



Event Highlights



ERIA Attends the Informal Meeting of AEM–METI Consultation

8 April 2017, Osaka, Japan

ERIA delegates attended the informal consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. ERIA President, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, and ERIA Senior Policy Fellow, Tan Sri Dr Rebecca Sta Maria, explained how academics could help promote the negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). They stressed the importance of active involvement in RCEP negotiations, which could help deepen economic integration and narrow development gaps amongst member states.



ERIA Renews MOU on Cooperation with OECD

14 April 2017, Tokyo, Japan

ERIA and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) renewed their memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand their cooperation. ERIA and OECD signed their first MoU in 2014 and have been working together to conduct joint policy research on multi-dimensional issues. Prof Nishimura explained how cooperation between ERIA and OECD has become broader and stronger since 2014.

The signing ceremony between H.E. Mr Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary General, and Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, ERIA President, was witnessed by H.E. Mr Toshihiro Nikai, Chairman of the Parliamentary League for OECD/ERIA and Secretary-General of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan.



ERIA and CSIS Hold Private Discussion with Prof. Richard Baldwin

2 May 2017, Jakarta, Indonesia

ERIA and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) privately discussed with Prof. Richard Baldwin, Professor of International Economics at the Graduate Institute, Geneva his recent book, *The Great Convergence: Information Technology and the New Globalization*.

Prof Baldwin revealed that the basic idea of the book was to make people think differently about, and narrow down their conceptualisation of, globalisation. He explained how advanced communications technology has resulted in the possibility of providing brain services remotely and how in 5 years some jobs with skills that involve advanced pattern recognition can be done by artificial intelligence.



ERIA Attends the 52nd African Development Bank Annual Meeting

22 May 2017, Ahmedabad, India

ERIA delegates comprising ERIA President Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, Chief Operating Officer Izuru Kobayashi, and Director General of the Policy Design Department Anita Prakash attended the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) Group. Handed over to the AfDB governors during the meeting was the outline of the Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) Vision Document, prepared by ERIA, the Research with Information Systems for Developing Countries, and the Institute for Development Economics–Japan External Trade Organization.

The AAGC is hoped will contribute to developing institutional mechanisms and models for connecting businesses, people, and think tanks that represent, and contribute to, Asia and Africa integration.



Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry Visits ERIA

12 June 2017, Jakarta, Indonesia

ERIA President Hidetoshi Nishimura welcomed H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia, at the ERIA office on 12 June 2017. The Minister was accompanied by a delegation of government officials and representatives from Malaysian companies.

After Prof Nishimura's remarks, ERIA's Senior Policy Fellow, Tan Sri Dr. Rebecca Sta Maria, presented an overview of ERIA's work in ASEAN and explained how such work relates to Malaysia. Minister Mustapa stated that he wanted to encourage a more open and transparent dialogue on non-tariff measures (NTMs) and trade facilitation.

ERIA senior economists Dr Lili Yan Ing and Dr Ponciano Intal also presented their studies on NTMs and ASEAN Trade Facilitation Index, and ERIA's ASEAN at 50 projects.



High Level Policy Symposium on ASEAN Political-Security Community in the Philippines

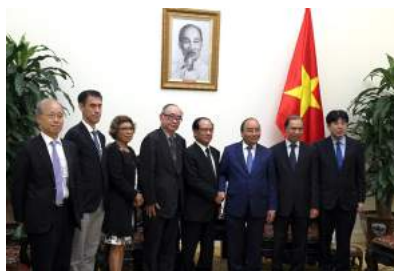
18 June 2017, Iloilo, Philippines

ERIA, with the ASEAN Research Institute for Strategic Studies and Enterprise and the University of the Philippines, organized a High Level Policy Symposium on ASEAN attended by over 200 participants to discuss the future of ASEAN in the next 50 years.

In his keynote speech, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, former Secretary General of ASEAN, reiterated that the only way ASEAN will survive in the next half century is to be 'more ASEAN'. He urged all members to cooperate more and expand intra-ASEAN trade markets.

