



To whom it may concern,

UNESCAP Committee on Social Development, Seventh Session

STATEMENT LETTER

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) is seeking your permission to make an intervention in the 7th session, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Committee on Social Development.

ERIA, through its specialized Healthcare Unit, expresses its deep gratitude and commitment to support and collaborate further for the implementation of the conclusions presented through the Outcome Document of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in our region, especially on the points of data and research. ERIA has already and will continue to conduct studies on active ageing within member states to produce quality research through effective and efficient data collection that yield robust data to support evidence-based policy recommendations and publications, toward a brighter future in social development for all.

Yours sincerely,

加藤 拓馬

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Takuma Kato".

Takuma Kato,

Director, Healthcare Unit, ERIA



UNESCAP Committee on Social Development, Seventh Session

10:00-12:00, 7 September 2022 (Item 4, Day 2) (3 minutes)

by Dr Takuma KATO

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)

On behalf of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia or ERIA, I would like to extend our deep appreciation to the organisers for inviting us to participate in this important activity. Active social development is a bedrock toward the sustainability of human progress for all.

ERIA has conducted a variety of studies on ageing issues in Asia. For that reason, I was honoured to serve as a resource person in a stakeholder consultation during the appraisal and review process of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in this region. ERIA welcomes the agreement of the final document at this committee as the fruit of that process. I would like to express my sincere respect to all those involved.

In the Outcome Document, the importance of effective quality data collection and regional research is stated, and ERIA would like to emphasise this point. ERIA has conducted a wide range of studies in collaboration with many partners, including UN agencies, governmental organizations, and universities, while longitudinal studies of elderly people in the Philippines and Viet Nam are two of our best published outcomes. Those studies have shed light on the comprehensive living circumstances of elderlies in both countries, including health, economy, and lifestyle, and the delegation from the Philippines in the Intergovernmental Meeting has mentioned the importance of this study as a valuable resource for crafting their policies. As all data sets of the Philippine study in 2018 have already been released to the public for academic use, we hope the data will be utilised by as many people as possible.



Notably, the study revealed that significant elderlies suffer economically due to poverty, in particular females, and thus have limited access to healthcare services. Further, other ERIA research indicate that older people in this region face a host of gender, poverty, health, disabilities, and other challenges, all of these in agreement with the Outcome Document. In order to overcome those challenges, ERIA recommends that each member state develop policies to promote active ageing for the economic independence of our elderly population. In addition, ERIA will continue to provide quality evidence and policy recommendations to support member states for implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. We look forward to collaborating further with all of you here.

Thank you.