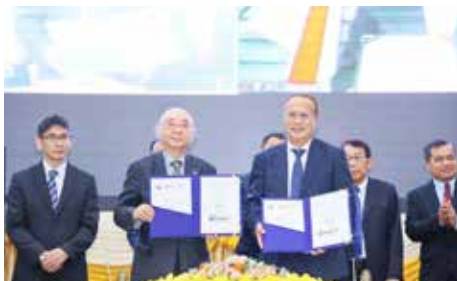




Event Highlights



ERIA Signs Memorandum of Cooperation with Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce, Japan Patent Office

Phnom Penh, 30 March 2023

Professor Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) of Cambodia and Japan Patent Office (JPO) on 30 March 2023 in Phnom Penh. MoC was represented by H.E. Dr Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce and Chairman of the National Committee for Intellectual Property, whilst JPO was represented by Commissioner Koichi Hamano.

The Memorandum of Cooperation is to confirm mutual understanding and cooperation in the field of intellectual property rights (IPR) amongst MoC, JPO, and ERIA. As the digital economy continues to grow, the use of IPR as trademarks and geographical indications is becoming increasingly important for businesses to distinguish themselves from competitors. IPR is seen as a key factor in producing innovative and distinguished businesses in Cambodia.

In this context, MoC, JPO, and ERIA have agreed to strengthen technical cooperation on research in the field of IPR. Under the Memorandum of Cooperation, ERIA will conduct a research project on branding strategies.



ERIA Signs Memorandum of Cooperation with Cambodia's Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology, and Innovation; Japan Patent Office

Phnom Penh, 30 March 2023

Professor Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with Cambodia's Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation (MISTI) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO) on 30 March 2023 in Phnom Penh. H.E. Setta Pandita Cham Prasadh, Senior Minister and Minister of MISTI, and Commissioner Koichi Hamano represented MISTI and JPO, respectively.

The Memorandum of Cooperation is to confirm mutual understanding and cooperation in the field of intellectual property rights (IPR) amongst MISTI, JPO, and ERIA. Considering the growing digital economy, securing innovations through IPR such as patents and utility models is necessary to enhance research and development capabilities. IPR is considered a key factor in producing innovative and distinguished businesses in Cambodia.

Under the Memorandum of Cooperation, MISTI, JPO, and ERIA will further strengthen technical cooperation in the field of IPR research. For its part, ERIA will conduct a research project on securing research achievements through IPR and providing IPR education.



ERIA Joins the 3rd Meeting of the G7 Digital and Tech Working Group

Tokyo, 27–28 March 2023

Koji Hachiyama, COO of ERIA, joined the 3rd meeting of the G7 Digital and Tech Working Group (DTWG). The DTWG is a preparatory meeting for the G7 Digital and Tech Ministers' Meeting in Takasaki, Gunma on 29–30 April 2023.

ERIA also joined the 'Stakeholders' Conference on Digital Technologies for Trust' on 29 March in Tokyo, which is a side event of the G7 Digital and Tech Ministers' Meeting. The conference focused on ensuring 'trust' for data free flow with trust (DFFT), with specific use cases and technologies or mechanisms expected to be implemented in the future. The conference was attended by many government officials, invitees, organisations, companies, and academic groups involved in trust services.



A Fragmenting World Order: Implications for Southeast Asia in the Indo-Pacific Era

Jakarta, 9 March 2023

ERIA organised a discussion on the shifting geopolitics of the region in the Indo-Pacific era and their implications for regional institutions, high tech, supply chains, research, and university partnerships with Prof. Paul Evans, the Pok Rafeah Chair in IKMAS, UKM Malaysia, and the HSBC Professor at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs at the University of British Columbia. He concentrated on how two facets of the strategic rivalry between China and the United States are influencing regional stability.

The first is geo-economics, which uses the production of sophisticated semiconductors as an example to show how national security concerns are impacting private sector decisions about where to locate supply chains and introducing new approaches to near-shoring and friend-shoring.

The second is a growing techno-nationalism that considers issues of national security to be those that affect a rapidly expanding range of economic sectors. This encompasses, but extends well beyond, military and dual-use technologies to cover research, design, and production of goods that are advantageous economically in the Fourth Industrial Revolution era.

He mentioned 20 distinct fields, from artificial intelligence and quantum computing to biotechnology and agtech, where research and collaborations are impacted by geopolitical fragmentation and competition. Universities and research organisations are now more than ever confronted with challenging concerns relating to striking a balance between national security goals and legislation and their commitments to open research and communication.



Public-Private Investment Forum on Acceleration of Clean Energy Projects, Energy Transition Financing, Lower Costs for New Technology

Tokyo, 3 March 2023

To support and coordinate policy for the acceleration of clean energy projects, energy transition funding, and lower costs for new technology implementation, the Asia Zero Emissions Community (AZEC) conducted a public-private investment event. The Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry sponsored the AZEC Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo, which included the forum. Mr. Koboki Hideki, Vice Chair of Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), opened the session by outlining how Japan encourages green transformation through GX: Green Transformation Policy and promotes energy security through AZEC in an era of energy transformation.

East Asian nations are crucial in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by changing energy systems, the main GHG emitters, according to Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA. He described how ERIA's studies and research contributed to the project. To attain carbon neutrality in the ASEAN region, ERIA and the Institute of Energy Economics Japan have produced a study on cost-effective technology deployment scenarios. Solar photovoltaic, onshore and offshore wind, hydropower, geothermal, biomass, nuclear power, carbon capture, use, and storage, hydrogen, and ammonia are some of the technologies mentioned. According to him, ERIA research can be utilised to deliver renewable energy, deepen the decarbonisation of fossil fuel power generation, and promote the financing of transition technologies. He pointed out the importance of the AZEC forum in significantly contributing to catalysing energy transition transformation in region.



Prospects of Natural Gas Market in EAS Region Examined at Workshop as Experts See Doubling of Natural Gas Demand by 2050

Jakarta, 21 February 2023

One method of lowering greenhouse gas emissions is to increase the usage of natural gas by using currently available and inexpensive fuels and energy technology. At a workshop on Possibilities of a Natural Gas Market in the East Summit (EAS) Area Despite Carbon Neutrality Pledges and Geopolitical Issues, Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), emphasised this main point. The session was sponsored by ERIA and the Gas Exporting Countries Forum and was held at the Fairmont Hotel in Jakarta (GECF).

According to Prof. Nishimura, to rapidly scale up current cleaner energy sources and technologies, it is necessary to support them with suitable market design, fiscal and policy incentives, and financial incentives.