The symposium's plenary session focused on the past and outlook of ASEAN political and security cooperation. Speakers included Prof Jurgen Haacke of the London School of Economics; Prof Aileen Baviera, University of Philippines; and Ambassador Rosario Manalo, Dean of the HZB School of International Relations and Diplomacy at the Philippine Women's University.

This public symposium was the first of four symposiums to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN.



Courtesy Visit to Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam

11 July 2017, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

The ERIA delegation led by President Hidetoshi Nishimura paid a courtesy visit to the Prime Minister of Viet Nam, H.E. Nguyễn Xuân Phúc. This was followed by a roundtable discussion with Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Vương Đình Huệ.

Both ministers expressed their appreciation to ERIA for co-hosting the conference of ASEAN Economic Community for Vietnamese Businesses, held in Ha Noi on 19 July. The conference aimed to increase awareness amongst Vietnamese businesses about the opportunities of the ASEAN Economic Community.

H.E. Phúc highlighted the importance of connectivity for ASEAN and emphasised how ERIA's research has contributed to ASEAN development and integration.

Prof Nishimura also expressed ERIA's readiness to support Viet Nam as ASEAN Chair in 2020.



The First East Asia Energy Forum in the Philippines

9 August 2017, Bohol, Philippines

ERIA and its Energy Research Institute Network, together with the Philippines' Department of Energy, organised the First East Asia Energy Forum in Bohol, Philippines on 9 August 2017. More than 15 high-level energy experts and policymakers delivered presentations at this forum.

H.E. Alfonso G. Cusi, Energy Secretary of the Philippines, and ERIA President Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura delivered the welcome remarks. Secretary Cusi expressed his hope for the forum to be institutionalised as a regular event in regional energy cooperation for ASEAN and East Asia. He further discussed the importance of energy in development.

Ultimately, the discussions highlighted the critical role of governments in strengthening the policy environment that enables the cleaner use of fossil fuels. This includes crafting appropriate fiscal and non-fiscal incentives and fostering healthy environments for investment and innovation that can support the twin goals of affordability and sustainability.



Multi-stakeholders' Forum on Active Ageing and Long-term Care

15 August 2017, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam

ERIA President Hidetoshi Nishimura delivered the closing remarks at the multi-stakeholders' forum entitled 'Investing in Healthy and Active Ageing for Sustainable Growth: A regional approach to promoting innovative long-term care'. It was organised by the Government of Japan, the Government of Viet Nam, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, HelpAge International, the Japan Center for International Exchange, Japan External Trade Organization, and ERIA.

Prof Nishimura espoused to view ageing positively, not negatively: 'Development in the past centuries, mainly because of progress in medical science and public health, has enabled us to somehow obtain the tools to control fertility and mortality. From the perspective of demographic and health transition, ageing is ultimately the result of human beings' success in living healthy lives.'

Attending the forum were more than 250 participants, representing diverse stakeholders – from government officials, to representatives from both international and civil society organisations, academia, and the private sector.



Public Symposium on ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

24 August 2017, Davao, Philippines

ERIA organised a Public Symposium on ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in Davao, Philippines on 24 August 2017. It was held in collaboration with the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Mindanao Development Authority, and ASEAN Society Philippines, and supported by the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs – Philippine Mission to ASEAN.

ERIA President Hidetoshi Nishimura emphasised that the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community provides the basis for 'What is ASEAN?'. He further disclosed that due to ASEAN's mindfulness of diversity amongst its member states, ASEAN discovered the consensus-building approach that is called the 'ASEAN way'.

This public symposium was the second of four symposiums to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN.



ERIA Attends the 38th General Assembly of AIPA

14 September 2017, Manila, Philippines

ERIA delegates attended the 38th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) in Manila on 14–19 September 2017 with the theme ‘AIPA and ASEAN: Partnering for Inclusive Change’.

ERIA President Hidetoshi Nishimura paid a courtesy call to Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez, AIPA President and Speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives. Prof Nishimura also attended the opening ceremony and the first plenary session on 16 September 2017, where he introduced the five-volume ASEAN@50 publication by ERIA and the Philippine government to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN.

