

MESSAGE FROM 2018 CO-CHAIRS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

“ AMRO has done an excellent job in building itself as an independent, credible and professional organization that serves members' interests. We commend AMRO's management team and staff for their commitment and efforts towards fulfilling AMRO's mandate and achievements in 2018. ”



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As the macroeconomic surveillance unit of the ASEAN+3 region, AMRO contributes to the macroeconomic and financial stability of the region. It also plays an important role in supporting the implementation of the CMIM, our regional financial safety net.

AMRO has done an excellent job in building itself as an independent, credible and professional organization that serves the interests of all its members. Korea and Singapore, as 2018 Co-Chairs of the AMRO Executive Committee (EC)¹, commend AMRO's management team and staff for their commitment and efforts towards fulfilling AMRO's mandate and the substantial achievements made in 2018.

Throughout the year, AMRO had worked tirelessly to fulfill its purpose of contributing to regional stability through conducting macroeconomic surveillance and supporting the CMIM in the context of a rapidly changing global and regional economic environment.

We also commend AMRO's efforts in strengthening its Comprehensive Surveillance Framework, in particular, successfully integrating its Economic Review and Policy Dialogue (ERPD) Matrix into its analytical framework for country and regional surveillance and developing the AMRO Regional Tracker for the ERPD Matrix Indicator Scorecard (ARTEMIS). These marked important progress for AMRO's surveillance and CMIM support functions. AMRO's application of important analytical toolkits such as risk maps and cycle analysis in its surveillance products, demonstrated AMRO's commitment to raise the quality of its work and strengthen its position as a trusted advisor to ASEAN+3 members.

AMRO successfully launched the second edition of the AREO on "*Resilience and Growth in a Changing World*" in 2018. During the year, AMRO also circulated policy notes to provide members with its assessment of the latest economic and financial developments. It explored pertinent issues in its research and

published several thematic studies ranging from topical surveillance issues to the role of RFAs in the Global Financial Safety Net (GFSN). These initiatives are a testament to AMRO's enhanced research and surveillance capacity and have raised AMRO's profile internationally.

On the CMIM front, AMRO continued efforts to enhance the operational readiness of the CMIM in 2018. We would like to highlight several important achievements. First, AMRO's technical support for the inaugural CMIM periodic review was critical in helping members finalize the revised CMIM Agreement, in time for its approval by Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in May 2019. Second, AMRO played a key role in the 9th CMIM Test Run, which served to enhance its operational readiness. Third, AMRO enhanced and operationalized the ERPD Matrix for use in the implementation of the CMIM. Fourth, AMRO prepared key documents that were endorsed, including Guiding Principles of the CMIM Conditionality Framework and Operational Guidelines for Early Information Sharing with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Finally, AMRO conducted useful studies on local currency contribution to the CMIM and initiated thinking on CMIM's future development, ensuring the CMIM's continued effectiveness and relevance.

Recognizing the importance of capacity development in improving the macroeconomic surveillance capabilities of its members, AMRO provided targeted technical assistance (TA) aimed at creating a knowledge-sharing platform. We trust that AMRO's secondment, research and training, and consultancy programs will continue to strengthen our region's overall capabilities.

Strong corporate support is necessary for AMRO to deliver on its core functions. In this regard, we are pleased to note AMRO's initiatives aimed at improving its accountability mechanism. The implementation of a results-based management framework for performance

evaluation presents a key milestone and a crucial starting point for AMRO to track its progress and promote effective operational change through efficient resource use as well as effective response to feedback. AMRO also developed essential policies and strategies, which included the Document Exchange Policy, Partnership Strategy, Communications Policy and Communications Strategy to guide its direction and operations.

By increasing its outreach activities in 2018, AMRO was able to strengthen its international standing and credibility. AMRO organized several high-profile events that garnered considerable attention. These included the AMRO-BSP Joint Seminar, AMRO-ADB-BI Joint Seminar, AREO 2018 Launch, and High-level Forum on the "*40th Anniversary of China's Reform and Opening Up: Progress, Prospects and Impacts on the East Asian Region*". AMRO also increased the publication of its knowledge products as part of its effort to establish itself as a trusted policy advisor in the region.

With these achievements under its belt, we believe that AMRO is in a good position to continue strengthening its institutional effectiveness. As the ASEAN+3 finance process commemorates its 20th anniversary in 2019, we foresee AMRO taking on a growing role in shaping the future of the ASEAN+3 region.

Yoon Kyung Kim
Sangdai Ryoo
Tan Ching Yee
Jacqueline Loh
Co-Chairs

¹ The EC consists of Deputies of AMRO members and is responsible for maintaining strategic oversight and setting policy directions for AMRO. Each AMRO member may appoint up to two Deputies: one deputy from its government with responsibility for finance and one deputy from its central bank or its equivalent.