

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia

October 16, 2024

Dear Hiring Committee Members,

I am writing to express my interest in the Economist (Digital and Circular Economy) position at the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). With a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and extensive experience in development economics, I focus on gender disparities and the impacts of conflict in developing economies. I am passionate about leveraging rigorous research to inform policies that foster inclusive development, aligning closely with ERIA's mission.

My job market paper, "Effects of Military Bases on Women in Colombia," co-authored with Felipe Parra, employs a robust causal identification strategy to analyze the unintended consequences of military interventions. Using an event-study approach, we identify the causal effects of military base presence on sexual violence, finding a 72% increase in cases over 15 years. This work provides critical insights into the broader social impacts of state security policies. In another project, "Understanding the Constraints in Hiring Women," I investigate how entrenched gender norms influence employers' decisions in Pakistan's garment sector. My research aims to develop scalable solutions that can effectively increase female labor force participation.

I am deeply committed to translating complex research into actionable insights for policymakers and broader audiences. Through my contributions to the International Growth Centre (IGC) blog and policy briefs, I have made my research in Pakistan more accessible, fostering relationships with policymakers. Additionally, I have in-depth experience training policymakers and development practitioners in policy evaluation during my pre-doctoral career at the World Bank. This experience has taught me how to effectively communicate with policymakers from diverse backgrounds, with varying levels of interest, statistical knowledge, and economic literacy.

I am drawn to ERIA's dedication to evidence-based research and policy engagement. I am confident that my expertise in development economics, combined with my leadership in research and mentorship, will allow me to contribute effectively to ERIA's work in global health, sustainable development finance, and beyond.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to ERIA's impactful research and policy efforts.

Sincerely,



Sakina Shibuya