On the following day, Prof Nishimura attended the Committee Meeting on Economic Matters and proposed a joint workshop on ‘Fostering ASEAN’s Quiet Revolution for Good Governance: Addressing Non-tariff Measures and Engendering Seamless Trade Facilitation and Good Regulatory Practice for Dynamic and Inclusive Integration in ASEAN’. The workshop was the first event between ERIA and AIPA after the signing of their memorandum of understanding in 2016.



Public Symposium on ASEAN Economic Community and East Asia Integration and Nation Building

21 September 2017, Manila, Philippines

ERIA and the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, with support from the Philippines’ Department of Foreign Affairs – Philippine Mission to ASEAN, organised a Public Symposium on ASEAN Economic Community and East Asia Integration and Nation Building, in Manila, on 21 September 2017.

Prof Dr Peter Drysdale, Emeritus Professor of Economics at the Crawford School of Economics and Government, Australian National University, delivered the keynote speech. He stressed the importance of ASEAN in the international economy and of completing the process of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which will contribute to managing problems and challenges in ASEAN and the global economy.

This public symposium was the third of four symposiums to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN.



High Level Forum on ASEAN@50

19 October 2017, Manila, Philippines

ERIA held the High Level Forum on ASEAN@50 in Pasay City, Manila. This event, a milestone for the organisation since its founding in 2008, saw the gathering of the Philippines' 'Who's Who' – the current head of state, former heads of state, ministers, and former ministers, amongst others.

The forum was co-hosted by the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs, ERIA, and the Foreign Service Institute of the Philippine government, with the support of the Japan–ASEAN Integration Fund and the ASEAN Foundation.

ERIA President Hidetoshi Nishimura, in his opening remarks, said: 'The Forum is also the launching of the special commemorative publication, which has expanded into five volumes.' He was referring to the five-volume commemorative publication ASEAN@50: Retrospectives and Perspectives on the Making, Substance, Significance, and Future of ASEAN. The publication brings together the retrospectives and perspectives of key people who have been involved in the making and working of ASEAN; the voices of ASEAN peoples; and the analytical, insights, perspectives, and reflections of eminent persons and experts on the evolution, substance, and future of ASEAN.

The high level forum, the culmination of a series of events hosted by ERIA in cooperation with several cities of the Philippines to commemorate ASEAN's golden jubilee, focused on the three pillars of ASEAN: the ASEAN Political–Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.



Audience to Sultan Bolkiah

28 October 2017, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

ERIA President Hidetoshi Nishimura had an audience with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanali Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam. Prof Nishimura presented the five-volume commemorative publication ASEAN@50, for which His Majesty Bolkiah wrote a special foreword in Volume 1.

His Majesty is the only leader to overcome several ASEAN crises and to lead the strong initiative for ASEAN community building, which put the people at the heart of its work towards a people-centred ASEAN. Prof Nishimura also thanked His Majesty for his support to ERIA since its establishment in 2008.

His Majesty Sultan Bolkiah also expressed his appreciation and will continue the cooperation with ERIA.



Delegation of the Parliamentary Members of Japan Visits ERIA Office

20 January 2018, Jakarta, Indonesia

ERIA was honoured to receive a special visit from the Secretary General of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Hon Toshihiro Nikai, on 20 January 2018. ERIA President Hidetoshi Nishimura and Special Advisor to the ERIA President, Prof Akiko Yamanaka, welcomed the delegation.

Mr Nikai was in Jakarta as special envoy of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to celebrate the 60th anniversary of bilateral ties between Indonesia and Japan. Considered the 'Father of ERIA' since he conceived ERIA as the 'OECD of East Asia' in 2006, Mr Nikai was pleased with ERIA's progress over the past 10 years since it was created.

Mr Nikai was accompanied by a delegation that included Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN, Amb Kazuo Sunaga; Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Indonesia, Amb Masafumi Ishii; and several other diplomats and dignitaries.