

ERIA CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT OF ASEAN INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT (CADP)

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Abstract

This study aims to analyse ERIA's contribution as an international organization and economic research institute, in its' involvement to support the ASEAN infrastructure development through Comprehensive Asian Development Plan (CADP). CADP was first submitted to the East Asia Summit in 2010, to implant and to pursue both deepening economic integration and narrowing development gaps by illustrating a grand spatial design of both economic infrastructure and industrial placement in ASEAN and East Asia. It also explained further about the digital development which has happened in East Asia and reviewed every five years. Authors used a descriptive qualitative research methodology towards the contribution made by ERIA in infrastructure building of ASEAN. From our findings, we can conclude that CADP, in line with the goals set in ASEAN Community Pillars, made development and infrastructure growth in ASEAN increased significantly, and will continue to do so from the phases set in their goals.

Keywords: ASEAN, Infrastructure, Development, ICT, CADP, Community Pillars, Economy

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Prior to ASEAN was established on 08 August 1967, there has been significant developments in economic cooperation with partner countries, including other states in Asia region. Even though the economic growth of each ASEAN member states is often so unbalanced compared to states which has stable economic power, we cannot underestimate the growth of ASEAN member states that are considered of having low economic power. For instance, Vietnam was recorded on having the most economic growth in the world for the past 30 years, with the average PDB of 7% per annum, within the time frame of 2009-2019 (Beritasatu.com, 2021).

However, there are still some small-scale countries which requires capital and investment assistance, what-with the instability of world economy, pushes ASEAN member states to cooperate with East Asian states. On 14 December 2005, High Level Conference of East Asia was held in Kuala Lumpur, attended by leaders of all ASEAN member states, as well as Japan, China, Republic of Korea, India, Australia, as well as New Zealand. In the conference, they produced two main purposes, one of which consisting of EAS vital role in shaping regional community, most notably known as Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit (PTRI ASEAN, 2022).

The relationship between ASEAN and East Asia are more visible in their various activities in several aspects. As we've may have known, most East Asia countries has a rather strong economic power. The cooperation aspects since the beginning of its foundation were mainly focused on three things:

1. Cooperation in political and security aspects through strategic dialogue which can create a peaceful and harmonized region
2. Cooperation in economic aspect, such as promotion for development, energy security, and narrowing the economic gaps between states through technology transfer, capacity building, and the extensive trade and investment policy measures.
3. Promoting social and cultural exchanges to solidify the community trust, and creating networks in other aspects such as environment, preventing infectious diseases, and disaster mitigation (ASEAN, 2005)

With global development in several aspects, each country is automatically motivated to compete in the international level, especially in economic matters. However, the level of global economic growth and political economy situation which happened in superpower countries, unintentionally would affect the economic growth of other countries, especially those with developing or fragile economic situations. As one of the superpower country, United States are claimed internationally to be in possession of economic, political, military, and technological capability, and as such, are able to lend such powers to the developing countries (Hussein, 2013, p. 86). Therefore, if a crisis arose in a superpower country, the impact could affect the countries mentioned earlier. As a region with an average developing country and also receives assistance from the US, so that when the US economic situation is unstable, ASEAN countries are also affected.

In September 2008, an economic crisis in the United States caused by the collapse of the investment of the fourth largest bank in the US, named Lehman Brothers. According to the 2008 Indonesian Economic Report, the severe impact that occurred and resulted from the malfunctioning of the US domestic financial system that could not recover in the near future, directly resulting in slowing global economic growth and high global financial market uncertainty (Bank Indonesia, 2009). Many countries in the region were worried about a global recession that will extend to the Asian region, especially Southeast Asia. For this reason, East Asian leaders called on the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Association Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) to provide the best solution in addressing this. As a preliminary step, the leaders of East Asian countries began to prepare a master plan for coordinating, accelerating, evaluating the initiatives of the sub-region, which has the potential to be a good response, which can specifically develop industry and infrastructure simultaneously, and can also encourage a role that more from the private side.

In essence, the initiative has the main objective of doubling the business in economic integration and expanding the market regional (CADP, 2009). In this regard, in accordance with the Article 11 of the Joint Press Statement of the East Asia Summit on the Global Economic and Financial Crisis, which was announced on June 3, 2009 during the 4th East Asian Summit in Bangkok, ERIA was asked to provide economic policy recommendations, which invoked increased economic growth in the region, deepen economic integration, and strengthen partnerships between EAS countries (ASEAN, 2009).

