

**Statement: Nishimura Hidetoshi, AIPA General Assembly 21
November 2022**

Your Excellencies, Distinguished AIPA members, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed my honour to be here and to make a statement on occasion of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAMRIN (サムデック・アッカ・モツハ・ポンヘア・チャクレイ・ヘン・サムリン) , President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of the 43rd AIPA for giving us an occasion to participate in this general assembly.

I would like to take this valuable opportunity to present how the digitalization will be the key driver to the development of this region, through our flagship report of Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP) 3.0.

ERIA published CADP 3.0 in September of this year, and I reported it to the East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting and hand overed to the Prime Minister Hun Sen (フンセン) this month. CADP 3.0 sets out a vision for the recovery of the region from the COVID-19 pandemic - and a future of Asia from four perspectives.

First, integration. A more digitally integrated Asia will further strengthen the competitiveness of international production networks in Asia.

Second, innovation. A more digitally innovative Asia will upgrade traditional industries and solves many kinds of complex social problems.

Third, inclusiveness. Realising a more inclusive Asia requires closing the digital divide amongst people and businesses in all respects: geographical, industrial, and societal.

Fourth, sustainability. Creating a more sustainable Asia necessitates leveraging digitalisation to overcome the challenges of achieving a low-carbon economy, an environmentally friendly carbon neutral economy, and a disaster resilient economy.

CADP 3.0 clearly shows that digitalisation is the key to realising a more integrated, innovative, inclusive, and sustainable economy in Asia.

To realise the vision set out in CADP 3.0, ASEAN and East Asia need to build a digital ecosystem where firms, governments, and public institutions employ shared data.

In addition, ASEAN needs support for the implementation of the *ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement* and the ASEAN Community's post-2025 vision. ASEAN also needs support for its transition to become a carbon-neutral economy.

ERIA's new Centre for Digital Innovation and Sustainable Economy will meet the urgent needs of ASEAN and contribute to realising the vision set out in CADP 3.0.

Let me share our concept for the new Centre. The new Centre will be a virtual and physical platform for policymakers, businesses, academics, and organisations committed to transform Asia into a digitally driven sustainable growth economy.

Its fourfold mission is the following. First, to provide a public-private dialogue platform to create specific unified rules within the region such as a common data platform and legal systems for securing data-free flow and cybersecurity.

Second, the new Centre will provide a knowledge platform for information about a digital and carbon-neutral economy – including the circular economy – where stakeholders share information to build and strengthen their capabilities and capacities to accelerate the growth of their business.

Third, the new Centre will provides a training platform for industries to help them make evidence-based decisions about digitalising and ‘greening’ their operations and empowering industries.

Last, the new Centre will provide practical policy proposals taking into account the voices of private businesses.

I am confident that by realising the vision set out in CADP 3.0, ASEAN and East Asia will realise a fully digitalised economy and society, achieve further significant development, and lead the global economy.

I am honored to explain the parliamentary member of AIPA and dialogue partners how to achieve the digital ASEAN in the future. ERIA is willing to collaborate with AIPA to be materialize the digital society and development in ASEAN through our new center's activities.

Thank you excellencies.