



Research

Deepening Economic Integration

1. Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Phase 2: Understanding the Opportunities and Challenges

This research is designed to have three key elements with respect to topics on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP): (i) analytics, (ii) a database, and (iii) monitoring measures/study. The first element discusses key economic issues on and related to the implementation of the agreement. This was started in phase 1 and will be continued in phase 2. It is important to state that the monitoring element is built into the idea that the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) will be one of the key institutions regularly monitoring the implementation of the RCEP, consistent with the mandate given to the institute as the think tank for the East Asia Summit (EAS) process. The second element was also started in phase 1, especially with the creation of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)–ERIA RCEP Services Commitment Database. Information from this database was used by a paper on services in phase 1 of the project. Another database that the project would like to use is the database on the RCEP's rules of origin, which is also the basis of a paper in the phase 1 project. The third element has not yet started, although preparatory work is being undertaken by defining the measures relevant for monitoring purposes. This activity will increase over time, along with more intensive application of the commitments in the RCEP. Finally, the project is clearly relevant for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and EAS process.

Recent research conducted by ERIA on RCEP details the structure of RCEP in terms of the complexity of its commitments, modalities, and mechanisms. It also explores RCEP's potential

implications regarding the integration process in the region and how key features can strengthen domestic and regional integration. The impact of businesses, behind-the-border issues, and domestic capacities of RCEP member countries are also discussed, in addition to potential benefits of the agreement. Finally, it addresses emerging issues, especially with respect to COVID-19 pandemic recovery.

A high-level forum was held to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of RCEP initiation and handover two ERIA books (RCEP Phase 1 and Phase 2) to the Prime Minister of Cambodia in November 2022. 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.

As a result, ERIA published [Dynamism of East Asia and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership \(RCEP\): The Framework for Regional Integration](#), which addresses selected questions regarding trade in goods, trade in services, investment, and economic cooperation. Although these are more technical in nature, it is important for both the private and public sectors to understand RCEP's position vis-à-vis other agreements, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Chapters highlight key policy issues to increase the impact of a regional free trade agreement, such as RCEP, on domestic and regional integration.

2. Accelerating Digital Transformation in ASEAN and East Asia

The study follows two main tracks: a tech track that focuses on technology adoption and a policy track that focuses on digital strategy and policy adopted by Asian countries. The tech track focuses on new information and communication technology and business models such as (i) artificial intelligence and machine learning, (ii) big data and cloud computing, (iii) Internet of Things, (iv) financial technology or fintech, (v) blockchains, (vi) social media, and (vii) servicification. Studies on each subject will include consideration of data flow, technology transfer, privacy protection, consumer protection, cybersecurity and intellectual property rights, and other related issues, particularly human skills development. The policy track monitors and accesses the policy effort to promote digital transformation in the region. The track will build a framework of policy analysis based on the policy checklists developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the monitoring system used by the European Union, and then apply the framework to examine the digital strategies and policy plans of Asian countries.

Policy Implications:

1. Policy instruments to overcome the barriers to using new technology and unlock its potential either nationally or regionally or both.
2. Actions to solve problems that may occur in digital transformation, and risk management to avoid failure that may come from directionality, demand articulation, policy coordination, or reflexivity.

3. A preliminary framework or a prototype of monitoring system on digital transformation in ASEAN and East Asia.
4. Market demands and policy response regarding human skills development for digitalisation, especially for developing economies in the region.

The current volume, covering one of the largest populations in ASEAN countries: Indonesia. The book [Accelerating Digital Transformation in Indonesia: Technology, Market, and Policy](#) published in January 2023. The book provides policy recommendations, from a country perspective, on how to accelerate the pace of digital transformation with a balance between efficiency and inclusiveness, and in the long term, how to synchronise the interaction amongst digitalisation, competition, innovation, and human development in Asian development.

As the first volume of an ERIA series on Accelerating Digital Transformation in Asia, the ERIA research project shares in-depth understanding of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States' advantages and disadvantages, as well as those of the region, to help ease ASEAN through the digital transformation and fully unleash its development potential in the digital era. This volume provides insights on the progress of digital transformation in Indonesia, as well as policy recommendations on (i) how to accelerate the pace of this transformation, considering both efficiency and inclusiveness; and (ii) in the long term, how digitalisation, competition, innovation, and human development interact.



