

Message from the President

Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura
President



We are proud of our achievements in 2022, but we will not be complacent. ERIA will be increasingly vigilant in helping to address the challenges of pursuing deeper economic integration and development in ASEAN and East Asia in the years to come.



In fiscal year (FY) 2022, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) celebrated 15 years of remarkable achievements.

A review of ERIA's deliverables for FY2022 reveals that ERIA has deepened its activities promoting the economic integration and development of East Asia. ERIA released a flagship publication – the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP) 3.0 – which sets out a roadmap for the region's recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and sets out the vision for the future of Asia from four perspectives. First, integration: a more digitally integrated Asia will strengthen the competitiveness of international production networks in Asia. Second, innovation: a more digitally

innovative Asia will upgrade traditional industries and solve many kinds of complex social problems. Third, inclusiveness: achieving a more inclusive Asia requires closing the digital divide amongst people and businesses in all respects – geographical, industrial, and societal. Fourth, sustainability: creating a more sustainable Asia requires harnessing digitalisation to overcome the challenges of achieving a low-carbon economy, an environmentally friendly carbon-neutral economy, and a disaster-resilient economy. CADP 3.0 clearly shows that digitalisation is the key to realising a more integrated, innovative, inclusive, and sustainable economy in Asia. The publication was commended in the Chairman's Statement at the 17th East Asia Summit (EAS).

Another important field is energy. In FY2022, ERIA conducted various energy policy studies based on the EAS Mid-Term Energy Policy Research Roadmap. ERIA's research includes studies serving the East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM), the Asia Green Growth Partnership Ministerial Meeting, and the Asia Zero Emission Community Ministerial Meeting; bilateral studies with individual EAS countries; and studies based on ERIA's own initiative as a research institute, such as those in the context of the Energy Research Institute Network (ERIN). These studies include an update of the EAS Energy Outlook and Energy Saving Potential; Carbon Energy Taxation, Revenue Recycling, and Competitiveness; and Best Practices and Policies of Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage. ERIA also launched The Technology List and Perspectives for Transition Finance in Asia to promote transition technology in the region.

A wide range of projects on ageing societies and the care of older persons in the region was carried out by the Health Unit, especially in FY2022, when the winners of the third Healthy Aging Prize for Asian Innovation, co-organised by ERIA and the Japan Center for International Exchange, were awarded. In addition, projects in the medical and pharmaceutical fields were advanced, e.g. a memorandum of understanding was signed with the National Center for Global Health and Medicine in Tokyo in December 2022.

In the field of the environment, ERIA conducted several studies on waste management and marine plastic debris in the region under the Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic

Debris (RKC-MPD) as part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Plus Three framework. The RKC-MPD organises the Private Sector Platform to promote private sector innovation and new technologies to address marine debris. It also hosts the ERIA Expert Group to organise the sharing of knowledge and insights amongst experts in the region. In the field of agriculture, ERIA has promoted a project to support sustainable agriculture in ASEAN.

ERIA has also maintained good relations with several external partners such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). ERIA participated in the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP) Ministerial Conference held in Hanoi, Viet Nam in October 2022, highlighting the cooperation between the OECD and ERIA for the development of the ASEAN region. ERIA also participated in the 43rd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) in November 2022 and strengthened cooperation with AIPA by renewing a memorandum of understanding to develop AIPA's capacity on issues related to the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN economic integration.

ERIA contributed to Cambodia's chairmanship of ASEAN and Indonesia's Presidency of the Group of Twenty (G20) in 2022. It also cooperated with the Government of Cambodia to support the Priority Economic Deliverables and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) pillars based on two memoranda. Finally, ERIA participated in the Second ASEAN Global Dialogue at the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summit, together with EAS leaders and

heads of international organisations. In line with the G20, ERIA participated in three ministerial meetings (Energy Transition; Trade, Investment, and Industry; and Agriculture) to provide the East Asian perspective on the resolution of global issues. ERIA also participated in the preparatory works for the upcoming G20 chairmanship of India.

The Chairman's Statement of the 17th EAS in Phnom Penh in November 2022 stated that 'We encouraged ERIA to continue providing support for the Chair of the ASEAN Summits and the EAS through targeted high-quality research and actionable policy recommendations, as exemplified through ERIA's paper on 'East Asia Post Pandemic – An Integrative, Innovative, Inclusive, and Sustainable Region through Digitalisation' which was presented to EAS Economic Ministers.

The 40th and 41st ASEAN Summit leaders also acknowledged the contribution of ERIA to ASEAN in the Chairman's Statement: 'We noted the achievements in accomplishing Cambodia's Priority Economic Deliverables for 2022, aided by the ERIA', adding that:

We commended the contribution of the ERIA to Cambodia's ASCC Chairmanship, in particular its support to the development of 13 priority ASCC deliverables. We also appreciated ERIA's assistance and support for research including on Learning Loss in Reading and Mathematics at Primary School Level during the Pandemic in Lower Mekong Countries, and workshops that contributed to ASEAN outcome documents under the ASCC, including the ASEAN Declaration on Fostering ASEAN Identity through the Safeguarding of Traditional Sports and Games in the Modern World and the ASEAN Declaration on Leveraging the Role of Sports in ASEAN Community Building and Achieving the SDGs.

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