAN–India. The four online dialogues covering themes of incubators as catalysts of innovation, healthtech, agritech, and women's role in the digital economy were conducted

1 <https://www.eria.org/news-and-views/eria-discusses-findings-of-recent-oecd-economic-survey-of-indonesia/>

2 ERIA Contributes to the OECD Southeast Asia Ministerial Conference Discussions - News and Views : ERIA

3 <https://www.eria.org/news-and-views/the-digital-creative-economy-can-be-a-driver-of-the-post-pandemic-economy-in-asean/>

from June 2021 to January 2022. The first report presents a comparative analysis of incubation ecosystems in ASEAN and India, also featured on the Asian Development Bank/South East Asia Development Solutions (ADB SEADS) website.⁴

Other reports – on healthtech, agritech, and women’s role in the digital economy – are being finalised.

- Participation in the Viet Nam Industry 4.0 Summit was held in November 2021. SPP was engaged and delivered the key trends for the future of innovation and entrepreneurship in ASEAN with a focus on skills development, bridging digital divides, and cross-border collaborations in that high-level for a.⁵
- A webinar was organised jointly with the Asian Network on the Future of Education and Skills in Asia on 10 March 2022. His Excellency Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youths, and Sports department in Cambodia gave special opening remarks in this webinar.

B. Entrepreneurship-Startup-Innovation (E-S-I)

To discuss how innovation, start-up creation, and entrepreneurship are contributing to shape the post-pandemic recovery, SPP developed a webinar series titled ‘Entrepreneurship-Startup-Innovation’ or E-S-I. The 10 episodes of the E-S-I webinar series were conducted

from March to November 2021, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders including start-up companies, policymakers, academics, and experts from the region. The 40 participating speakers came from different private institutions as well as relevant public and international organisations including UNESCAP, ASEAN Business Youth Association, Asian Network, OECD, ADB, UNDP, and the ministries of education of Brunei and Thailand. The webinar series attracted more than 2,000 participants from ASEAN and East Asia.⁶ SPP produced two reports⁷ summarising the main findings and take-away messages from the series. They detail how to shape and catalyst the future of an inclusive E-S-I ecosystem, as also featured in E-trade for All by UNCTAD.⁸

C. Economic Empowerment of Women and Participation of Women in the Digital Economy

SPP continues to develop analytical work and policy dialogues on the participation of women in the economy. Key actions included:

- In collaboration with the ADB SEADS 2022, a webinar on ‘Women Driving Sustainable Transformation in ASEAN’ during the high-level symposium held on 16 March 2022.

⁴ <https://seads.adb.org/report/building-prolific-entrepreneurship-ecosystems-shared-lessons-india-and-asean>

⁵ <https://www.eria.org/news-and-views/entrepreneurship-and-innovation-key-trends-during-the-viet-nam-industry-40-summit/>

⁶ <https://www.eria.org/news-and-views/fostering-next-gen-entrepreneurs-and-innovators-e-s-i-webinar-10/>

⁷ <https://www.eria.org/publications/entrepreneurship-start-ups-and-innovation-e-s-i-in-asean-and-east-asia-catalysing-collaborations-and-partnerships-for-scale-ups-ep6-10/>

⁸ <https://etradeforall.org/publications/>

- In commemoration of International Women's Day, SPP was involved in the 'International Women's Day 2022: Break the Bias in TVET and STEM.' This webinar aims to raise awareness of women in science, technology, and engineering. It was held by Prospera and Ministry of Industry Indonesia in March 2022.
- In partnership with the Asian Network, SPP held an online event to support the empowerment of women and the UN Sustainable Goal Five, gender equality. It brought together Professor Akiko Yamanaka, Special Adviser to the President of ERIA and Former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, along with 12 female leaders from Asia who shared their expertise on leadership, entrepreneurship, youth, and technology in October 2021. The event was followed by an op-ed summarising key findings which was published on the World Economic Forum website and in ASEAN media.⁹
- Two episodes of the E-S-I webinar series were dedicated to women in e-commerce and participation of women in the digital economy.

D. Social Enterprises and Disability

Social Enterprises (SE) has emerged as a phenomenon that could offer innovative solutions to social problems in this context narrow the disparity for person with disability (PwD) who face obstacles in accessing education, workforce, social protection services and legal support. SPP produced a research report and a policy brief with theme Social Enterprises and Disability 'Fostering Innovation, Awareness, and Social Impact in the ASEAN Region'.¹⁰ The dissemination event dedicated on this issue was conducted on 8 December 2021, H.E. Will Nankervis, Australian Ambassador to ASEAN, delivered a special welcoming-remarks. The policy brief is also featured in the ADB SEADS website.¹¹ In addition, SPP also presents the key finding of this research on the side event the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP) Ministerial Conference taking place in Seoul, Korea on 9 February 2022.¹² This programme was organised jointly by ERIA and OECD.

⁹ <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/12/fourth-industrial-revolution-post-pandemic-recovery-gender-equality/>

¹⁰ <https://www.eria.org/news-and-views/social-enterprises-and-inclusive-societies-for-persons-with-disabilities-e-s-i-special-episode/>

¹¹ <https://seads.adb.org/paper/social-enterprises-and-disability-fostering-innovation-awareness-and-social-impact-asean>

¹² <https://www.eria.org/news-and-views/eria-contributes-to-the-oecd-southeast-asia-ministerial-conference-discussions/>