

## Executive Summary (PART-I)

When considering the future approach for organizing industrial statistics in the East Asian region, we set an ultimate target of setting up an internationally comparable statistics data and its database in a format that enables its use across a broad array of fields. Achieving this means that we will be capable of organizing statistics information that allow analyses of the effects of East Asian economic integration. Yet, countries in East Asia are at different stages of development, even in terms of implementation and organization of government statistics, and achieving this goal in the near future is unrealistic. Therefore, to draft and consider a roadmap towards this goal, we must define industrial classification, survey subjects and survey categories, identify and analyze the current status of data disclosure and statistical survey systems in the industrial statistics of each nation in East Asia, identify problems and issues hindering international comparison, and research the desired state for regional industrial statistics for East Asia.

As we have indicated in this report, EAMS, conducted under the ASEAN+3 framework, already works on industrial classification in our pursuit of international comparability of industrial statistics. Factors other than industrial classification that we need to consider include a definition of survey units and data categories, and studies on international differences in survey methods and confidentiality as well as on each nation's compatibility to international standards. Since UNSD disclosed these international standards as IRIS2008, our research project focused primarily on how to incorporate this IRIS into the current state of industrial statistics in the East Asian region. We chose Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam as survey subjects. Experts of each nation discuss in this report topics such as how they would incorporate IRIS given their individual circumstances and what the current state of their nation's industrial statistics looks like under the IRIS standard.

The study concludes by indicating the importance of harmonization and of maintaining quality of statistics data and improving international comparability in directing East Asian industrial statistics toward the future. We expect that the findings of this research project will be reported in the economic, industrial and statistical meetings held as part of the policy meetings of EAS, ASEAN+6, ASEAN+3 and ASEAN that target the East Asia region.

We also propose the following recommendations:

- (1) Conduct surveys into the current feasibility of the international comparison of industrial statistics for the remaining countries in the East Asia region.
- (2) Identify issues in improving the international comparability of industrial statistics and draft action plans to resolve those issues.
- (3) Recommend the establishment of a comparable regional database of industrial statistics in collaboration with regional organizations.

## Executive Summary (PART-II)

The Standard Industrial Classification (NSIC) of each nation reflects the industrial structure of the nation and should consist of more detailed classifications (five-digit or six-digit classifications) than the International Standard on Industrial Classification.

Yet, the CLM nations (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar) have not yet drafted a National Industrial Classification (NSIC) that reflects the industrial structure of their nations and are merely adopting the International Standard on Industrial Classification (ISIC). Possibly because of this reason, the CLM nations do not have experts on industrial classification in the true sense of the word, something we have confirmed. We should prioritize our work on this issue when we assume that we are capable of organizing statistics in the CLM nations. This is because the entire East Asian region must work together in organizing internationally comparable industrial statistics as the ERIA Statistics Research Project and EAMS aim to do, and the first step toward this direction is to organize industrial classifications. When any nation falls behind in this process, it means that the region will not complete the organization of its statistics. To improve the quality of industrial statistics in the CLM nations, we must rapidly train industrial classification experts in these nations.

Given these circumstances, the CLM nations requested a capacity building program at an EAMS meeting conducted under the ASEAN+3 framework, and EAMS is following through on this activity. ERIA and its CLM capacity building project conducted its first workshop at Phnom Penh, Cambodia in December 2008 with a total of twelve participants from two nations, and the second workshop at Nay Pyi Taw, the new capital of Myanmar, in February 2009, with a total of twenty participants from three nations. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the Statistics Offices (NSO) of each nation, statistics officials from relevant ministries and agencies also participated in the workshops held in both nations and together with the NSO employees they discussed on the industrial classifications (Section C) that better reflect the industrial structure of their nations. This is a significant advancement for CLM nations, which had hitherto been unable to take positive steps to draft an NSIC. This capacity building program benefits only a small population, but since its aim in the meantime is to develop core personnel (experts) in industrial classification, it limits the population it initially seeks to benefit. We are planning to expand the targets of our capacity building program from the next fiscal year by hosting seminars for government officials from agencies other than Statistics Offices.

In the last chapter of this report (PART-II), we stated our proposal for the capacity building program for the next fiscal year. We proposed establishing a system that aims to establish NSIC and hosting seminars for officials from ministries and agencies that would actually use the industrial classification.