

# Foreword

In efforts to achieve global and regional economic integration, Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) have become increasingly prominent, as most tariffs have been significantly reduced. The majority of these NTMs are imposed for reasons not primarily related to trade: for human, plant, and animal, health, and environmental protection. Given the increasing presence of NTMs, their complexity, and the fact that they are enacted by multiple agencies, the lack of transparency and approaches to measuring their impact on international trade is a major challenge.

Collaboration between ERIA and UNCTAD to develop an NTM database is based on ERIA's vision of deepening regional integration and UNCTAD's goal of supporting countries in fairly reaping the benefits of integrated economies. At first, NTM data for ASEAN countries in 2014 were successfully collected. Upon request, by member States to support the negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the NTM data for Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, and New Zealand were then mapped. The database helped navigate the current NTMs regimes in the RCEP members. The data for India are still relevant because the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (AIFTA) is in force. The databases for all 16 countries are publicly available on the Trade Analysis Information System (TRAINS) website of ERIA and UNCTAD, [Non-tariff measures \(NTMs\) | UNCTAD](#).

ERIA and UNCTAD have collaborated on numerous initiatives to promote the importance of understanding NTMs and addressing their challenges. ERIA and UNCTAD have provided capacity building to the 16 countries officials and academic for the collection, classification, and analysis of NTMs, and the NTM databases have been handed over to them for regular updating. This ensures transparency and provides the 16 countries with key input to the National Trade Repository. The NTM database helps researchers, policymakers, and businesses to get insight from the NTMs data for better informed policy and business decisions. ERIA and UNCTAD will continue to work with governments, academic, and businesses on impactful NTM-related programs to facilitate recovery in these challenging times.

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