3. Regional Integration in Indo-Pacific: Connectivity, Cooperation, and New Supply Chain Linkages

In 2017, when ERIA developed the ASEAN Vision 2040, it was agreed that Asia-Pacific could not sufficiently represent current economic linkages in East Asia. Still, Indo-Pacific was not acceptable to many writers, as they believed it to represent security connotations, primarily led by the United States (US). The ASEAN Vision 2040 settled for the Indo-Asia-Pacific construct instead. However, in 2018, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's speech at the UN's General Assembly changed the focus of economic linkages and cooperation in the region. Free and Open Indo-Pacific was emphasised as the platform of all economic cooperation and connectivity in the region and between Asia-Africa and Asia-Europe.

The study was published as [ERIA Research Project Report no. 19](#) in March 2023, under the same title, and was edited by Ms Anita Prakash.

The evolving economic architecture in the Indo-Pacific rests squarely on the post-war construct of the Asia-Pacific, which is undergoing changes in the established patterns of economic integration and supply chain linkages. The Indo-Pacific faces opportunities and challenges in the new policy alignments around trade, Global Value Chain integration, and economic cooperation. The *raison d'être* of building a new construct lies in the re-evaluation of the existing trade and investment linkages – in Asia, between Asia and the Pacific, between Asia and Europe, and between Asia and Africa – and in the re-calibration of these linkages, along with economic and technical cooperation

activities, to reflect the emergent economic and strategic alignments amongst countries and regions, including the Pacific Island states. This study traces the stages of economic growth in Asia-Pacific and the convening of regional platforms such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), ASEAN+3, and East Asia Summit to aid the regional economic integration. The emergence of the Indo-Pacific construct is explained by evaluating the strategic importance of regional value chains and the global competitiveness for dominating the new technologies that influence both the existing and new centres for the production and consumption of goods and services. The economic construct is specifically explained along the important verticals of connectivity infrastructure for supply chains; role of ASEAN in the new architecture; GVC Integration amongst major partners of Indo-Pacific; cooperation for digital economy; human resources capacities and movement of people; the Pacific Islands in an inclusive Indo-Pacific; and development and cooperation. Indo-Pacific has high stakes in the new supply chain-led connectivity projects. Restructuring, understanding, and preparing for a connected Indo-Pacific will ensure stable and inclusive growth in the region.

The degree of economic integration, through GVCs, of Indo-Pacific countries including ASEAN, is the bedrock of Indo-Pacific economic architecture. An Indo-Pacific trade and economic cooperation plan must consider China and face the inevitability of supply chain integration between ASEAN and China, and the European Union (EU) and China, amongst others. The question before policymakers is whether the new economic architecture – the Indo-Pacific – can be developed in a highly trade-integrated Asia; even when the strategic cooperation amongst Indo-Pacific members mostly excludes China from their deliberations and dialogues.

This study shows that the Indo-Pacific economic architecture is linked to restoring multilateralism that recognises diversity yet leaves no one behind. It explains the building blocks of the new economic architecture in the Indo-Pacific that are already in operation, with the caveat that there are several opportunities, some certainties of success, and a few unknown gaps that will shape progress towards the future.

4. Study on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) from International Relations Perspectives

Bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) in ASEAN and the East Asia region began in the early 2000s and have been developing over the last 2 decades whilst multilateral and large-scale or mega FTAs were promoted in the late 2000s and the 2010s. One result of the regional economic integration process was the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a mega FTA signed on 15 November 2020 amongst ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and New Zealand. Why was the RCEP concept proposed? How was it negotiated? What are the characteristics of this mega regional economic integration initiative? The project tries to understand these questions by adopting a holistic approach that analyses the history and negotiation process of RCEP to obtain lessons for policymakers dealing with future regional economic agreements. The project will also analyse the relationship with other mega-regional FTAs, particularly the Trans-Pacific Partnership, concerning promoting (or suppressing) the RCEP negotiations. The project will cover the following themes: history of RCEP, ERIA's role for RCEP, RCEP with regards to the ASEAN community building and ASEAN centrality, RCEP and ASEAN dialogue partners, impact of RCEP on the other regions, future of RCEP, and expectations of RCEP.

The nine ERIA Discussion Papers (DPs) - published from August to October 2022 - study the influences of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in the East Asia region and the rest of the world from the perspective of international relations. The DPs include the perspectives from ASEAN, Australia, China, Japan, European Union, and the United States. The DPs contribute not only to deepening our understanding of the issue for the researchers and students but also to the formulation of economic policy by policymakers.