H.E. Eng Mohamed Hamel, the Secretary General of GECF, gave the workshop's opening remarks. He predicted that by 2050, the demand for natural gas in the ASEAN region would have more than doubled to more than 350 billion cubic meters. The challenges, according to H.E. Mr. Arifin Tasrif, Indonesia's Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, are developing the infrastructure linking the pipeline from western to eastern Indonesia and developing a new policy framework to attract investment into the natural gas market. He cited the country's potential for natural gas. He said that the use of natural gas has expanded to include, amongst other things, the glass, petrochemical, and fertiliser industries.



ERIA Joins Think Tank 20 Inception Conference

New Delhi, 13–14 January 2023

The inaugural conference of Think20 (T20), the official engagement group of the Group of Twenty (G20), which unites the world's top academic institutions, was held in New Delhi on 13 and 14 January 2023. G20 country delegates were present at the conference. The 2-day discussions focused on the topic of India's G20 Presidency: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which asserts the worth of all life and is an appropriate representation of the global reform required in the post-COVID-19 world.

The conference laid the groundwork for seven task forces: TF1–Macroeconomics, Trade, and Livelihoods: Policy Coherence and International Coordination; TF2–Our Common Digital Future: Affordable, Accessible, and Inclusive Digital Public Infrastructure; TF3–LiFE, Resilience, and Values for Wellbeing; TF4–Refuelling Growth: Clean Energy and Green Transitions; TF5–Purpose and Performance: Reassessing the Global Financial Order; TF6–Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals: Exploring New Pathways to the 2030 Agenda; and TF7–Towards Reformed Multilateralism: Transforming Global Institutions and Frameworks.

Dr. Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, ERIA's Director for Research Strategy and Innovations; Prof. Fukunari Kimura, ERIA's Chief Economist; and Ms. Anita Prakash, ERIA's Policy Advisor to the President on International Economic Cooperations, co-chaired TF1, TF2, and TF3 discussions, respectively, and presented key findings from ERIA's research.

The T20 India Secretariat Chair and President of the Observer Research Foundation, Dr. Samir Saran, opened the inaugural event by outlining the functions, objectives, and ambitions of the T20. According to him, the most crucial objective of T20 is to develop audacious ideas, create a research network to address global concerns, and encourage collaboration to develop workable policy solutions.

Closing the event, G20 Sous Sherpa Abhay Thakur said India's G20 presidency is an opportunity to make the grouping more inclusive and sustainable. Expressing Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hope at the Bali Summit, he said the G20 presidency should be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive.

T20 is considered as an 'idea bank' for the G20 by bringing together think tanks and high-level experts to discuss policy issues relevant to the G20. The seven task force recommendations will be synthesised into policy briefs and presented as a communique to G20 working groups, ministerial meetings, and the final leaders' summits to be held on 9–10th September 2023 in New Delhi.



Dr Angel Gurria Receives the 5th Asia Cosmopolitan Award

Nara, 19 January 2023

After a 4-year hiatus owing to COVID-19, ERIA and Nara Prefecture jointly organised the Asia Cosmopolitan Award (ACA) Ceremony for the fifth time. The Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Prof. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, delivered the keynote address at the Nara Forum that followed.

This award seeks to close development gaps in the area, establish sustainable social growth toward cultural and economic integration within the region, and – on a biennial basis – recognise individuals or organisations that have made significant contributions to the development of a peaceful and stable East Asian Community. The former Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Dr Angel Gurria, received the Grand Prize of the 5th ACA, in recognition of his continuous support and longstanding contribution to the field of development. In his acceptance speech, Dr Gurria said, ‘What we are doing here is for honouring people who have capacity to transform the policies into actions, then into well-being which is ultimate. This is to continue work for better policies and for better lives.’

The winners of the Grand Prize, the Economic and Social Science Prize, the Cultural Prize, and the Memorial Prize.

Grand Prize	Angel Gurria Former Secretary-General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Economic and Social Science Prize	Mari E. Pangestu Managing Director, Development Policy and Partnership, World Bank
Cultural Prize	Kengo Kuma Architect, University Professor and Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo
Memorial Prize	Lee O-young (1934–2022) First Minister of Culture, Republic of Korea Ponciano S. Intal, Jr. (1949–2019) Senior Economist and Senior Policy Fellow, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia

Prof Alisjahbana delivered the Keynote speech at the forum, emphasising how global and regional issues affect people because all aspects of their lives are economically, socially and environmentally intertwined. She mentioned the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic which include rising fuel and food prices, disruptions in international supply chains, and slowed economic output, especially in the service sectors. She pointed out, 'We realised that national policies must be coupled with international cooperation in order to reach long-lasting solutions. We will be able to successfully maintain international financial stability, mitigate climate change and attain sustainable development only by working together. And by working together, the realm of possibilities becomes greater.'

Prof Nishimura closed the forum by thanking all awardees and emphasised their tireless efforts to help create new values and their ambition to move to a new and better era in the Asian region. He added that ERIA will continue to contribute further to the economic integration and economic and cultural development of the region by working together with people like the awardees who are active in various fields while responding immediately to the new trends of the times. He specifically also praised Dr Intal's dedication of his life to the development of ASEAN. He spotlighted that without Dr Intal's dedication, ERIA would not have grown into such an important international organisation that makes policy recommendations at ASEAN summits.

The ceremony and forum were held at the Nara Convention Center and attended by about 230 participants. Each of the Laureates of the 5th ACA, Dr Angel Gurria, Prof Mari Elka Pangestu, and Prof Kengo Kuma also presented their speeches.



Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between ERIA and NCGM to Accelerate International Clinical Research in Asia

Tokyo/Jakarta, 23 December 2022

ERIA, Jakarta, and the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM), Tokyo, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to accelerate international clinical research in Asia and to promote the international expansion of pharmaceutical products. ERIA is an international research organisation that conducts policy research on regional trade and investment, industry, national resilience, energy, agriculture, the environment, and healthcare in response to diverse regional needs. NCGM is Japan's research centre to conduct global clinical research, including emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases such as COVID-19. The MoU was signed by their respective presidents, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura (ERIA) and Norihiro Kokudo (NCGM). ERIA and NCGM plan to implement projects that will contribute to the enhancement of healthcare systems and the promotion of the healthcare industry in the entire region, including Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

ERIA will support NCGM's international clinical research activities as a partner of the AR01 Alliance for ASEAN and East Asia (ARISE2), an international clinical research and trials network led by NCGM. NCGM will enhance the clinical research functions of ARISE, a clinical research and trial network in the region, and strive to expand the international development of pharmaceuticals and medical devices needed in Asian countries. Additionally, the MoU will support the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative (AHWIN), with its mission to contribute to the realisation of a society that promotes healthy ageing. ERIA, Jakarta, and the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM), Tokyo, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to accelerate international clinical research in Asia and to promote the international expansion of pharmaceutical products. ERIA is an international research organisation that conducts policy research on regional trade and investment, industry, national resilience, energy, agriculture, the environment, and healthcare in response to diverse regional needs. NCGM is Japan's research centre to conduct global clinical research, including emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases such as COVID-19. The MoU was signed by their respective presidents, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura (ERIA) and Norihiro Kokudo (NCGM). ERIA and NCGM plan to implement projects that will contribute to the enhancement of healthcare systems and the promotion of the healthcare industry in the entire region, including Japan and ASEAN.

