



Ministers Celebrate ERIA's 10th Anniversary

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Singapore: ERIA celebrated its 10th anniversary with the Economic Ministers and representatives as well as ASEAN Secretary General, Hon Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, at a cake cutting ceremony on the sidelines of the 50th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings on the 30th of August at the Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore.

In his opening remarks, Prof Nishimura expressed gratitude for the Ministers' ongoing support of ERIA's activities and for celebrating the 10th anniversary. He also thanked Dato Lim Jock Hoi for his guidance during his six years as Chair of ERIA's Governing Board.

The Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore H.E. Mr Chan Chun Sing then spoke, appreciating ERIA's activities, especially regarding the AEC Blueprint, the five-volume book-set to commemorate the fifty year anniversary of ASEAN, and works on trade facilitation such as ASEAN Trade Facilitation Index (ASTFI), and the NTM database.

H.E. Mr Hiroshige Seko, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan, expressed his respect for Prof Nishimura and ERIA's 'tireless efforts' to achieve its three guiding objectives, namely deepening economic integration, narrowing development gaps, and sustainable economic development. He also referred to ERIA's work with UNCTAD on the NTM Database and with the OECD on the SME Policy Index.

Dato Lim Jock Hoi congratulated



ERIA celebrated its 10th anniversary with the Economic Ministers and representatives as well as ASEAN Secretary General, Hon Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, on the 30th of August at the Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore.

ERIA on being recognised as an important think tank globally and emphasised that ERIA is an important partner of ASEAN. Dato Lim also

appreciated ERIA's research and activities to facilitate discussions among policy makers and Prof Nishimura's continued leadership. ■

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ERIA and UNESCAP Hold Joint Policy Dialogue



According to Dr Zen, there is a need to emphasise social protection and manage public debt. Her concern was the level of inequality within region (between countries) – the region has become more equal, but in-country inequality provided a different story (usually because increasing economic growth causes inequality in-country to go up).

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) held a Joint Policy Dialogue on 23 August 2018 in Jakarta to discuss the results of ESCAP's Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2018.

Mr Daniel Jeongdae Lee, ESCAP's Economic Affairs Officer, presented the survey's findings and Dr Fauziah Zen, ERIA's Senior Economist, played the role as moderator and discussant.

Mr Lee began his presentation by discussing the global and regional economic outlook, citing a synchronised upturn of economic growth and exports, while also warning of an increasing risk in 2018. Some of the risks he mentioned included increasing trade tensions; the financial market downturn due to

currency depreciation against the US dollar; and the increasingly restrictive measures for imports).

He then posed a question, 'in the event it turns bad, how much policy buffers do we have right now to mitigate the risks?' He went on to share some policy recommendations, such as fiscal policies, quality of growth, as well as social protection and environmental costs.

There were four points that Mr Lee offered in conclusion. First, Asia-Pacific countries' economic performance seems relatively stable and the countries should consider conclusiveness and sustainability in their economic growth. Second, the region's economies are distinct and should be taken into account when considering various policies. Third, financing is a key means to effectively pursue the 2030 Agenda

and should remain a priority in the Asia-Pacific region. Fourth, the prospects for mobilizing financing for development purposes are promising.

According to Dr Zen, there is a need to emphasise social protection and manage public debt. Her concern was the level of inequality within region (between countries) – the region has become more equal, but in-country inequality provided a different story (usually because increasing economic growth causes inequality in-country to go up). Therefore developing countries can focus on in-country inequality.

Dr Zen posed two considerations regarding the recommendation related to financing. First, while the role of state owned enterprises (SOEs) is important as they have significant knowledge about how to build the project, they have potential problems common to the public sector, which

is lack of sanction, budget constraints, and inefficiency. Second, if the capital market is optimal, the private sector may be enticed to channel their funds into the

infrastructure market and enforce market discipline. Therefore, Dr Zen suggested a need to develop and strengthen capital markets, especially in Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines,

and Viet Nam because these countries are at the forefront in promoting investment infrastructure. ■

Fourth Asia Cosmopolitan Awards Selection Committee Meets



The 4th ACA winners will be announced on mid to late October. The Award ceremony is set to take place in the Nara prefecture, Japan on January 2019.

The Selection Committee Meeting of the 4th Asia Cosmopolitan Awards (ACA) was held on 30 July 2018 in Tokyo, Japan to select award finalists from 21 candidates nominated by the Recommendation Committee.