2. Literature Review

2.1 Theory of Neoliberalism

The theory of neoliberalism is a theory derived from liberalism. The existence of the theory of neoliberalism has developed slowly through theories that state the importance of international cooperation, although this theory appeared and have only officially recognized in the 1990s (Dugis, 2016, p. 109). This theory sees state dynamics as a more optimistic policy, compared to realism and liberalism, whose views is that in an anarchy world, every country must compete. The opposite is argued by the thinkers of neoliberalism, that the existence of international cooperation can be proceeded by the presence of institutions or international organizations (Dugis, 2016, p. 110).

According to Stein in his book *Neoliberal Institutionalism*, it is stated that international politics takes the form of institutions or inter-governmental. Seeing its development, the existence of international institutions which intervenes with human life in various countries, has shown how important these international institutions are (Stein, 2008, p. 201). Some of these international institutions also include ASEAN as one of the institutions that has a vital role in the Southeast Asian region.

It is also in accordance with the opinion of Steven Lamy in his book *Contemporary Mainstream Approaches Neo-Realism and Neo-Liberalism*, which states that there are 4 things that are the basic of neoliberalism thinking, namely:

1. Although the state is the main actor in international relations, it is not the only actor.
2. States seek to maximize profits in international trade, through international cooperation.
3. Non-compliance, manipulation, inability to be competitive are the biggest obstacles in an international cooperation.
4. To overcome various problems in cooperation, countries and states need to also cooperate in protecting each other, in order to fulfill the national interests of each country at the international level.

In the view of the neoliberals, it also states that the offer of long-term mutual beneficial cooperation arises due to the existence of an integration focused on functional activities that crossed certain limits, such as investment, trading, and others (Jackson & Sorensen, 2009, p. 63). Thus, integration becomes an important step in achieving the main objectives of an international cooperation. Not only that, there is a complex concept of interdependence, which states that there is a role of inter-community relations with state political relations, which also includes cooperation between actors or business companies which crossed national borders. (Jackson & Sorensen, 2009, p. 64). It can be concluded, to overcome various problems that arise, that each country who wishes to cooperate will form an international institution or organization, as is called interdependence or the existence of a sense of interdependence. Since World War II, each country began cooperative relations in various fields, with the aim of achieving the national interests of each country.

This cooperation will have closer approach, especially in the economic sector, due to the uncertain global economic situation and the inequality of economic growth of each country, as well as uneven resources which exists in every country. Thus, at this time, economic cooperation is sometimes the fulcrum of a country to support their domestic economic welfare efforts. At times, economic cooperation is also carried out in conjunction with political cooperation, now known better as international political economy. Economic cooperation activities between countries occurred due to international political competition. Not only that, political-economic cooperation activities are also characterized by the presence of assistance in development and the backwardness of countries in the third world (Asia, Africa, and Latin America). (Jackson & Sorensen, 2009, p. 257).

3. Research Method

The research discusses the contribution of ERIA to infrastructure development in ASEAN countries. For this reason, this study was conducted, using a qualitative approach to descriptive methods. A descriptive method is a method of examining the status of a human group, an object, a thought system, a set of conditions or a class of events in the present. The purpose of this research method is to describe, make a picture, credibly and accurately regarding the facts, properties, and correlations between the things studied (Nazir, 1988, p. 63).

The authors used data collection techniques and secondary information from library studies. The data collected were from literature in accordance with the topic

discussed, namely official documents issued by the ERIA and the ASEAN Secretariat, books, journals, articles, and news obtained from various references.

4. Results and Discussions

4.1 History of ERIA and Formation CADP

The name of Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), was first introduced during the 13th Consultation between the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Ministry of Economic, Trade, and Industry of Japan (METI) meeting, which was held on August 23, 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. During the meeting, Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, gave the initiative to establish a think-tank institution, which was later called ERIA. At the time before its' establishment, ERIA was originally assumed to be the East Asian version of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and at the same time, Japan penciled a statement from Mr. Nikai, stated that it is committed to contributing 10 billion Japanese Yen over a period of 10 years (ERIA, 2022).