The DPs analyse RCEP and its negotiation process from the viewpoint of each RCEP participating country and the rest of the world. Important lessons from our analysis include how

these participating countries maintain the ASEAN centrality throughout the negotiation process and consider the positive effects of the East Asian regional economic integrations. Several DPs also illustrate the dynamism of the regional architecture in East Asia concerning other regional movements, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), Comprehensive and Progressive TPP (CPTPP), Belt and Road Initiative, and the newly launched Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF). The editors emphasise the importance of our study when anti-globalisation sentiment intensifies, and inward-oriented protectionist policies are increasing in many parts of the world. Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership: Economic Backgrounds of ASEAN and Its Dialogue Partners:

Narrowing Development Gaps

1. The Comprehensive Asia Development Plan 3.0 (CADP 3.0)

ERIA published the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP) 1.0 in 2010, CADP 2.0 in 2015, and CADP 3.0 in 2022. Connectivity and infrastructure development remain important issues to realise a 'competitive, innovative, and dynamic ASEAN' as outlined in the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025. Recent years have witnessed a radical change in information and communication technology (ICT). The digitalisation of economy based on ICT has changed the conceptual framework of 'unbundling' as advocated by Richard Baldwin in *The Great Convergence: Information Technology and the New Globalization*. He argued that the 'third unbundling' has emerged following the 'second unbundling', which started in the 1980s. Further advancement in ICT is making a qualitative breakthrough by reducing face-to-face costs and unbundling 'tasks' in different locations. This technological change has created many opportunities for new businesses in ASEAN and East Asia, such as e-commerce (B-to-B and B-to-C) by platform firms. As a result, we are required to reformulate our development strategies to include leapfrog and feedback strategies as well as the existing step-by-step strategy. CADP 2.0 was built on the idea of fragmentation theory and production networks.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic subsequently caused trade disruptions; a drop in foreign direct investment; and scarring effects on poverty, education, and women in many nations. However, it has also had beneficial features. Factory Asia has continued to produce and export during the pandemic, in contrast with North America and Europe. COVID-19 has boosted digitalisation, notably in information and communication technology (ICT). The adoption of ICT has boosted economic growth. Maintaining the competitiveness of international production networks and utilising digitalisation are essential to the region's future post-COVID-19.

Based on this understanding, ERIA developed the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan 3.0 (CADP 3.0): *Towards an Integrated, Innovative, Inclusive, and Sustainable Economy*, which was published in September 2022. CADP 3.0 addresses the above-mentioned urgent concerns and discusses economic growth and social problem-solving in the region from the viewpoints of (i) integration, (ii) innovation, (iii) inclusiveness, and (iv) sustainability. CADP 3.0 comprises 18 original chapters on the four viewpoints and digitalisation.

First, CADP 3.0 claims that integration is at the core of development strategies. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and developing East Asia could use three forms of the international division of labour (the first to the third unbundlings) simultaneously. To stimulate economic growth, the region should adhere to globalisation. Second, CADP 3.0 asserts that digital technology has transformed the nature of innovation. ASEAN and East Asia must move from intensive research and development (R&D) to technology deployment.

Combining incremental and disruptive innovation could revive creative manufacturing. Third, CADP 3.0 declares that inclusiveness in its three dimensions – geographical, industrial, and social – is a core value for ASEAN and East Asia. Before resorting to income/welfare redistribution, the region should employ economic forces to achieve inclusiveness wherever

practicable. Last, CADP 3.0 affirms that sustainability must be realised through economic expansion and improved well-being. Decarbonisation, resource management, and disaster management are not just long-term objectives but also present challenges. The use of new technology will facilitate international cooperation in establishing a circular economy.



2. Artificial Intelligent: Trade, Growth, and Employment

Artificial intelligence (AI) has changed not only the working environment but also daily life. AI will change economic theories, world trade, and soon, economic systems. The interface amongst AI and factors of production will result in a shared language of utility, probability, revealed preferences, predictable objectives, and identified budget constraints. Things never experienced in human societies will soon emerge in combined human–AI societies. There are at least two reasons why the use of AI will be significant: first, AI can reduce costs significantly; and second, AI can help markets work more efficiently. The use of AI as predictors has changed economic theories and world trade. The faster diffusion of information and communication technology and related developments in the Internet of Things could strengthen the current structure of global value chains. But greater digitalisation in smart factories and advanced robotics might reduce the importance of low labour costs in determining comparative advantage, laying greater emphasis on skills, complementary services, and other aspects of firm ecosystems. The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia will conduct a study on *AI/Robots: Labour, Trade, Growth and Welfare*, which will be contained in a book of 10 chapters.