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ASEAN Envoys, Dialogue Partners Urge ERIA to Undertake New Fields of Research

Jakarta, 2 December 2022

ASEAN diplomats have suggested that the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) undertake research on topics such as gender empowerment, energy transition, fiscal transformation, eradication of maritime debris, and green economy. Indonesia's Permanent Representative to ASEAN suggested that ERIA conduct research on ways and means to streamline the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). Thai Ambassador Urawadee Sriphiromya proposed that ERIA initiate special research or works to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan relations.



METI Lauds ERIA's Programmes

Jakarta, 2 December 2022

ERIA has been strengthening economic-oriented connectivity through its research and activities that promote economic progress and well-being in the region. This assessment was made by Mr Nishimura Yasutoshi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan, at the 2nd Extraordinary Governing Board Meeting held at the headquarters of ASEAN Secretariat. ERIA has been working to improve connectivity by increasing investment in Asia, promoting economic partnership agreements, developing infrastructure, and building a reliable supply chain. The minister also announced Japan's budget of ¥5 billion for the project, and reiterated Japan's goal of working with ASEAN to overcome mutual challenges by establishing a strong digital economy, realising carbon neutrality, and coping with ageing societies. ERIA's Chief Operating Officer briefed the board on ERIA's contributions to Cambodia's ASEAN chairmanship and Indonesia's Group of Twenty chairmanship, and Prof Fukunari Kimura reported the institute's research and activities over the years. Recommendations were made to join the private sector in leveraging ERIA's future financial sustainability and other areas of cooperation, including capacity building in digital transformation, small and medium-sized enterprises, green economy, social inclusion, and women's empowerment.

Prof Jun Arima, ERIA's Senior Policy Fellow for Energy and Environment, discussed the trajectory of decarbonisation in the ASEAN region. ASEAN Secretary General Dato Lim Jock Hoi urged ERIA to provide input to the ongoing discussion on ASEAN Vision 2025 and to include Timor-Leste's future membership in ASEAN in its research. ERIA's research activities have continued unabated, with regular publication of research, policy briefs, disunion appears, journal articles, and events and media presentations. Board members from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Singapore, and Viet Nam expressed support for ERIA's future research in deepening economic integration, narrowing development gaps, and sustaining economic development.



ERIA's Achievements Highlighted in RIN Annual Meeting

Bangkok, 24 November 2022

The Research Institute Network (RIN) held its in-person annual gathering on 24 November 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. The event was organised by ERIA and the Institute of Developing Economics-Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO). RIN is a network of research institutes from 16 East Asia Summit countries whose function is to support research activities of ERIA by providing it with country information and research findings and advising on its research theme and policy recommendations. Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, opened the gathering by welcoming the RIN members. He reported the institute's participation in the EAS Economic Ministerial meeting, the G20 Trade in Digital Economy meeting, and the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit.

He also discussed the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan 3.0 (CADP 3.0) and recommended ways to transform the digitalised economy. RIN Chairperson Dr Hank Lim Giok-Hay, from the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, said that RIN has strategic advantages and has helped the region integrate through its numerous research studies and dialogues. Two members were admitted to the network: the Macroeconomic Research Institute of the Lao Academy of Social and Economic Sciences and the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies. Mr Atsusuke Kawada, President of the Bangkok Research Center, JETRO Bangkok/IDE-JETRO, gave a comprehensive report on RIN activities in the past 13 years. Dr Shiro Armstrong, Director of the Australian-Japan Research Center, Crawford School of Public Policy of the Australian National University, outlined RIN projects that related to the region's future trajectory in economic and national security, and Mr Nguyen Anh Duong, director of the Central Institute for Economic Management, Viet Nam, forecast that the global economy would see more volatility and uncertainties due to geopolitical rivalry and tensions as well as macroeconomic imbalance. He suggested that RIN members consider issuing a joint statement on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

Two ERIA economists assessed the institute's research activities, including CADP 3.0 and the ASEAN Plus Three Research Project for Closing the Digital Divide in Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises. Dr Dionisius A. Narjoko, ERIA's Senior Economist, discussed the significance and challenges of RCEP, while Dr Kazunobu Hayakawa, Vice President of the Bangkok Research Center, JETRO Bangkok/IDE-JETRO, presented a detailed study on the RCEP utilisation and trade creation. The final session focused on the outcome of the G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, and the challenges that India, the next G20 host, will face. During the discussion, Mr Koji Hachiyama stressed that more needs to be done to make cost management more efficient and to control production and sale processes to allow companies to create new business models and sources of revenue. ERIA will establish a new centre for digital innovation and sustainable economy within the institute next year.

Prof Nishimura said ERIA would spare no efforts in promoting regional economic integration and sustainable economic development through digitalisation in the East Asia region by conducting multi-faceted research in key areas such as the economy, energy, environment, healthcare, and on issues related to agriculture.



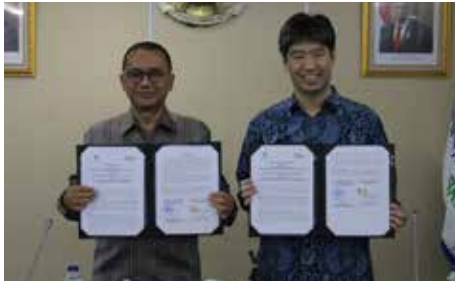
ERIA President Says Digitalisation is Key Driver of ASEAN Development

Phnom Penh, 20–25 November 2022

Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, at the 43rd ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) General Assembly, presented the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP) 3.0 and said digitalisation would be the key driver of development of the ASEAN region.

The assembly, held in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, on 20–25 November 2022, was attended by AIPA members and other parliamentarians as observers. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of the 43rd AIPA, welcomed the participants whilst Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of ASEAN, delivered the keynote speech.

At the first plenary session, Prof Nishimura announced the creation of the Centre for Digital Innovation and Sustainable Economy to meet the urgent needs of ASEAN and contribute to realising the vision set out in CADP 3.0. The organising committee meeting discussed the renewal of and amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding to Develop AIPA's Capacity on Matters Concerning ASEAN Economic Community.