After the consultation meeting was held, in accordance with the Joint Media Statement (JMS), the ASEAN Economic Ministers welcomed the proposal and asked Japan to conduct further discussions with ASEAN Secretariat. In response, Mr. Ong Keng Yong, who at that time served as Secretary-General of ASEAN, initiated the establishment of the ERIA Expert Group, which was chaired by a Senior Fellow of Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Indonesia, named Dr. Hadi Soesastro. The ERIA Expert Group team consists of experts from 16th East Asian Meeting (EAS) countries and the ASEAN Secretariat. This group of experts is tasked with conducting intensive discussions on the idea of establishing an ERIA, in particular the objectives, activities and research themes, organizational structure, and the Capacity Building program.

At the time of the 2nd East Asia Summit (EAS), held on January 15, 2007 in Cebu, Philippines, the Prime Minister of Japan, PM Shinzo Abe formally proposed the establishment of the ERIA and the leaders of the countries present at the East Asia Summit, welcoming its' proposal warmly. The Expert Group agreed on points of convergence, which are ERIA Institutional Arrangements, which define ERIA's objectives, research activities, and interface policies. In addition, two trial research projects are proposed in collaboration between 16 research institutes spread across EAS countries. The two projects are Developing a Roadmap towards East Asian Economic Integration, which was presented at the 2007 ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and Energy Security in East Asia, which was presented during the 2007 East Asia Economic Ministers' Meeting. Based on the success of these two research trial projects and the results of the agreement with the Expert Group, hence at the 2nd East Asia Summit, on November 21, 2007, ERIA was officially established and agreed by all the leaders of the East Asian summit countries, who were present at the meeting.

In line with the purpose of the establishment of the ERIA, the organization is designed as a key intellectual institution or institution, which will guide policymakers in formulating strategies to accelerate integration economy and strengthening cooperation in the region (Ronnell, 2009). On June 3, 2008, ERIA convened the first

Governing Board and on December 30, 2008, ERIA was endorsed as an international organization. In carrying out its mandate as a research institution, ERIA collaborated intensively and closely with the ASEAN Secretariat, as well as conducting research activities based on the three pillars namely:

1. Deepening Economic Integration;
2. Narrowing the Development Gap;
3. Sustainable Development.

One of ERIA's research projects, the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP), is a research project conducted by ERIA as a form or response to a request from leaders of East Asian summit countries, for tackling global recession which will extend to the region, due to the financial crisis in the US in 2007. CADP is feasible mainly because there are three important reasons:

1. Using the spatial application of production networks, CADP provides a cohesive framework for combining infrastructure development and industrial development across East Asian countries;
2. To measure the possibility of the economic impact of investments made in certain infrastructure projects, as well as improving trade facilities or reducing existing trade barriers in economic zones at the sub-national level, CADP tried to use the IDE-ERIA Geographic Simulation Model (GSM);
3. Based on the CADP analysis framework, CADP collected various data on 700 major infrastructure projects carried out in regional countries, as well as tried to give some priority to these projects. (Pitsuwan, Nishimura, Intal, Chongkittavorn, & Maramis, 2017, p. 355).

CADP is seen as the right framework in supporting infrastructure development and connectivity, where CADP is carried out by an official institution or institution capable of being responsible for implement it thoroughly, based on proposals from comprehensive regional cooperation. Not only that, CADP also uses a relatively new approach with the right research methodology, so that it can produce a very appropriate policy recommendation (Pitsuwan, Nishimura, Intal, Chongkittavorn, & Maramis, 2017, p. 356). This is beneficial for regional countries to develop appropriate infrastructure development models according to their economic interests, and in other respect, can also help development that sustainable to support regional connectivity.

Broadly speaking, the first series of CADP (2010), accommodates the needs of ASEAN countries in three ways, namely

1. As a frame of reference in infrastructure development planning in ASEAN, with the aim of improving the ability of ASEAN countries to be able to compete in the global world order;
2. Helping small countries in ASEAN through investment, through fragmentation of a production;
3. Make development investments for the mobility or accommodation of workers in industrial areas, without building new industrial facilities in the area where they live (ERIA, 2010).

