

PAN-ASIAN INTEGRATION: LINKING EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

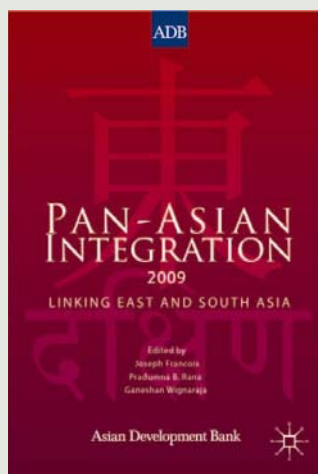
Friday, 20 November 2009 • 6.00pm - 7.30pm, India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi, India

This seminar will examine the current status and prospects for Pan-Asian integration, which is rapidly linking East Asia and South Asia against the backdrop of a global economic crisis. A panel of international experts will deal with the patterns and impact of Pan-Asian integration, drawing on a book copublished by the Asian Development Bank and Palgrave Macmillan in 2009.

The book analyses the pattern, determinants, impediments, and benefits of closer economic cooperation and integration between East Asia and South Asia. It makes a powerful and realistic case for Pan-Asian integration and offers recommendations. The critical issues covered by leading thematic experts include regional patterns of merchandise trade and investment, services trade, trade and monetary cooperation, infrastructure, logistics and trade facilitation, developments in ASEAN and SAARC, and a CGE model based analysis of the effects of alternative integration schemes.

The study finds that there has been a rapid growth in trade and investment linkages between the economies of East Asia and South Asia, albeit from a low base. The value of total merchandise trade between East Asia and South Asia increased eight-fold to about US\$140 billion between 1990 and 2007. The pattern of trade between the two sub-regions reflects factor endowments and levels of economic development, with East Asia typically exporting capital and technology-intensive goods to South Asia in return for imports of raw material and labour-intensive goods. Services trade between the two sub regions has also increased particularly in information technology, education, and tourism.

There are around 20 cross-regional free trade agreements (FTAs) at different stages of implementation. The study finds that the consolidation of FTAs improves economic welfare compared to current bilateralism. The study estimates that a broad Pan-Asian agreement (covering goods, services, and trade costs) involving East Asia and South Asian economies offers significant welfare gains to global income of around US\$261 billion.



PROGRAM

6.00 – 6.05 Welcome Remarks

Dr. Srinivasa Madhur
Senior Director
Office of Regional Economic
Integration
Asian Development Bank

6.05 – 6.15 Linking South Asia
with East Asia

Dr. Biswajit Dhar
Director General
Research and Information
System for Developing
Countries

6.15 – 6.35 Keynote Address

Dr. Isher Ahluwalia
Chairperson, Board of
Governors
Indian Council for Research on
International Economic
Relations

6.35 – 6.50 Pan-Asian Integration:
Main Findings of the Book

Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja
Principal Economist
Office of Regional Economic
Integration
Asian Development Bank

6:50 – 7.30 Q&A

7.30 Cocktail Reception

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Organizers



REGISTRATION DETAILS

For enquiries, please contact