ERIA Signs MoU with Indonesia's Ministry of Investment for Joint Study on Policy, Capacity Building

Jakarta, 18 November 2022

ERIA signed an MoU with Indonesia's Ministry of Investment/Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) to support the Ministry of Investment reforms. ERIA's Chief Operating Officer, Mr Koji Hachiyama, was accompanied by Dr Lili Yan Ing, Lead Advisor, Southeast Asia Region; Dr Aladdin Rillo, Senior Economic Advisor; Dr Fauziah Zen, Senior Economist; Dr Doan Thi Thanh Ha, Economist; and several ERIA staff from the research, legal, and communications departments. Dr Riyatno, Deputy Chairman for Investment Cooperation at BKPM, welcomed the ERIA delegation and explained the recent developments implemented by the government to improve the business and investment climate. Dr Indra Darmawan and Mr Pradana Indraputra, BKPM's Special Staff for National Entrepreneur Development, also attended the signing ceremony.



ERIA's Support for Indonesia's G20 Presidency

Jakarta, 16 November 2022

The 2-day Group of Twenty (G20) Summit in Bali ended on 16 November 2022 with the ratification of the Leaders' Declaration. The declaration begins with an affirmation of the importance of global economic cooperation and with the acknowledgments of the multidimensional crisis from the COVID-19 Pandemic, climate change, and geopolitical crises that have thwarted global sustainable development. G20 leaders agreed to make various efforts to ensure food and energy security, adopt digital technologies for innovations, take further collective action to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, address climate change, and strengthen the global health sector.

Throughout Indonesia's G20 Presidency, ERIA has given support by participating in various working groups, conducting relevant research, producing key publications, and attending several G20 events. ERIA's support is acknowledged on page 17 of the G20 Leaders' Declaration.

Working Groups: Trade, Investment, and Industry Working Group, Energy Transition Working Group, Agriculture Working Group, Digital Economy Working Group, Infrastructure Working Group, Women Empowerment Working Group. ERIA also produced two Key Publications and nine T20 Policy Briefs. ERIA also co-hosted/participated in 20 G20/T20 events and four G20 ministerial conferences.

Details of the events can be downloaded at:



Issues on Inclusiveness of Digital Transformation Worry Experts

Bali, 15 November 2022

The adoption and use of digital technologies and the speed of transformation vary amongst Group of Twenty (G20) economies, raising concerns about the inclusiveness of the digital transformation. A panel of experts discussed the transformative potentials and barriers of digitalisation, which include lack of high-quality and affordable infrastructure, lack of trust in digital technologies and activities, shortage of skills needed to succeed in the digital economy, a more reactive than proactive approach to the openness of the internet, roadblocks to trade services, high costs of and poor access to financing for smaller firms, reallocation of resources across firms and sectors, and lack of interoperability of standards.

The panel proposed several ideas to resolve issues regarding quality of life, and recommended the support of G20 leaders to adopt best practices and policies that will enable all relevant actors to work together more effectively to foster an interoperable environment in support of sustainable and inclusive growth. Mr Koji Hachiyama, ERIA's Chief Operating Officer, welcomed the panel discussion and announced that in 2023, ERIA will establish the Centre for Digital Innovation and Sustainable Economy, a virtual and physical platform for policymakers, businesses stakeholders, and academic professionals. He added that the centre will contribute to maximising the transformative potentials of digitalisation in the region. Prof Taufan, Sachin Chaturvedi, and more than 100 participants attended the event to discuss the importance of digitalisation of finance, trade, infrastructure, and governance.



ERIA President Says International Production Networks in Asia Remain Robust and Resilient Against Various Shocks

Phnom Penh, 11–13 November 2022

At the 2nd ASEAN Global Dialogue, held on 13 November 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, assessed that international production networks in Asia remain robust and resilient against shocks, and launched the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan 3.0. The dialogue was part of the 40th and 41st ASEAN and Related Summits held there on 11–13 November 2022.

He also announced establishment of the Centre for Digital Innovation and Sustainable Economy, a new platform for policymakers, businesses, and academics to help transform Asia into a fully digitalised sustainable economy.



Asia's Digital Future the Focus at Comprehensive Asia Development Plan 3.0 Symposium

Phnom Penh, 9 November 2022

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has caused trade disruptions, a drop in foreign direct investment, and scarring effects on poverty, education, and women in many nations, but it has also had beneficial features. Factory Asia has continued to produce and export during the pandemic, and the adoption of ICT has boosted economic growth. The Comprehensive Asia Development Plan 3.0 (CADP 3.0) addresses the above-mentioned urgent concerns and discusses economic growth and social problem-solving in the region from the viewpoints of integration, innovation, inclusiveness, and sustainability. This research was the focus of a Symposium co-organised by ERIA and the Ministry of Commerce of the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia. Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura and Mr Koji Hachiyama introduced the new Centre for Digital Innovation and Sustainable Economy, which will provide a public-private platform to create unified rules across the region, share information on digital and carbon-neutral economies, and provide practical policy advice.



Implementation of RCEP Highlighted at ERIA High-Level Forum

Phnom Penh, 2–3 November 2022

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a multilateral regional free trade agreement between ASEAN Member States and ASEAN's FTA partners that aims to strengthen economic linkages and enhance trade and investment related activities. A high-level forum was held to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of RCEP initiation and handover two ERIA books to the Prime Minister of Cambodia. The opening ceremony was presided over by His Excellency Hun Sen, who delivered the keynote speech and recommendations for the effective implementation of the RCEP Agreement. The forum included a high-level panel, stakeholders' panel, and session during which key chapters of the RCEP Agreement will be discussed.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce for the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia awarded Prof Nishimura the Friendship Medal Class Moha Sena in recognition of his important contributions to the Kingdom of Cambodia. Prof Nishimura highlighted the synergy between RCEP and ERIA's CADP 3.0, which promotes regional integration within an innovative, inclusive, and sustainable framework.



ERIA's Participates in the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Program Ministerial Forum

Hanoi, 17–18 October 2022

ERIA delegation participated in the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Southeast Asia Ministerial Forum in Hanoi, Vietnam, under the theme of 'Connecting Regions: Partnerships for Resilient and Sustainable Supply Chains'. The forum invited ministers from OECD member countries and the Southeast Asian region, heads of international organisations, and business sectors. Professor Hidetoshi Nishimura made an intervention during the second ministerial session, emphasising the importance of digitalisation for the development of the region. He also had a bilateral meeting with OECD Secretary General Mathias Cormann and presented ERIA's key publication, CADP 3.0. On the second day of the meeting, the OECD–Viet Nam High-level Economic Forum was held.



13th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium Held in Phnom Penh

Phnom Penh, 3 October 2022

The 13th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium was held in Phnom Penh on 3 October 2022 with the theme Enhancing Connectivity Towards an Inclusive, Sustainable, and Resilient ASEAN Community Post 2025 Vision. H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary General of ASEAN, highlighted the importance of sustainable infrastructure and circular economy for urban areas, supporting mechanisms to facilitate connectivity coordination, youth participation in innovative solutions, and future-oriented and potential change for development.

Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA President, announced the publication of CADP 3.0, which includes the comprehensive themes of the development topics. H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, welcomed the symposium and called for unity to strengthen ASEAN connectivity. Session 2 discussed strengthening partnership to deliver MPAC 2025 and Beyond, while Session 3 discussed financing sustainable infrastructure development and the role of the private sector. Session 4 discussed how infrastructure projects should be more sustainable and efficient from construction to maintenance. H.E. Tauch Chankosal, Standing Secretary of State, Ministry of Public Works and Transport of the Kingdom of Cambodia, delivered the closing remarks.

Prof Fukunari Kimura, ERIA's Chief Economist, noted that international production networks are resilient and that it is necessary to take advantage of digital technologies. Ambassador Ong Keng Yong moderated the session.



ERIA President Participates in G20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Bali

Bali, 28 September 2022

Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, led a delegation to the G20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting held at the Intercontinental Bali Resort in Jimbaran, Bali, Indonesia. The meeting was attended by Agriculture Ministers from G20 countries and seven invited countries as well as representatives from eight international organisations. During the session on 'Innovative Agri-preneurship through Digital Agriculture to Improve Farmers' Livelihood in Rural Areas', Prof Nishimura shared ERIA's efforts to support an inclusive digital future. He also introduced ERIA's Comprehensive Asia Development Plan or 'CADP 3.0', which highlights the importance of digital agriculture. During the break, Prof Nishimura exchanged views on food security and other important issues in the food and agriculture sector.

The Chair emphasised that digital technology is a tangible solution to developing agriculture and food systems and that the commitment and collaboration amongst G20 Member Countries as well as support from the international organisations are the key to the implementation of digitalisation in agriculture. ERIA will continuously address the challenges of building and enhancing sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems through its research and other activities.

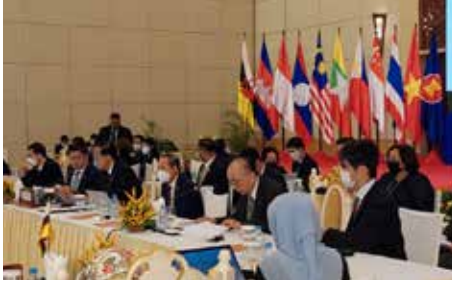


ERIA President Reports on Transition Finance at Asia Green Growth Partnership Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo

Tokyo, 26 September 2022

The 2nd Asia Green Growth Partnership Ministerial Meeting (AGGPM) 2022 was held in Tokyo, Japan to discuss the importance of a balanced energy transition for achieving sustainable economic growth, mitigating climate change, and ensuring energy security. The meeting was opened by H.E. Mr Nishimura Yasutoshi, Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry, followed by a speech from Dr Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA). Representatives from Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, Indonesia, Iran, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, the ASEAN Economic Community, and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) reported on their efforts to speed up an inclusive energy transition and heighten the role of international cooperation. Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, shared ERIA's perspective on ASEAN's carbon neutrality challenges.

The first session discussed transition finance guidelines, technology lists, and perspectives on transition finance, as well as financial activities and policies in line with AETI and Asia Transition Finance (ATF). Japan's government is seeking to contribute to the region's transition to a more sustainable economic model and carbon neutrality, and ERIA has developed Technology List and Perspectives for Transition Finance in Asia. A memorandum of understanding was signed for projects that contribute to Asian energy transition. Special messages were delivered by Mr Asakawa Masatsugu, President of the Asian Development Bank, Mr Paul Everingham, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Asia Natural Gas and Energy Association, Singapore, Mr Jaideep Khanna, Head of Barclays, Asia Pacific, Mr Nadir Godrej, Chairman of Godrej Industries Ltd and Godrej Agrovet Ltd, Mr Hayashi Nobumitsu, Governor of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Ms Verena Lim, CEO of Macquarie Group Asia, Mr Eugene Weng Soon Wong, CEO of the Sustainable Finance Institute, Mr Bill Winters, Group Chief Executive of Standard Chartered, Ms Koike Yuriko, Governor of Tokyo, Mr Jesper Koll, Expert Director of Monex Group and Japan Catalyst Fund, and Dr Mari E. Pangestu, Managing Director for Development Policy and Partnerships, World Bank.



ERIA Participates in the 10th EAS Economic Ministers' and Related Meetings

Siam Reap, 17 September 2022

The 10th East Asia Summit Ministers' Meeting and the 25th ASEAN Economic Ministers Plus Three were held in person in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 17 September 2022. Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, the President of ERIA, presented ERIA's Comprehensive Asia Development Plan 3.0 (CADP 3.0) to East Asia Summit ministers at a special event hosted by ERIA to launch the important publication 'The Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP) 3.0: Towards an Integrated, Innovative, Inclusive, and Sustainable Economy.'



'ASEAN's Challenges on Carbon-Neutrality and Energy Security' – The Fifth East Asia Energy Forum 2022

Phnom Penh, 12 September 2022

The Fifth East Asia Energy Forum (EAEF) was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia with the theme 'ASEAN's Challenges on Carbon-Neutrality and Energy Security'. The forum was privileged to have a welcoming remark by H.E. Suy Sem, Minister of Mines and Energy, Cambodia, who highlighted the global energy issues exacerbated by the Russia-Ukraine war. He emphasised the need to mobilise huge investment and the facilitation of the investment climate for clean energy and renewable energy projects, as well as financing infrastructure projects to assimilate existing coal-fired and gas-fired power generation to using clean technologies; carbon capture, utilisation, and storage; and hydrogen technologies.

H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN, highlighted the efforts to find solutions for decarbonisation and climate mitigation efforts within the region. His Excellency also stated that the support of the finance and banking sector for the carbon neutrality strategy will expedite the realisation of energy security, affordability, and accessibility.

Several high-level officials from energy ministries from ASEAN countries, Japan, and the United States participated in this forum to convey their commitments to be part of international cooperation for achieving carbon neutrality targets. Global energy experts, policymakers, academics, and public and private institutions such as ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ), International Energy Agency (IEA), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Kpler, and MUFG Bank also took part in the panel discussion and assessed the impact of the Russia–Ukraine War on global energy security, actions towards affordable energy transition, and securing investment towards carbon-neutrality efforts. The President of ERIA, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, emphasised the importance of securing natural gas supply and multiple pathways toward carbon neutrality.



T20 Summit Encourages G20 Leaders to Support More Inclusivity

Bali, 4–6 September 2022

The T20 Summit, with as its theme ‘Strengthening the Role of the G20 to Navigate the Current Global Dynamics,’ was held in Bali on 4–6 September 2022 with more than 80 speakers from eminent institutions and organisations gathered to present the latest research-based policy recommendations and matters of global importance.

