

Closing Remarks
Meeting between ERIA, Ambassadors of ERIA Member States and
Dialogue Partners
KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
Jakarta, 7 June 2023

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me the floor.

(Introduction)

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to ERIA for successfully hosting this important meeting and giving me a precious opportunity to deliver the closing remarks, as both ERIA and Japan are celebrating their commemorative years.

(Evolution of ERIA)

Let me first congratulate again on ERIA's 15th anniversary and its successful journey. In the course of its history, ERIA has evolved in response to the growing needs of ASEAN and the region in the changing global environment. Consequently, ERIA's role has significantly expanded.

At the beginning, ERIA was a more academically focused organisation to extend research support to ASEAN and East Asia economic integration, including the establishment of an ASEAN Economic Community in 2015.

With the establishment of the Policy Design Department in 2016, ERIA strengthened its function to provide practical policy recommendations. ERIA's contribution is widely recognised in ASEAN-led mechanisms including ASAEAN and East Asia Summits, as well as Ministerial Meetings.

Currently, ERIA is further contributing to other platforms such as G7 and G20 to bring real voices and policy challenges of ASEAN and the East Asia Region.

(New Centre for Digital Innovation and Sustainable Economy)

This year, ERIA is entering a next phase by establishing the Centre for Digital Innovation and Sustainable Economy. I understand that this centre will provide a physical and virtual platform for policy makers, business leaders and academics to transform Asia into a sustainable digital economy.

It means that ERIA will strengthen its function of connecting not only academia and policy makers, but also inviting business leaders to form a wider “community of practice” to address emerging challenges.

The Government of Japan strongly supports this evolution by contributing 5 billion yen for this expansion. In addition, we would like to welcome Professor WATANABE Tetsuya to be ERIA’s next President. It would be a symbol of this new phase.

(Thanking President Nishimura)

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Professor NISHIMURA Hidetoshi, President of ERIA, for his efforts and great achievements.

Thanks to strong and continued support from ASEC and ERIA Member States and Dialogue Partners, he managed to realise such tremendous achievements. Yet, everyone knows that, without leadership and dedication of Professor NISHIMURA from the very beginning, ERIA would not have reached this new frontier!

To honour Professor Nishimura's longstanding achievements, the Government of Japan has decided to present him with the Ambassador's Commendation. I will host a reception on Monday, July 3 at my residence to congratulate him on this award.

I will send out the Invitation as soon as possible and look forward to seeing you again at the reception to honour Professor Nishimura for his great service.

Thank you very much for your attention.

(End)