Policy Implications:

1. A better understanding on how the invention of AI and robots will affect demand for labour, trade, growth, and welfare.
2. Evidence-based policy directions on how AI and robots eventually affect resource allocation.

This study was published in the ERIA-Routledge series in June 2022 with as its title: *Robots and AI: A New Economic Era*, edited by Lili Yan Ing and Gene M. Grossman.

Robots and artificial intelligence (AI) are powerful forces that will likely have large impacts on the size, direction, and composition of international trade flows. This book discusses how industrial robots, automation, and AI affect international growth, trade, productivity, employment, wages, and welfare. The book explains new approaches on how robots and artificial intelligence affect the world economy by presenting detailed theoretical framework and country-specific as well as firm-product level-specific exercises.

This book will be a useful reference for those researching on robots, automation, AI and their economic impacts on trade, industry, and employment.

3. An Agent of Care Technology Transfer: Trends and Challenges of Migration of Care Workers Across Borders

Circulation of the long-term care workforce is one of the most important agendas of the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative. It was launched by Japan to promote regional cooperation to create vibrant and healthy societies where people can enjoy long and productive lives. Japan has opened its labour market for healthcare industries under bilateral economic partnership agreements to accelerate Japan's trade with Indonesia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. Since Japan's signing of the agreement with Indonesia in 2008, with the Philippines in 2009, and with Viet Nam in 2014, Japan has accepted thousands of nurses and care workers from these countries. Of these, approximately 400 nurses and 1,000 care workers have passed the national exam for nursing care workers to become full licensees in Japan and thus may stay and work without restrictions. Those who fail the exam must return to their home countries.

In recent years, the Japanese government has created several new programmes to accept foreign care workers. To make these programmes mutually beneficial to Japan and the sending countries, it is crucial to discuss how such crossborder care workers can be utilised in their home countries. However, as the authors have learnt from the experiences of Economic Partnership Agreement programme returnees, care workers have no career path in their home countries. A well-organised career recognition system for care workers is required if countries are to maximise the knowledge and skills that returned care workers bring. This will also improve the social and economic status of care workers in many Asian countries who have a crucial role in creating societies where people can enjoy active, healthy, and productive ageing. The project aims to develop a training programme for oral care and swallowing function rehabilitation, which can be used for pre-departure training of potential cross-border care workers. The study also aims to contribute to the education of healthcare workers in the sending countries, where rapid population ageing is taking place.

Policy Implications:

1. Provide an example of effective circulation of care workers and contribute to the standardisation of care skills.
2. Provide suggestions for labour-market policymaking for long-term care in the region.

The study was published as [ERIA Research Project Report no. 6](#) in August 2022 together with Nagasaki University, edited by Yuko O. Hirano and Osuke Komazawa.

The report is to show the models of promoting the transfer of knowledge and skills of Long-term care (LTC) from the destination countries (Japan) to the sending countries (Indonesia) of care workers. Containing both original/secondary, and quantitative/qualitative data, this report was written by research members of diverse disciplines. The report comprises five chapters. Chapter 1 compares the definition of 'care' or LTC between Japan and Indonesia. Chapter 2 analyses the policies of the Japanese government on migrant care workers who engage in LTC. Chapter 3 assesses the policy of recruiting migrant care workers through a cost analysis. Chapter 4 assesses the role of returnees by focusing on Vietnamese EPA care workers who have already returned to their home country. In Chapter 5 an oral care check list, based on the anatomical and physiological functions in preventing aspiration, is developed, which is used to compare the degree of implementation of the care by Indonesian care workers in Japan and in Indonesia.

4. Health and Long-term Care Information in Ageing Asia

The 2018 ERIA research project, Demand and Supply of Long-term Care for the Older Persons in Asia, conducted by the same research team of this study, clarified the situation of long-term care demand and supply in East Asia and Southeast Asia using mainly population census data for international comparison. Based on the research, this new project has been conducted with a wider scope of target countries stretching across all areas of Asia, including India, Iran, Sri Lanka, and other countries