After working with more than 600 authors, policy briefs around three key themes this year aimed to deliver policy options that can be adopted by the G20 leaders on global health architecture, digital transformation, and energy transition. The summit also served as an interactive platform for peers to advance and share ideas on building a more prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive world. With four plenaries, more than 16 thematic sessions, networking experiences, and small group sessions, the T20 Summit 2022 provided a deep dive into the cross-cutting thematic areas that represent the most pressing challenges in the region. ERIA served as a knowledge partner of the T20 Secretariat in Indonesia’s Presidency. ERIA’s experts acted as Co-chairs in Task Force 1, Task Force 2, Task Force 3, and Task Force 8. At the Gala Dinner, ERIA President Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura congratulated the Government of Indonesia as the Chair of the G20 2022. ERIA’s Chief Economist Prof Fukunari Kimura also participated as a speaker in the plenary session discussing the theme ‘Bridging Diverse Interests for Greater Global Cooperation.’ ERIA also co-hosted a Special Session: Launch of ‘G20 Research Forum’: Towards Multi-Dimensional Perspectives on G20 Development Agenda, where Prof Nishimura delivered remarks and Ms Anita Prakash, ERIA’s Senior Policy Advisor for International Economic Cooperation, participated as a panelist. ERIA also had a great chance to connect with other eminent institutions from around the world and showcase its publications at ERIA’s booth. The Think20 (T20) is the official engagement group of the G20, bringing together leading think tanks and research centres from around the world.



T20 Indonesia Summit 2022: Special Session – Launch of ‘G20 Research Forum’: Towards Multi- Dimensional Perspectives on G20 Development Agenda

Bali, 5 September 2022

ERIA, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), and the Institute for Economic and Social Research – Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Indonesia (LPEM FEB UI) jointly launched the G20 Research Forum at the T20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia on 5 September 2022. The GRF aims to provide well-researched inputs for the G20 process and its ministerial tracks, on developmental issues for the members and non-members of the G20. It will undertake studies, organise brainstorming sessions, collaborate with governments and chairs of the G20, and establish links with multilateral organisations such as WTO, World Bank, ILO, EIB. It will especially support the developmental agenda in the G20 meetings in the years ahead. Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, offered ERIA's research and institutional capacities for the GRF, across the next several presidencies. ERIA and its partner organisations will be contributing to the global governance process through the G20 presidencies in next few years. The GRF will begin its active research and monitoring works for the G20 process by the end of 2022.



ERIA President Meets the Minister of Economy Trade and Industry of Japan

Jakarta, 3 September 2022

The President of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Professor Hidetoshi Nishimura, had a meeting with His Excellency Yasutoshi Nishimura, Minister of Economy Trade and Industry of Japan in Jakarta. Both parties discussed important issues on energy transition and net zero emission strategy in ASEAN, as well as the digital transformation in the region.



G20 Digital Innovation Network Aims for a Stronger Post-pandemic Recovery Collaboration with Global Innovation Players

Bali, 2–4 September 2022

The G20 Digital Innovation Network (G20 DIN) was held in Bali, Indonesia, on 2–4 September 2022 to discuss, enhance, and strengthen cooperation and collaboration for digital innovation and transformation that collectively support stronger world recovery. With as its theme 'The Rise of Digital Economy: Post Pandemic Recovery and Beyond', the Indonesian G20 DIN aimed to showcase innovative solutions from start-ups amongst the G20 members and invitees from the healthtech, fintech, edtech, supply chain, and green and renewable energy sectors; share knowledge and insight on emerging innovations during the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic recovery; and enhance public–private partnership by providing a platform and business opportunities and junctures to network and collaborate. Keynote speakers in four panel discussion sessions shared insights and lessons learnt from global tech companies and industry leaders from Google, Zoom, Grab, Alpha JWC Venture Accel, and Ajaib. In one session, Yossi Matias, Google's Vice President for Engineering and Research, noted that digital innovation, especially the use of artificial intelligence (AI), holds great potential and opportunities to solve some of the most pressing issues such as climate and sustainable environment crises. Abhist Arora, Zoom's Head of Corporate Strategy, remarked that the pandemic has accelerated the movement of people towards digital platforms, with the future of work now being defined by flexibility.

The panel speakers discussed the future of the tech industry, global tech investment outlook, sustainable investments, and learning from Indonesia's early unicorns. They agreed that building an ecosystem for digital talents/professionals is critical for enabling more inclusive and innovative solutions. Markus Bracht, DEG's Vice President for Equity Asia, discussed the need for investing in sustainable business and the increasing interconnectedness of global problems. Prashanth Prakash, Partner at Accel, discussed the risks for investors or start-ups. Andrew Schoen, NEA Partner, proposed ways to weather the uncertainties and collaborate on building cooperation in cross-sector and nascent industries. The event held start-up pitching sessions on healthtech, edutech, supply chain, and fintech.



'Exploring Short-term Solutions to the Global Gas Crisis' – G20 Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG) parallel event

Bali, 29 August 2022

ERIA and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR) co-hosted the Hybrid Workshop as a G20 ETWG III Parallel Event on 'Exploring Short-term Solutions to the Global Gas Crisis' organised back-to-back with the 3rd Energy Transition Working Group Meeting and the G20 Energy Transition Ministerial Meeting. The world is going through a complex energy crisis, and natural gas is just a single dimension. The consequences of the energy crisis are being felt across countries and industries in more acute ways. There is an ongoing mismatch of supply and continuous, more responsive, and elastic energy demand, exacerbated by further elevated energy price levels and volatility. The current gas crisis could seriously affect not only the world energy security but also the world energy transition progress.

The workshop was held with the aim of finding short-term solutions to stabilise the global gas market so that the world can continue to recover together and strongly amidst the geopolitical crisis. The event started with opening remarks by Mr Yudo Priaadi, Chair of G20 ETWG, followed by the first keynote speeches by Prof Tutuka Ariadji, Director General, Directorate General of Oil and Gas, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia, and H.E. Eng. Mohamed Hamel Secretary General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF). The third keynote speech was delivered by Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA.

Mr Hiroshi Hashimoto, the Head of Gas Group, Fossil Energies & International Cooperation Unit, The Institute of Energy Economies Japan (IEEJ), was the main speaker at the event. Panel Session One discussed the importing and exporting countries' perspectives on and reactions to the proposed solutions for the global gas crisis, while Session Two discussed the market effects of possible short-term measures.

The two panel sessions discussed the need for the G20 to send strong and unequivocal messages about the necessity of new gas investment. Mr Koji Hachiyama, COO of ERIA, emphasised the importance of energy security for allowing all countries to continue with the economic recovery from the pandemic and to progress towards net zero emissions by the middle of the century. He suggested that the G20 should consider all the available means for ameliorating the situation in collaboration with relevant international organisations such as IEA, IEF, and GECF. ERIA will provide continuous support in solving the gas crisis, ensuring energy security, and accelerating the energy transition process.



