

**STATEMENT OF THE ELEVENTH GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
ECONOMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR ASEAN AND EAST ASIA**

25 May 2018

Jakarta, Indonesia

2017 – Global Growth and Increasing Risks

1. Overall, in 2017 the economy did well with GDP and employment growth accelerating across much of the world. Global trade saw a significant rebound, outpacing the growth rate of GDP. However, 2017 was marked by several risk factors including increasing populism and protectionism, and the continued backlash against globalisation, trade, and investment liberalisation and regional integration. As a region, East Asia has benefitted from trade and investment liberalisation, thus supporting arguments in favour of deepening economic integration, promoting trade liberalisation, and enhancing regional cooperation. Growth must also become more inclusive, sustainable and resilient. East Asia, and ASEAN in particular, has become a global model for both growth and stability. There are many precarious balances playing out between East Asian countries, both internally and externally. In this context, platforms like the East Asia Summit and ASEAN are playing an increasingly critical role in providing forums for discussing strategic risks. ERIA's work providing fact-based analysis and policy advice, and communicating it effectively to decision-makers, is now more important than ever.

ERIA Fulfils Ten Years of Commitment to Support East Asia Integration and Regional Growth

2. ERIA is pleased to celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2018. From the very beginning, ERIA has been supporting regional integration by providing research to policy makers that helps them to address internal as well as external opportunities and threats while maintaining focus on the overall goals of integration, inclusivity and sustainability. Ten years ago, the global economy was coping with the shock of the global financial crisis. ERIA's first projects thus focused on ensuring regional

stability in the face of global turbulence. Promoting the concept of ASEAN Connectivity was key, and it was this work that led to ERIA becoming a Sherpa organisation for ASEAN and the East Asia Summit. Since then, ERIA's areas of research have expanded to cover not just economic integration and energy, but issues like health, agriculture, digital economy, and disaster management to name a few. As we grow into a more mature role, we have added important components including Capacity Building and the Policy Design Department. At the start of 2018, ERIA was ranked the 24th top International Economics Think Tank in the Global Go To Think Tank Index for 2017 published by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania.

Decisions of the Governing Board

1. The Governors appreciated the contribution of Prof Nishimura in the last 10 years and reappointed him to a third consecutive term as ERIA's President.
2. The Governors named a new Chair of the Board, Atty Adrian S. Cristobal, Jr.
3. The Governors appointed a new member of the Academic Advisory Council, Dr Kyoji Fukao, President of Institute of Developing Economies – Japan External Trade Organization.
4. The Governors endorsed ERIA's annual work plan and budget for fiscal year 2018.
5. The Governors approved the new asset management policy including the purchase of dollar-denominated government bonds of the member states.
6. Introduce a four-year term for members of the Academic Advisory Council with the option of extension (draft amendment of the Article of Association will be submitted at the next Governing Board Meeting)

Recommendations of the Governing Board

The Governors recommended ERIA to:

Research

1. Consider following research topics, namely:
 - a. Movement of natural persons in ASEAN and East Asia
 - b. Sustainable growth issues, including Sustainable Development Goals in the context of ASEAN and East Asia
 - c. Economic integration of Northeast Asia
 - d. Impact of the integration to the global economy
 - e. Political economy agenda, bringing in political scientists
 - f. The value of WTO for EAS and ASEAN
2. Continue to focus on the following research agenda
 - a. Frontier technology (i.e. industry 4.0 and digital economy)
 - b. Multi-disciplinary agenda, such as the impact of climate change to industry, disaster management, or health care
 - c. Asia – Africa Growth Corridor
3. Conduct studies to respond to specific country needs
4. Engage with other international or regional organisations such as UNESCAP
5. Extend and enhance networks of researchers and research institutes
6. Consider adopting quality control guidelines for the research outcomes

Policy Design

1. Enhance communication and engagement with the governments of individual ERIA member states as well as ASEAN bodies, the ASEAN Secretariat, and ASEAN-led forums, such as the EAS
2. Create policy briefs from past ERIA publications relevant for the current policy challenges
3. Strengthen collaboration and coordination with Research and Outreach Department
4. Continue to support RCEP through analytical work and engagement with negotiators

Capacity Building Programme

1. Increase the number of workshops on economic policy modelling in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam
2. Conduct workshops on indicators and database that ERIA has developed

Outreach and Publications

1. Increase resources for outreach activities
2. Consider having a biannual think tank conference

3. Support researchers to expand their network
4. Design outreach programmes targeting policymakers
5. Produce concise policy briefs for policymakers by hiring an expert
6. Hold more seminars to disseminate ERIA's work in respective member states
7. Further increase media coverage to support local understanding of ERIA

Operations

1. Request all member states to consider expanding contributions
2. Consider creative funding options
3. Consider revisions in the Article of Association for introducing procedures to select interim Chairman
4. Adopt relevant asset management policy reflecting the financial status of ERIA