In focusing planning on the construction of logistics and economic infrastructure, CADP 2010 also divided three levels of economic development

strategies according to the level of participation in the production network. The three levels are:

1. The first level focuses on countries that are middle-income economies that want to rise to become developed countries;
2. The second level includes countries participating in the production network;
3. Third level refers to countries that is in the construction of long-distance logistics infrastructure, which will offer a new perspective for industrial development (ERIA, 2010, p. 47).

In its implementation, CADP needs to map out priority development projects and is indeed required by countries in the region. However, the planned development in accordance with the CADP concept, of course, also requires a lot of costs, especially countries that have low per capita incomes, for support the development of national infrastructure in their country. However, in accordance with its objectives, the infrastructure development is also very useful for facilitating the economic activities of these countries. Not only that, but the development plan will also realize connectivity, deepen economic integration, and narrow the economic gaps, which countries wants to achieve. The development of physical infrastructure is considered to be one of the conditions for realizing these things. Therefore, in the formulation of development projects, international donor agencies (international development banks), and private companies, will help national government. (ERIA, 2010, p. 117).

One more important thing is, CADP's goal in improving the construction of soft infrastructure in ASEAN. Some of the important elements are liberalization, trade facilitation, and investment. To achieve this, the ASEAN Initiative to build various frameworks for cooperation and provide Capacity Building programs is indispensable (ERIA, 2010, p. 119). The cooperation built under the ASEAN umbrella are expected to be able to help implement the CADP development strategy.

4.2 CADP 2.0

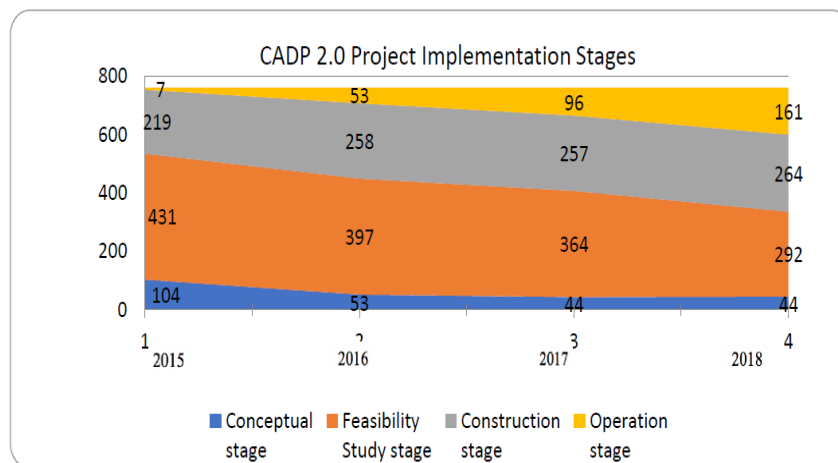
As a continuation of CADP 2010, ERIA once again issued the second series of CADP, or better known as CADP 2.0. With the theme of infrastructure for innovation, CADP 2.0 is here to expand the framework of new development strategies at each level of industrial development. This expansion of the framework further selects and prioritizes some of the development of hard and soft infrastructure, whose objectives are more specific to support connectivity and innovation (ERIA, 2015). In essence, CADP 2.0 puts more emphasis on the quality of infrastructure project development. As a kickback to the submission of policy recommendations on CADP 2.0, ERIA has presented the highlights and scope of CADP 2.0 at the ACCC meeting in Kuala Lumpur, in 2015. In the same year, ERIA presented it at the 3rd East Asian Economy Ministers meeting and the 9th East Asian Energy Ministers meeting.

In its journey, CADP 2.0 has continued to develop and update every year since its conceive in 2015. According to a survey conducted by ERIA during 2015-2016, there were a total of 761 infrastructure development projects in all East Asian countries. These projects are spread across various sectors, such as bridges building, railways, highways, ports, and the construction of electric power (ERIA, 2018). CADP 2.0 Progress Report 2016 described the development of infrastructure development

and summarizes the reports obtained during the survey conducted by ERIA in the field. It also informs on how the state's policy in infrastructure development is influenced by the state or political and economic situation in each of the countries of the region surveyed (ERIA, 2018). Based on the CADP 2.0 Progress Report 2016, due to reasons for the progress of urbanization and the suppression of the ratification of the ASEAN Economic Community, several ASEAN countries increased the budget for infrastructure development, such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam (Mori, Nishida, & Fujisawa, 2017, p. 25).

