REIs in East Asia and China's Policy Choice

杨星・著

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# 东亚区域经济一体化与中国的

# 战略选择

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#### **Abstract**

This thesis, *REIs in East Asia and China's Policy Choice*, is studied under the following 4 backgrounds: the time of economic globalization is coming; the development of REI is presenting a staggering trend; China's economy has strengthened and the domestic market is opened up day by day and China's FTA strategy is too weak.

This thesis attempts, through identifying and analyzing the economic globalization, regional economic integration and the current situation on worldwide REIs, to explore the factors of the East Asian FTA including the promotion and degradation part from the point of economy and politics and provide the suggestions to China's FTA strategy which has not been clear. This thesis tries to solve three main research questions: what the reasons, characteristics and relationships between economic globalization and REI are; what kinds of conditions influence the East Asian FTA and how to realize the FTA in East Asia; what strategies China may use on FTA and what suggestions will be made to that.

This thesis consists of five chapters.

Chapter 1 gives an introduction of the study, including the background, objective, methodology, thought and analytical framework and the significance and limitation of the study.

Chapter 2 briefly summarizes the definition and the development of economic globalization and regional economic integration as well as their characteristics and effects. It also discusses the relationship between these two important phenomena. Lastly, it discusses the relationship between WTO and FTA from the legal perspective.

Chapter 3 focuses on the process of FTA in East Asia. It covers the existing situation of FTAs in East Asia and makes a brief analysis. The second part of this chapter discusses the necessity and feasibility of establishing the East Asian FTA. Further then, what kind of REI it is and what model is suitable for East Asia are discussed.

Chapter 4 is the main part of this study. It first discusses the background and evolution of China's FTA strategy and goes on to summarize the development of FTA in the next part. The third part of this chapter focuses on why China pays attention to FTA. Finally, based on the existing problems mentioned above, I propose some

strategies that China may pursue. These strategies are not independent, but combined with one another. The strategies I propose include the draft of the general plan to promote FTA, and fix the objective countries in the priority order and the FTA strategy to achieve different objectives.

Chapter 5 presents the conclusion of the main findings and suggestions to make the strategies better in the future.

#### **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

AFTA: ASEAN(Association of Southeast Asian Nations)

Free Trade Area

ANCOM: Andean Common Market

APEC: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations

CAFTA: China-ASEAN FTA

CEPA: Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement

CEPT: Common Effective Preferential Tariff

CU: Customs Union

DSB: Dispute Settlement Body

EAEG: East Asia Economic Group

EAVG: East Asia Vision Group

EEC: European Economic Community

EPA: Economic Partnership Agreement

EU: European Union

FDI: Foreign Direct Investment

FTA: Free Trade Agreement

GATS: General Agreement on Trade in Service

GATT: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

GMS: Greater Mekong Subregion

JSEPA: Japan-Singapore EPA

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M&A: Mergers and Acquisitions

MERCOSUR: Southern Common Market

METI: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Japan)

MFN: Most Favored Nation

MNCs: Multinational Corporations

MOFCOM: Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China

NAAEC: North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation

NAALC: North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation

NAFTA: North American Free Trade Agreement

NTB: Non-tariff Barrier

PTA: Preferential Trade Agreement

REI: Regional Economic Integration

RTA: Regional Trade Agreement

SCO: Shanghai Cooperation Organization

TRIMs: Agreement on Trade-related Investment Measures

TRIPs: Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual
Property Rights

UNCTAD: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

USTR: United States Trade Representative

WTO: World Trade Organization

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# Chapter 1 Introduction