

FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The ERIA Working Group (WG) on “Sustainability Assessment of Biomass Utilisation in East Asia”, sponsored by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), started its activity on sustainability assessment of biomass energy utilisation in the East Asian context since 2007. In the first phase (2007-2008), the WG extracted issues of concern for sustainability assessment of biomass utilisation and summarised a WG report entitled “Sustainable Biomass Utilisation Vision in East Asia”, which played an important role for scientific backup for the adoption of the “Asia Biomass Energy Principles” endorsed in the “Second Meeting of Energy Ministers of East Asia Summit” held in 2008. In the second phase (2008-2009), the WG developed a methodology to evaluate sustainability of biomass utilisation based on environmental, economic and social pillars and framed the “Guidelines to Assess Sustainability of Biomass Utilisation in East Asia”, incorporating the methodology developed and data required for sustainability assessment for biomass utilisation. Consequently, in the third phase (2009-2010), the WG conducted pilot studies in four selected East Asian countries to field-test the methodology developed and presented in the WG report “Sustainability Assessment of Biomass Energy Utilisation in Selected East Asian Countries”.

This report contains the outcome of the research activity of the WG in 2010-2011. The main objectives of the WG for the fourth phase were to summarise the experience gained and lessons learned from the four pilot studies conducted in 2009-2010 and discuss a more comprehensive methodology for biomass sustainability. We hope that

this report contributes not only to sustainable utilisation of biomass energy in the East Asian region but also to other frameworks on this topic developed elsewhere in the world.

Finally, we wish to thank ERIA and its officers for providing financial support and generous assistance for various activities of the WG.

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On behalf of the Working Group