On a biennial basis, the ACA awards aim to recognise individuals or organizations that have made substantial and significant contributions to developing a peaceful and stable East Asian Community, to narrowing the developmental gaps in the region, and to establishing sustainable social growth towards cultural and economic integration within

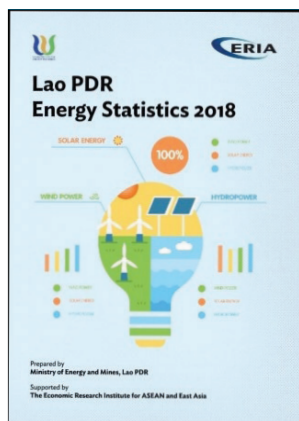
East Asia. There are three award categories: the Grand Prize, the Economic and Social Science Prize, and the Cultural Prize.

The Selection Committee of the ACA is composed of distinguished representatives from various backgrounds. The 4th Selection Committee members are H.E. Dr. Akito Arima, Chancellor of Musashi Academy of the Nezu Foundation, Japan, Former Minister of Education of Japan; Mr. Shogo Arai, Governor of Nara Prefecture; Prof. Masanori Aoyagi, Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo, Former Commissioner of the Agency for

Cultural Affairs; H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary General of ASEAN; Prof. Hiroshi Nakanishi, Professor, Graduate School of Law, Kyoto University; Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA; H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sirivudh, Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP).

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Publications

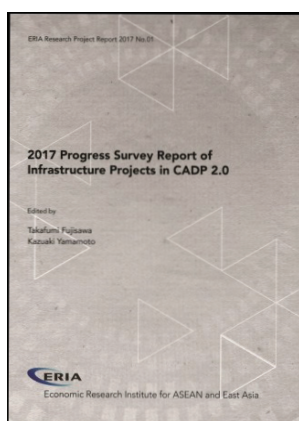


Lao PDR Energy Statistics 2018

Provided by Ministry of Energy and Mines, Lao PDR and supported by ERIA

Insufficient information and inadequate capacity to carry out comprehensive energy planning are identified as the main contributing factors to the current circumstances of the energy sector in Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). To overcome such constraints, the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) requested technical support from the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). ERIA's president responded very positively to Lao PDR's request for support, and ERIA subsequently deployed technical staff and its expertise to support staff of MEM from Department of Energy, Policy and Planning (DEPP) to collect data and conduct analysis for the formulation of this 'Lao National Energy Statistics'.

This project and publication have greatly enhanced energy policy planning in Lao PDR. For the sustainability of the Project, the DEPP of the MEM will establish a systematic collection of energy data from various energy supply companies and other government agencies/corporations, so that energy data and statistics can be published continuously into the future. Having a good energy statistics will allow Lao PDR to contribute to and share data with ASEAN, International Energy Agency, Joint Organization Data Initiative (JODI), and other international forums and arenas.



2017 Progress Survey Report of Infrastructure Projects in CADP 2.0

Edited by Takafumi Fujisawa and Kazuaki Yamamoto

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) submitted the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan 2.0 (CADP 2.0) to the East Asia Summit in 2015. CADP 2.0 updates the infrastructure projects from the first CADP, reformulates the conceptual framework for connectivity and innovation, and discusses the quality of infrastructure projects. It lists 761 East Asian infrastructure projects in a wide range of sectors – such as roads and bridges, railroads, ports, and electric power – which were surveyed in 2016–2017.

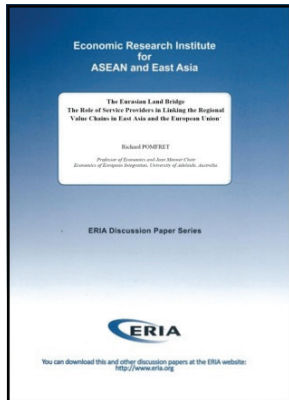
This study presents the progress of those infrastructure projects and summarises the trends and prospects obtained from the survey. The results reflect to some extent the political and economic situation in each country and the influence of its policies.



Balancing Investment and Development Assistance in Africa: Growth Prospects from Asia–Africa Connectivity

By Anita Prakash

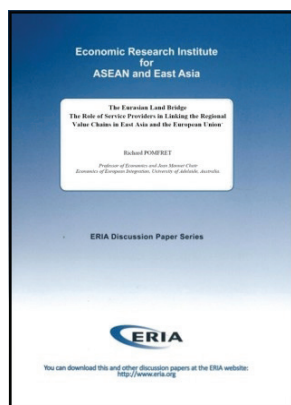
Africa’s young demography and developing economy require integration and expansion into the global value chains. Asia can share its growth experience with Africa. Africa can benefit from trade, investment, and development cooperation through a measured combination of investments and development assistance. The policy challenge facing the countries of Africa and their development partners is to balance official development assistance programmes with foreign direct investment initiatives, as physical, institutional, and human resource capacities must grow simultaneously.