ERIA Presents East Asia Post Pandemic – An Integrative, Innovative, Inclusive and Sustainable Region through Digitalisation, at the EAS Senior Economic Officials' Meeting

Siam Reap, 6 August 2022

ERIA presented at the Third Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Economic Officials and the 11th SEOM-EAS East Asia Summit Senior Economic Officials' Meeting. Mr Koji Hachiyama, ERIA's Chief Operating Officer, highlighted the importance of leveraging digitalisation to recover quickly from the COVID-19 pandemic and to move forward in a way that supports an inclusive, innovative, inclusive, and sustainable Asia. Dr Keita Oikawa presented the progress of the 'ASEAN Plus Three Research Project for Closing Digital Divide in MSMEs.' The findings showed that MSMEs' digital adoption is more focused on the sales and marketing function, Covid-19 expedited the adoption of digital sales and marketing functions, a lack of internet infrastructure and supporting services in rural areas in relatively lower-income countries, IT skills and business knowledge remain issues for MSMEs digitalisation, and MSMEs tend not to care about cybersecurity risk.



ERIA Participates in the 2nd G20 Agriculture Deputies Meeting in Yogyakarta

Yogyakarta, 27–29 July 2022

The Second G20 Agriculture Deputies Meeting (ADM) was held on 27–29 July 2022 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. It was attended by G20 member countries, invited countries, the EU, and international organisations. The main theme of the G20 Indonesia presidency was 'Recover Together and Recover Stronger'. The Minister of Agriculture of Indonesia, Prof Dr H. Syahrul Yasin Limpo, opened the ADM with remarks emphasising the importance of 'Balancing Food Production and Trade to Fulfil Food for All'. Dr Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, Director of Research Strategy and Innovation, emphasised the need for transformative agricultural pathways for stronger economic recovery through digital transformation. ERIA also contributed to the joint webinar with the theme 'Digital Technology Transformation in The Agriculture Sector in Developing Countries' organised in support of the Agriculture Working Group and Development Working group.



ERIA Co-Hosts G20 High-Level Forum on Trade, Investment, and Industry

Jakarta, 26–27 July 2022

ERIA co-hosted a G20 High-Level Forum (HLF) on trade, investment, and industry with the International Economic Association (IEA), Ministry of Industry of Indonesia, Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia, and Ministry of Investment of Indonesia (BKPM) on 26 and 27 July 2022. The event opened with a keynote speech by Dr Irangga Hartarto, who emphasised the importance of global coordination in these times of turbulence due to the COVID-19 pandemic's scarring effects and geopolitical tensions. The current challenges come from the Ukraine war, high inflation, and rising energy prices, and the G20 must be a strategic platform to respond to these challenges and make the right policies for the world. The first day of the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference saw speeches from ERIA's President, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, WTO's Director General, and three ministers of the Republic of Indonesia. Minister Hasan stated that global challenges require global solutions, and that trade, investment, and industry need to synergise together to achieve strong and sustainable economic growth.

Minister Kartasasmita said that comprehensive development of industry 4.0 could support technological progress and lay the groundwork for inclusive and sustainable industrialisation. Deputy Riyatno discussed the importance of green investment and the need to agree on the rules regarding a more equitable carbon market between developed and developing countries. Panel discussion with experts on trade and investment discussed three sub-themes: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals via Stronger, Inclusive and Transparent WTO and Multilateral Trading System (MTS); The Role of Sustainable and Innovative Investment on Addressing Global Economic and Environment Challenges; and Ensuring Sustainable and Resilient Industry through Industry 4.0 to Support Economic Recovery.



ISPONRE and ERIA Sign MoU to Promote Institutional Cooperation on Prioritised Research Fields

Ha Noi, 11 July 2022

ERIA's COO, Mr Koji Hachiyama, signed a MoU with The Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE) of Viet Nam, represented by Assoc Prof Dr Nguyen Dinh Tho, as the President of ISPONRE on 11 July in Ha Noi.

The MoU aims to promote institutional cooperation between both organisations in academic fields of mutual interest to strengthen the capacity of research and the effectiveness of dissemination of research findings, in the following areas: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Low Carbon Development; Sustainable Consumption and Production; Green Technology and Innovation; Natural Resources and Ecosystem Services; Circular Economy, 3Rs and Waste Management; and Other thematic areas relevant to both parties.

This MoU will remain in force for 5 years.



ERIA President Delivers Keynote Address at the Brunei Darussalam Energy Symposium 2022

Bandar Seri Begawan, 16 June 2022

Professor Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, delivered a keynote address at the Brunei Darussalam Energy Symposium 2022 on 'Energy Security and Energy Transition: Today and Tomorrow'. The conference was held at the Musyawarah Hall, International Convention Centre in Bandar Seri Begawan. Professor Nishimura discussed ASEAN's carbon neutrality goals in 2050, 2060, and 2065, highlighted at COP26. ERIA and the Institute of Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ) are conducting a study on cost-optimal deployment of renewable energy technology for 2060 carbon neutrality. In the short to medium term, efficient gas-fired power plants will reduce CO₂ emissions from fossil power generation.

In the power sector, a rising number of ASEAN countries are interested in converting from coal to natural gas. Prof Nishimura stressed the importance of carbon capture and storage (CCS) for mid- to long-term decarbonisation. ERIA and Japan launched the Asia CCUS Network in June 2021, and the 4th East Asia Energy Forum was successfully convened in September 2021. ERIA's research work was welcomed by the leaders, and the ASEAN region should strive for a gradual, realistic energy transition with available financing. ERIA has a plan to promote energy-saving and new energy research projects, and the energy symposium was attended by Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw, Deputy Minister, Department of Energy, Prime Minister's Office, and government officials, industry executives, intergovernmental organisations, academics, and experts from Brunei Darussalam.



ERIA Holds the 15th ERIA Governing Board Meeting

Jakarta, 2 June 2022

The 15th ERIA Governing Board meeting was held on 2 June 2022 due to travel restrictions. The Governing Board is the decision-making body of ERIA consisting of the Secretary-General of ASEAN and representatives from each of ERIA's 16 member countries. It was the first meeting for two new Governors: Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia. In his Opening Remarks, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, highlighted the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which has caused a surge in resource and energy prices. He also noted that ERIA is supporting the Cambodian ASEAN Chairmanship and Indonesia's G20 Presidency this year.

