ERIA Research Project on

DIGITAL GOVERNMENT AND ONLINE PUBLIC SERVICES: A BOOSTER FOR THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

Call for Proposals

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) is inviting research proposals for a study on 'Digital Government and Online Public Services: A Booster for the Digital Economy'.

[Background]

Digital transformation in the domain of the public sector tends to extensively affect all of the sectors in a society, and moreover, have the potential to transform citizens' conceptions of civil and political interactions with their governments. Digital government is not only a main component of digital transformation, but also a main factor that will affect its progress. It extensively affects all of the sectors in a society, and moreover, have the potential to transform citizens' conceptions of civil and political interactions with their governments. Providing effective access to large collections of public information for citizens and officials and making them usable by the large community of users can generate significant economic and social benefits, despite the associated technical and regulatory challenges. In this regard, digital government has wider connotation than E-government.

As digital tools and new services have emerged in an endless steam, leading to profound changes in the way of work, living, leisure and entertainment, digital government is not only about the government's use of information and communication technologies (ICT) solution in providing online services and e-government to the public, but also about facilitating the interaction among different stakeholders and increasing the inclusivity of decision-making. It emphasizes on open and user-driven approaches and operational transformations, which is more than E-government's effort on increasing transparency and setting ICT-enabled procedures in public services.

Digital government will be a new frontier of regional cooperation in ASEAN and East Asia. The consequent improvement in public services could increase the efficiency of regional supply chains and make the region more competitive in the global market.

[Objective]

Digital government shall be part of their national strategies of digitalization in ASEAN and East Asia. This is not only about digital adoption in public sector, but in long run, breeding digital-enabled, user-driven public online services to support the digital economy.

The objective of this project is twofold. First, it examines in-depth the main viewpoints/ arguments on key issues that are currently under debate globally related to digital government. It provides insights on the implication of digital government for economic development based on economic analysis on the impacts of digital government on international trade, investment and global value chains (GVCs).

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Second, from the perspective of ASEAN and East Asia, the study explores the possibility and feasibility of combining the progress of digital government with the development of digital economy. It presents policy options with the list of priorities to promote digital government.

[Research questions]

We welcome proposals with topics relevant to the current debates on digital government and development, based on either theoretical or empirical studies, with geographic focus on ASEAN and East Asia. The research topics include, but are not limited to:

- How could better digital government and online public services generate economic benefits and increase social welfare? How they could support the long-term interests of development, either nationally or regionally?

- What are the priority of issues, trends, and challenges that policymakers shall consider in promoting digital government? How to draw the interests from the private sector and encourage their participation?

- How to realize free data flow with trust taking into account privacy, consumer protection, competition policy, taxation, cyber-security, and AI? For instance, how to balance individual's privacy and public interests in data use? How to improve the resilience of online public services? In practice, how to build a reliable digital ecosystem that citizen and public are willing to participate and share the information voluntarily, instead of forcing them to do so.

- Region-wise, how to coordinate countries' approaches, improve the interoperability, and increase the overall social welfare?

[Deliverable]

- A research paper of 7,000 - 9,000 words to be published as a chapter in a book.

[Timeline]

Time	Activities
July 15, 2021	Proposal submission
July - August 2021	Proposal review and selection
September 2021	Online kick-off workshop Research contract
September 2021 - January 2022	First draft
January 2022	Online workshop
January - April 2022	Final draft
April 2022	2nd workshop
April - June 2022	Review and revision

[Call for Proposals]

Interested researchers are invited to submit an extensive abstract (500 ~ 800 words) via email to yuanita.suhud@eria.org before July 15, 2021, with clearly defined

    i. the title
  ii. objective(s)/main research question(s)
 iii. literature
 iv. structure
  v. method(s)
 vi. areas of policy implications