Technoeconomic Assessment of Microgrids in Myanmar

By Masako Numata, Masahiro Sugiyama, Gento Mogi, Wunna Swe, Venkatachalam Anbumozhi

The electrification rate of Myanmar is the second-lowest in Asia, so its improvement is an urgent matter. Sustainable Development Goal 7 recognises the importance of energy access and calls for finding a way to realise the Government of Myanmar’s goal to reach 100% electrification by 2030. To achieve this ambitious target, both centralised (main-grid extension) and decentralised approaches should be considered. In this study, we focused on distributed microgrids amongst electrification options. In Myanmar, as in other developing countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), diesel generators are widely used as power sources of microgrids. Considering the global trend of renewable energy, especially opportunities available for solar photovoltaics (PVs), power sources should be selected carefully. When discussing possible power sources, cost-competitiveness is an important aspect. Therefore, we researched the question: How cost-competitive are microgrids powered by solar PVs compared to conventional diesel power source? We used the primary data collected through interviews and field surveys and calculated the levelised cost of electricity (LCOE) of microgrids. Our results show that solar PVs and batteries are cost-competitive compared with diesel in off-grid areas where diesel fuel prices are much higher than in urban areas. However, to improve efficiency, daytime use of electricity (e.g. productive use) needs to be promoted.



The Eurasian Land Bridge: The Role of Service Providers in Linking the Regional Value Chains in East Asia and the European Union

By Richard Pomfret

Rail links between China and Europe are typically analysed in the context of China's Belt and Road Initiative, focusing on China's economic rise and the implications for international relations. This paper argues that establishment of the China–Europe Land Bridge predated the Belt and Road Initiative and has been market-driven, as service-providers identified and responded to demand for efficient freight services along pre-existing railway lines. Governments' role was trade facilitating, i.e. reducing delays and costs at border crossing points, rather than investing in hard infrastructure. Service-providers responded by linking European and Asian value chains (e.g. in automobiles and electronic goods) and reducing costs for traders shipping between China and Europe. The Eurasian Land Bridge provides a case study of 'servicification' as a component of increased trade in the 21st century.



ERIA Annual Report 2017

ERIA's 2017 Annual Report presents the Institute's various research and research-related activities, events, and seminars, and its capacity building, policy design, communication, and publications achievements during fiscal year 2017. ERIA celebrated the ASEAN's golden anniversary with the ASEAN@50 Project, by publishing a five-volume set of books, and holding three public seminars and a High Level Forum with the Government of the Philippines. The message from the ERIA President, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, also shows how ERIA expanded the scope of its research in fiscal year 2017, through inclusion of research on ageing populations and health care, and through the establishment of a policy design department.



Publications Catalogue 2018

ERIA publishes books, research reports, discussion papers, and policy briefs to share and disseminate its research findings and policy recommendations. These publications cover a wide range of subject matter on deepening economic integration, narrowing development gaps, and sustainable development – the three pillars under which ERIA conducts research. ERIA is also highly involved in energy-related research. ERIA also co-publishes with international academic and professional printing houses. In fiscal year 2017, ERIA produced five books in commemoration of the golden anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. We also produced 10 research project reports, 14 discussion papers, and 7 policy briefs.

Upcoming Events

The 1st workshop of Collaborative Research Project between ERIA and IDE-JETRO on "Human Resources for Health and Elderly Care in Asia"

Date: 3 September 2018
Venue: Bangkok, Thailand

The 9th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium

Date: 6 September 2018
Venue: Singapore

The Second International Conference on Japanese Language, Education, Literature, and Culture

Date: 8-9 September 2018
Venue: Jakarta, Indonesia

ICAO – APAC for ASEAN Single Aviation Market

Date: 11-13 September 2018
Venue: Bangkok, Thailand

2nd Senior Official Meeting for APGC (ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity)

Date: 12-14 September 2018
Venue: Tokyo, Japan

NTMs in ASEAN Validation Workshop

Date: 18-20 September 2018
Venue: Hanoi, Viet Nam

The Workshop on Trade in Services Agreement (Negative List Approach)

Date: 19-21 September 2018
Venue: Phnom Penh, Cambodia

World Social Science Forum 2018

Date: 27 September 2018
Venue: Fukuoka, Japan

The Workshop on Trade in Services Agreement (Negative List Approach)

Date: 1-3 October 2018
Venue: Bangkok, Thailand

The 7th ERIA Editors' Roundtable

Date: 6-7 October 2018
Venue: Singapore

ERIA Final Workshop on International Regulatory Cooperation in ASEAN

Date: 10 October 2018
Venue: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

About Us

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) is an international organisation based in Jakarta, Indonesia that conducts in-dept research on issues facing the people and governments of ASEAN and East Asia.

ERIA works closely with the ASEAN Secretariat and research institutes from across East Asia and beyond to provide innovative and analytical research and policy recommendations. Our projects are organised under three research pillars:

- Deepening Economic Integration
- Narrowing Development Gaps
- Achieving Sustainable Development



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