In 2017, ERIA again issued the CADP 2.0 Progress Report 2017. In accordance with this report, there are a 13% progression at the operational stage, for all development projects. This means that there is an increase of about 6% compared to 2016, although at the construction stage there is no change, which is still the same 34%. (Fujisawa & Yamamoto, 2018) This means that infrastructure development in ASEAN continues to increase. The Third Progress Report of CADP 2.0, issued in 2019 by ERIA. In evaluating the development of infrastructure development projects in the region, ERIA considers several things, namely the impact on the development project area, the medium-term and long-term plan from each country, and the feasibility or ability to carry out development of such projects (Fujisawa T., Yamamoto, Wada, & LoCastro, 2019, p. 3).

Table 1. Comprehensive Asian Development Plan Progress 2015–2018



Source: 2018 Progress

4.3 Advantages of CADP for ASEAN

According to a survey conducted by the ASEAN Seamless Trade Facilitation Indicators (ASTFI) in 2018, ASEAN member states have obtained very helpful results in terms of transparency and ease of access to information regarding laws, regulations, and procedures. In addition, ASEAN countries can also benefit in terms of components related to communication and cooperative relations with private sectors. From these components, ASEAN member states set up online pages which are accessible as well as informative, on matters relating to laws and regulations on customs and trade.

On the other hand, several ASEAN countries have also successfully carried out formalities regarding the release of goods at ports/airports and clearing (Ambashi, 2019). It also includes goods needed for export-import purposes, as well as trade between ASEAN member states. Over the past 5 years, with the development of ICT, it has had a very positive impact on infrastructure development, the economy, and the digital world for ASEAN member countries.

Technological advances may create new job opportunities for young people who has considerable potential, as well as helping the development of digital-based companies and e-commerce. In essence, with the CADP 3.0 series underway to date, ASEAN will have a new policy direction in infrastructure development and industrial promotion policies, which further developed from the results that have been achieved by CADP 2.0. Not only that, CADP 3.0 will also be expected to provide even more fruitful results, such as contributions in the economic field that are even more significant than the policies directed from this project (Ambashi, 2019).

CADP also provide benefits for infrastructure development in ASEAN countries, where all development makes ICT (Information, Communication, and Technology) more easily accessible to residents living in ASEAN countries, with the development of digitalization, highways, infrastructure and offices in cities which have not been touched so far, so as to equalize development in the region.

This is also felt from the aspect of the development of human resources and the opening of job opportunities which aims to build the capabilities of the workforce in facing the era of globalization, so that education and human capital equalization become more intense and ASEAN residents can face global competition with more preparation and were able to catch up with the progress in developed countries.

4.4 Relationship of CADP and MPAC

As a research project framework that also has a function for connectivity, through CADP, ERIA supports the creation of economic integration and narrows the development gaps in developing countries in ASEAN. ERIA collaborates with the ASEAN Secretariat to prepare the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC). CADP helped develop the concept of three pillars of connectivity namely physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity (Pitsuwan, Nishimura, Intal, Chongkittavorn, & Maramis, 2017, p. 356).

Based on the 2025 MPAC, there is one point regarding sustainable infrastructure. What is meant by sustainable infrastructure is how the development of infrastructure projects can provide benefits to the national economy of each country in ASEAN, with modernized development and tailoring to the needs of the essential services of the community. In accordance with the MPAC, there are 3 important points regarding sustainable infrastructure, namely:

Increasing investment in public and private infrastructure development in each ASEAN member states;

- Significantly improve the evaluation and sharing of information on best-practices, regarding infrastructure productivity in ASEAN;

- Increase the spread of smart urbanization models throughout ASEAN countries (ASEAN, 2016, p. 7).

Based on this, it can be seen that ASEAN is trying to catch up with inequality and backwardness of countries whose infrastructure development is still minimal, by conducting a cooperative dialogue to bring in investment that more favorable to those countries. So that the development gap can be narrowed.

Every year, ERIA is also in support with the implementation of the ASEAN Connectivity Symposium, which is an annual ASEAN event that aims to disseminate and operationalize MPAC. ERIA proves that it is strongly committed to help achieve connectivity in ASEAN and East Asia, as stated in below:

To establish a competitive and resilient ASEAN Community, we underscored the importance of implementing the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC). The MPAC will promote economic growth, narrow development gaps, and contribute to deeper social and cultural understanding and greater people mobility (Pitsuwan, Nishimura, Intal, Chongkittavorn, & Maramis, 2017, p. 356).