Dr Teguh Dartanto, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Indonesia, expressed his appreciation for ERIA's support of Indonesia's G20 Presidency and expected that ERIA would continue its support to Indonesia for its Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2023. Dr Alan Bollard, Professor of Practice at the Victoria Business School, congratulated ERIA for the excellent work programmes it was able to sustain during the past turbulent year. Dr Cielito F Habito, the Chairperson of the Governing Board, noted that not even a world-paralysing pandemic can stop ERIA from providing essential knowledge to our region and to the world.

During his welcoming remarks, H.E. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi highlighted that despite entering the endemic stage of the COVID-19 pandemic and the start of the implementation of RCEP, optimism in the region has been dampened by pressing current challenges such as inflationary pressure and food and energy insecurity, compounded by a climate crisis and a changing geostrategic political landscape. ERIA's Chief Operating Officer reported ERIA's activities followed by a presentation of the FY2021 Financial Statement and FY2022 Budget Proposal.

These reports were unanimously approved by all the Governing Board members. Prof Kimura highlighted three key points: the rules-based trading regime will be challenged; technologies will expand the scope of globalisation; and ASEAN and East Asia should still believe in globalisation for rapid, innovative, inclusive, and sustainable economic development.

H.E. Ros Seilava thanked ERIA for supporting Cambodia's ASEAN chairmanship and expanding the scope of research and technical assistance. He encouraged ERIA to continue providing support in terms of policy options and capacity building, focusing on effectively implementing the commitments in the free trade agreements, particularly RCEP.



Natural Gas Crucial as Global Energy Transition Efforts Poised to Intensify

Jakarta, 11 May 2022

Mr Yudo Dwinanda Priaadi, Chair of the G20 Energy Transition Working Group, highlighted the potential for natural gas to act as a reliable clean energy source and a source of power generation. Natural gas is not only a lower-carbon alternative, but it is also easy to store and can provide an 'uninterrupted and flexible energy supply', making it an attractive energy source for developing and developed countries. Gas energy can also aid in the eradication of energy poverty, given that 760 million people globally have inadequate electricity access and 2.5 billion are without clean cooking access.

The combination of natural gas with Carbon, Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS) technology has shown promising potential in accelerating decarbonisation initiatives. In his keynote speech, Tutuka Ariadji, Director-General of Oil and Gas of Indonesia's MEMR, shared insights concerning Indonesia's mid- and long-term gas demand and supply. Currently, over 60% of national gas production is used to meet domestic demand, and the government is aiming to reach the target of 12 billion cubic feet per day in natural gas production by 2030 and for natural gas to make up a 24% share of its national energy mix by 2050. To realise its energy security and domestic demand goals, the Indonesian government continues to enhance the infrastructure development of gas pipelines and promote research and development. Mr Ariadji extended the government's invitation to investors to participate in the country's gas development, offering the ease of doing business and supporting facilities from regulations, licensing, and fiscal and non-fiscal incentives.

In a keynote speech, H.E. Eng. Mr Mohamed Hamel, Secretary General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), presented information regarding mid- and long-term global natural gas demand and supply. He highlighted the pivotal role that natural gas is expected to play in satisfying world energy needs, while contributing to air quality improvement in cities and to climate change

mitigation. He also highlighted the potential of CCUS, which could make the objective of net-zero emissions a reality, and the need to provide policy support and to facilitate technological deployment and transfer to developing countries. He congratulated ERIA for establishing the Asia CCUS Network and expressed the GECF's readiness to cooperate with this collaborative platform.

Mr Jun Arima, Senior Policy Fellow, ERIA, highlighted the importance of CCUS and Carbon, Capture, and Storage (CCS) technologies for mid- to long-term decarbonisation in ASEAN. However, the conflict in Ukraine and skyrocketing gas prices could discourage coal-to-gas fuel switching. Mr Arima suggests Southeast Asia establish a regional hub to promote regional cooperation and achieve economies of scale to cut down costs for the carbon-abating innovation. Mr Lars Erik Aamot, Director-General of Oil and Gas Department, Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, Norway, shared the European perspective on gas, highlighting the need for gas in the coming decades for emissions. The event also featured a panel discussion and a question and answer session moderated by Mr Shigeru Kimura, Special Advisor on Energy Affairs, ERIA.

ERIA and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR), Directorate General of Oil and Gas, Republic of Indonesia co-hosted the G20 Side Event Series entitled 'Escalating the Role of Gas in Energy Transition' on 11 May 2022 to discuss how natural gas can abate carbon emissions and serve as a more stable future energy supply. Mr Kimura closed the panel discussion session by encouraging upstream investments and expanding renewable energy sources beyond gas. Mr Hachiyama suggested forging international cooperation to enable developing countries to boost gas consumption for power generation. He also underscored the importance of new investment in upstream gas and preparing to deploy CCUS to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Experts Meet Ahead of G20 High-Level Policy Dialogue on Trade, Investment, Industry

Jakarta, 27 April 2022

The High-level Policy Dialogue on Trade, Investment, and Industry Working Group (TII-WG) was organised by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) and was a side event of the Group of Twenty (G20) meeting in mid-July 2022. At the April meeting, ERIA's Lead Advisor on Southeast Asia Dr Lili Yan Ing reaffirmed ERIA's commitment to supporting the dialogue. Indonesia's G20 expert team, led by Dr Ing and Prof Rodrik, will discuss economic recovery, digital transformation, and sustainable development at the dialogue. The second G20 TII-WG meeting will tackle three priority issues: World Trade Organization reform, the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and global health architecture, and sustainable investment for economic recovery.



ERIA Holds 14th Academic Advisory Council (AAC) Meeting

Jakarta, 21 April 2022

The 14th Academic Advisory Council (AAC) meeting held on 21 April 2022 was conducted virtually due to travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was attended by internationally renowned scholars and experts from universities, research institutions, the private sector, international organisations, and non-governmental organisations. Topics discussed included the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, Cambodia's chairmanship of ASEAN, and energy transition affordability. ERIA President Hidetoshi Nishimura called attention to the current economic sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation, which has led to changes in supply chains and uncertainties in the ASEAN region. ERIA has been preparing the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan 3.0 as a key deliverable for this year's ASEAN and East Asia Summit (EAS).

ERIA has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Cambodia's minister of education, youth, and sports in support of the ASEAN Social and Cultural Community, and is committed to Indonesia's G20 presidency. ERIA's Chief Economist Prof Fukunari Kimura emphasised the importance of international division of labour, international trade, and globalising forces for effective economic development. On energy, ERIA's Senior Policy Fellow for Energy and Environment Prof Arima reported that the cost of switching from coal to natural gas is being estimated in many ASEAN countries, and that energy transition affordability will become significantly more crucial. ERIA's Senior Communications Advisor Mr Kavi Chongkittavorn provided an update of ASEAN's vision beyond 2025 to 2035, and participants discussed bridging the development gap and how ASEAN could maintain sustainable development.