

ERIA expanded to other fields considered critical in deepening economic integration and development as well as narrowing development gaps in the region. One such field is health and long-term care.

Population Ageing and Long-Term Care

Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative

The Healthcare Unit of ERIA's Research Department, established in August 2017, is tasked to look into the growing global issues of population ageing, health, and long-term care. It promotes the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative (AHWIN). Launched in 2016 by the Government of Japan, the AHWIN aims to (i) create a vibrant and healthy society where people can enjoy long and productive lives, and (ii) contribute to the region's sustainable and equitable development and economic growth. The population of ASEAN member states will be, or has already been, ageing quickly. Drawing on the lessons learned in Japan, the most aged country in the world, this initiative is intended to amass bilateral and regional cooperation, business, and projects on ageing-related challenges in the region.

Multi-stakeholder Forum

1. On 15 August 2017, to spearhead ERIA's involvement with the AHWIN, ERIA co-organised a multi-stakeholder forum 'Investing in Healthy and Active Aging for Sustainable Growth: A Regional Approach to Promoting Innovative Long-Term Care', with the governments of Japan and Viet Nam, Asian Forum for Parliamentarians on Population and Development, HelpAge International, Japan Center for International

Exchange, and Japan External Trade Organization. This forum was held in Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam, and attended by parliamentarians, government officials, academics, non-profit organisations, private entrepreneurs, etc. Discussions during the forum revealed: the current trends and future projections on population ageing, and the urgency of the issues caused by ageing

2. that each state or region will experience a different wave of ageing and will have a different model of long-term care system
3. that in any state or region, the role of the community and of the government is indispensable to the establishment of long-term care systems
4. that the social insurance system can be a solution for long-term care systems, but it is not a panacea; the role of the community must not be ignored.
5. some challenges on cross-border movement of the workforce, and recommendations on standardised care and harmonised qualifications to promote the improvement of skills of care workers. Proposals to strengthen international cooperation were also presented.

Discussion with ASEAN Member States

The Healthcare Unit has visited five ASEAN member states since its establishment, besides Indonesia. ERIA staff discussed the status of national policies on ageing-related issues and possible research projects with government officials or academic researchers. Discussions took place with the following institutions.