In accordance with this commitment, ERIA helped organize the ASEAN Connectivity Symposium every year, which has been held since 2011. At the ASEAN Connectivity Symposium 2011, Indonesia hosted as part of its' duty in the ASEAN Chairmanship. This annual event is also one of the main activities under the auspices of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee. In accordance with the results of the ASEAN Summit held in 2017 in Ha Noi, Vietnam, in the adoption of the MPAC, in 2011, the ACCC has implemented 15 priority projects (ASEAN Secretariat, 2011). At the time of the 11th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium, which was held online, due to the pandemic situation in 2020, ERIA stated that through a new research project, namely CADP 3.0, emphasized the importance of technology development, using Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) to further support ASEAN economic integration, as well as encourage more efforts on ASEAN connectivity.

At the opening of the ASEAN Connectivity Symposium 2020, ERIA's President, Professor Hidetoshi Nishimura, highlighted the importance of the digital economy and digital connectivity in the ASEAN region and East Asia, in order to be able to withstand risks arising from infrastructure and connectivity development, including the widespread of the COVID-19 virus (ERIA, 2020).

The latest series of CADP, namely CADP 3.0, was launched in 2019 through a Kick-off Meeting attended by various leading experts in the public sector from ASEAN countries. The kick-off meeting was attended by representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. In accordance with the plan, CADP 3.0 will be published in 2020, with the aim of achieving a higher level of "unbundling", a term coined by Prof. Richard Baldwin. According to the Chief Economist of ERIA, Prof. Fukunari Kimura, CADP will provide new policies which can be carried out by other ASEAN and East Asian member states, in terms of connectivity, industrial promotion, as well as innovation, which is also an extension of CADP 2.0 (ERIA, 2019).

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, CADP also adjusted the situation to the pandemic situation which has occurred. COVID-19 has devastated the economy

and social life of the global community. According to the Indonesia Economic Report 2020, in order to overcome the impact of the economic crisis and restore the stability of global economy, during 2020, countries in the world have disbursed economic stimulus packages, amounting to 11.7 Trillion US Dollars or about 12% of world's GDP. Seeing the economic impact, according to (Bank Indonesia, 2020), various research projects are also needed for the recovery of the world economy, especially for countries directly affected by global economic recession, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only that, because the pandemic is spreading very quickly, it does not allow people the mobility to step out from their homes, therefore the many uses offered by technology to carry out daily activities and to convene the wheels of their economy. ICT plays an important role in every line of human life.

CADP 3.0 is also designed to be adaptive to the utilization of ICT. CADP 3.0 supports MPAC in the latest version which relies more on ICT. And as such, it was designed using a V-shaped recovery model and economic growth in higher dimensions after COVID-19 scenario, to ASEAN and East Asian countries through the construction of a new model. The construction of this new model was developed with digital technology, hard/soft infrastructure, and the development of more modern human resources.

5. Conclusions

The ASEAN community pillars, consisting of economic, socio-cultural, and security politics have long-term targets, which are the common goals of countries under the ASEAN flagship. One of the main goals of the three pillars is the economic pillar's. The objectives of the ASEAN Economic Pillar are to assist ASEAN member states in carrying out infrastructure development, equalization of development and qualified human resources (HR). Some of these things are activities carried out by countries to support economic growth in the region, especially for ASEAN member states which relatively have small per capita incomes, such as Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam. Although Vietnam has experienced speedy economic growth in recent years, but when compared to other ASEAN countries, it is still classified as ASEAN countries with low income. Thus, the role of CADP is needed in assisting the development mapping which will be implemented by each member states' government.

ERIA, as one of the entities engaged under ASEAN, provides an initiative called CADP, which is carried out in several phases. The purpose of the CADP project is to help develop infrastructure development, digitalization, information technology, regulations and human resources (HR), which is expected to help ASEAN member state, in order to be able to compete in the global world order, and can become one of the economic powers in the international world. It is also intended as in an effort that can encourage member states in ASEAN to become stronger, more resilient, and live in a spirit of togetherness that is known as a unique characteristic of ASEAN member states.

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