in South-Central and Western Asia, to see if the experience of East Asia and Southeast Asia is relevant to countries in Asia in general. This study focuses on tracking cause-of-death statistics as they are crucial in monitoring health and important in calculating Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators. However, cause-of-death statistics in Asia are often insufficient. Even amongst registered deaths, causes of death are not properly stated and compiled. The project was conducted to find solutions by listing and comparing health statistics systems of target countries. According to widely accepted epidemiological transition theory, causes of death should shift from communicable to non-communicable diseases as society develops. In 2019, data showed that ASEAN+3 were already post-transition countries in contrast with many low-income countries in other regions, especially Africa, where most deaths were caused by communicable, maternal, perinatal, and nutritional conditions. It means that the burden of non-communicable diseases is increasing in ASEAN and other Asian countries. Meanwhile, communicable diseases have not been eradicated even in high-income countries. In 2019, a large percentage of communicable diseases was attributed to respiratory infections, including pneumonia, one of the significant causes of death of older persons. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic started in 2020, raising the number of deaths caused by communicable diseases. Death registration and statistical procedures are inherent to each country, and it is essential to know the original data collected by the country authority. The paper is expected to offer baseline knowledge to tackle these challenges.

The study was published as [ERIA Research Project Report no. 7](#) in September 2022, edited by Reiko Hayashi and Osuke Komazawa.

Global ageing is continuing. Not only the proportion of older persons, but also the absolute numbers of older persons in emerging countries, have been increasing more rapidly than in high-income countries in the past. This report identifies what information is needed to assess health and long-term care in ageing Asia in three parts. In part A, cause of death statistics in ASEAN+3 countries are examined. While several countries are capable of registering all deaths with causes of death, some are collecting information using sample surveys, and countries without registered based vital statistics are now implementing new technologies of civil registration. Part B is an updated analysis of demand and supply of long-term care in Asia, from the research conducted by the same authors (ERIA Research Project Report 2018, No.08). South-Central and West Asian countries, where female labour participation is different from East and Southeast Asia, are included in the analysis. In Part C, the Vietnamese register-based population data is analysed as an example of a potential data source. Each country in Asia is facing its own challenges in getting better population health information, and regional cooperation is crucial for making progress.

Sustainable Development

1. Indonesia's G20 Presidency: 'G20: New Normal, New Technologies, New Financing'

On 30 October 2021, Indonesia officially assumed the Group of Twenty (G20) Presidency for 2022. The presidency contributed significantly to global development, which is still recovering from the health and economic crises brought about by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. For its 2022 G20 leadership role, Indonesia adopted the 'Recover Together, Recover Stronger' theme. Indonesia also committed to lead discussions that result in concrete actions to achieve inclusive, people-centred, environment-friendly, and sustainable growth globally. The 2022 G20 Presidency was a great opportunity for Indonesia as a developing economy to (i) represent the concerns and voices of developing economies regarding the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery strategy, (ii) rebalance economic power, and (iii) give importance to inclusive growth.

The book titled New Normal, New Technologies, New Financing, published in June 2022, provides policy notes and presentations related to economic recovery, digital transformation, and inclusive growth and sustainable development.

While the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) seems to be behind us now, the scarring effects on employment, poverty, and education will last forever. Women, youth, and less educated groups of the population have been disproportionately affected. Moreover, the current war in Ukraine and rising global tensions have placed additional pressures on the world economy. The fact that now

countries, particularly low- and middle-income countries, have limited fiscal space means the rising geopolitical tensions have widened inequality and worsened the recovery process. The G20 could be an effective international forum to foster a coordinated global response to establish and deliver commitments for resilient, sustainable, and inclusive growth. This book consists of three main sections: economic recovery, digital transformation, and sustainable development.

2. Assessing the Impacts of COVID-19: Regional Policies and Practices for Green Recovery

Experts largely agree that the challenge of achieving climate goals and resource efficiency targets, such as those set forth in the Paris Agreement, will be nearly impossible to achieve without pursuing all options, including adoption of the disruptive digital technologies to manage greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and bring resource efficiency. The integrated circular low-carbon economy concept builds on the principles of circular economy and applies them to managing GHG emissions: to reduce carbon that must be managed in the first place, to reuse carbon as an input to create feedstocks and fuels, to recycle carbon through the natural carbon cycle with renewable energy, and, unique to circular economy, to remove excess carbon and store it for alternate uses. For the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the digitally aided circular low-carbon economy is an integrated and inclusive approach to accelerate the transition towards more comprehensive, resilient, and climate friendly

