

TERMS OF REFERENCE
of
Energy Research Institutes Network

A. MISSION

The Energy Research Institutes Network (ERIN) in the East Asia Summit (EAS) region (ASEAN+6) has a task of preparing appropriate energy policy recommendations to energy policymakers in the EAS region and the wider community, through sharing of results of energy research studies, conducting joint energy research studies among the institutes and policy discussions at the regular network meetings.

B. BACKGROUND

Energy demand in the EAS region accounts for more than half of the world's total energy demand and is expected to grow faster than other regions due to remarkable economic growth. However the region's energy production has remained below the demand and dependency on the supply, especially oil and gas, from other regions has increased significantly and this trend is expected to continue. In addition, greenhouse gas emissions have become a serious issue due to high dependency on fossil fuels, specifically coal. As a result, energy security and environmental sustainability are serious concerns in this region. Given the situation, the importance of cooperation in energy policy studies among the EAS member countries and the exchange of results of energy studies and policies have become more valuable and should be widely disseminated.

Recognizing the importance of this point, the Energy Cooperation Task Force (ECTF) was established in 2007 after the 2nd East Asia Summit in Cebu Island, Philippines to discuss about important energy policies for maintaining energy security in this region, which were energy efficiency, renewable energy especially biofuels and energy market integration. In order to respond to these policy studies, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) was requested to conduct energy research studies on the important energy policies mentioned above. However, there are many uncertainties in future energy demand and supply situation, which are significantly affected by various factors. Consequently a regional energy research network such as Energy Research Institutes Network (ERIN) will be necessary to support ERIA's energy policy studies.

C. ROLES

The roles of ERIN are as follows; a) support ERIA's energy studies, b) disseminate major outcomes of the ERIA's studies to policymakers and political leaders, c) conduct relevant energy

studies requested by ERIA and d) prepare comprehensive energy policy recommendations based on academic research studies, e) explore relevant and academic energy study themes and formulate the themes to internal joint projects with support of ERIA, f) formulate a review team to implement capacity building trainings in ERIN member countries.

D. ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS and OPERATION

- (1) ERIN is set up to achieve the abovementioned roles.
- (2) The chair of ERIN is elected from the members of ERIN. The chair's term is two years. However, the chair can be re-appointed, whenever the Network chooses to do so. Roles of the chair are to prepare and manage ERIN meetings through communication with the secretariat of ERIN.
- (3) The vice-chair of ERIN is also elected from the members of ERIN. The term is two years. The vice-chair can be re-appointed, whenever the Network chooses to do so. Roles of the vice-chair are to support the chair during ERIN regular meetings and to take over the role of chair temporarily when the chair is not working.
- (4) The Secretariat of ERIN is The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ). The major tasks of the Secretariat are to organize regular annual meetings, arrange joint energy research studies among the institutes, manage a website of ERIN and provide support to the chair of ERIN.
- (5) The Secretariat obtains the necessary budget to operate ERIN from relevant financial sources. Obligations of ERIN members are to participate ERIN meetings, provide comprehensive comments to ERIA's energy research projects, explore relevant internal joint energy studies, extract policy recommendations and set up ERIN's network on the Internet through linking websites between ERIN and all ERIN members.
- (6) The Secretariat obtains the necessary budget to operate ERIN from relevant financial sources.
- (7) ERIA, mainly its Energy Unit, participates in ERIN as a regional research institute through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ERIA and ERIN.
- (8) ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) participates in ERIN meetings as an inter-government organization in ASEAN.
- (9) ERIN normally holds a meeting once a year.
- (10) At this meeting, the executive director and senior staff of ERIA reports its major energy study results to get comments from ERIN members as well as discussions on issues rising among ERIN countries, selection of prioritized issues to be implemented with support of ERIA and proposal of contents and location for the next meeting.
- (11) The location of ERIN meetings is rotated among EAS member countries.