energy and industry systems that support and enable green recovery in the post-pandemic era. This would enable ASEAN Member States (AMS) to take advantage of all emerging disruptive digital technologies, forms of energy, and climate mitigation opportunities and resource-efficiency opportunities according to resource availability, economic costs, and national circumstances. The study is intended to provide an impulse for embracing emerging digital, resource-efficient, and zero-emission technologies in developing and emerging economies of ASEAN and East Asia in support of the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF), the consolidated pandemic exit strategy for the region. The objectives of the study are to review the progress made in AMS in the implementation of ACRF strategic priority areas and identify enabling factors and the role of disruptive technologies; to enhance understanding on how a combination of advanced ICTs are being utilised by the private and public sectors to promote the adoption of circular low-carbon approaches; and to provide insights on policy measures in the context of ACRF such as stakeholder engagement and partnerships, financing and resource mobilisation, and institution and governance to address the challenges in scaling up disruptive technologies in support of decarbonisation and circular economy approaches.

Policy Implications:

1. A set of policy recommendations to AMS and their dialogue partners to address the challenges in scaling up regional responses to the emerging-to-disrupting digital, resource-efficient, and low-carbon technologies in support of decarbonisation and circular economy.
2. Proposition of a new regional cooperation architecture within the context of ACRF to support, help, and build green economic recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This study was published as a book titled [Assessing the Impacts of COVID-19: Regional Policies and Practices for Green Recovery](#) in June 2022, edited by Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, Kaliappa Kalirajan, and Xianbin Yao.

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented global health crisis. To contain the disease, governments in ASEAN and East Asia implemented strict lockdowns and curbed mobility, which has stalled economic growth. As the region enters the third year of the crisis, countries have an unprecedented opportunity to use the required state interventions and accompanying stimulus policies to support a green, resilient, and inclusive recovery. Green recovery policies and practices such as investments in renewable energy, resource efficiency, low-carbon transport, and nature-based climate solutions, provide greater socio-economic benefits. This book identifies and analyses the policies and practices that have evolved during the pandemic and their impact on long-term green growth strategy. While the early governmental response to the COVID-19 pandemic had been focused on emergency health responses, in the recovery phase stimulus packages are designed to provide short-term economic gain and enhance the fundamentals of long-term sustainable growth. However, the size of stimulus packages is insufficient to support the environmentally beneficial outcomes that countries are looking for. The book concludes that countries can lay the foundations for long-term sustainability only by implementing economy recovery packages that maximise social objectives in the short term and mitigate climate change impacts in the long term. To ensure green recovery across the region, international cooperation towards implementing large-scale low-carbon energy infrastructure projects and green innovations is an

absolute must, as they offer a win-win solution for most of the developing countries and the large emerging markets of the region.

3. Towards International Agreement on Marine Plastic Pollution: The Role of the G20

Marine plastic pollution has become a critical issue on a global scale, with detrimental environmental impacts, including the death of marine species caused by plastic entanglement and ingestion. Southeast Asia is considered the biggest contributor

of marine plastics. A recent study shows that the region (except Lao People's Democratic Republic) disposes into the ocean more than 55% of the world's total output of plastic waste. To address the issue, several international treaties have been enacted. The London Convention, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), the Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the Basel Convention are amongst the prominent treaties that address the issue. However, those regulations lack comprehensive discussions on the life cycle of plastics, legally binding agreements, monitoring methods or quantified targets on plastic pollution. Therefore, an international treaty that encompasses all components



related to plastic pollution must be created. Earlier this year, the United Nations Environment Assembly 5.2 adopted, 'End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument', a resolution seeking to organise an international negotiation committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. The Group of 20 (G20) has contributed to the resolution of the plastic pollution issue. At the G20 Hamburg Summit in 2017, the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter was formulated. In June 2019, the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter was established at the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth. Maintaining the momentum, the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision was shared with G20

leaders and to other countries. This policy brief investigates the gaps in the existing international treaties on marine plastic pollution and proposes components that need to be considered in a new treaty. These proposals will complement the G20 work on plastic pollution. Furthermore, since the G20 summit will be held in Indonesia in 2022, the focus of this policy brief will not only be relevant to G20 countries but also to Southeast Asia as the biggest contributor of marine plastics.

This T20 Policy Brief was written by Michikazu Kojima, Hendro Putra Johannes, Ellen Putri Edita, Fusanori Iwasaki, R. Andreas Kraemer, and Alin Halimatussadiah. The Brief can be accessed at: <https://www.t20indonesia.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/PB-12-Layouted.pdf>