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Annual Report 2015

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ACRONYMS

AEM ASEAN Economic Ministers

ALMM ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting

AMAF ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry

AQSIQ Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine
AREAER Annual Report of Exchange Arrangements and Exchange Restrictions

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CEPA Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement

CII Confederation of Indian Industry
CLMV Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam

EASEMM East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting

ECO Economic Cooperation Organization

EMM Economic Ministers Meeting

EU European Union

FDI Foreign Direct Investment

FDII FDI Inflows

FTA Free Trade Agreement
GVCs Global Value Chains

IMF International Monetary Fund

IMT-GT Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle

JCC Joint Cooperation Committee

M&A Merger & Acquisition

MRIO Multi-Region Input-Output Model NAFTA North American Free Trade Area

OECD Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development

RCEP Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

SITC Standard International Trade Classification

TPP Trans-Pacific Partnership

UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

WTO World Trade Organization

FOREWORD

Concerns about the slowdown of Asia's economic integration as stated in our last year's *Report* became more prominent in 2013. The Asia Miracle seems to be losing its glory. The economic indicators that the *Boao Forum* for Asia Annual Report on the Progress of Asian Economic Integration has been monitoring over the years show that the future of the Asian economy is under greater uncertainty.

In 2013, Asia's merchandise trade grew only at the global average rate. For trade in services, Asia's growth even fell below the world average. The performance of inward FDI into Asia was also disappointing. In 2013 Asia's growth of FDI inflows grew at only 1.8 percent, well below the world average of 9.1 percent and the share in the global inward FDI dropped to 34.8 percent from the historic high of 37.7 percent attained in 2012.

The pace of Asia's integration in trade and production is also slowing down significantly. In 2013, Asia's self-dependence in trade dropped from the record high of 59.49 percent in 2012 to 53.01 percent. Growth of Asia's intra-regional trade in intermediate goods—a measure of the intensity of Asia's international production network, had continued its decline to 5 percent as compared with the 8 percent growth in 2012, and 7 percent growth in 2011. Consequently, Asia's self-dependence index in the trade of global supply chain intermediate inputs remained basically stagnant 60.1 percent, compared to 61.1 percent in 2012.

With these challenges, it is time for the Asian policy makers to sit down to think seriously. Asia should not let its past glory go. Instead, it should continue on the path of solid growth. The APEC Summit, held in Beijing in November 2014, proposed a number of solutions relevant to the Asia's vulnerabilities, including the initiative to establish the more inclusive Asia-Pacific free trade area, the blueprint for the global value chain cooperation and the connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region etc. In addition, China also launched its own ambitious program to enhance the land and sea connectivity with neighboring economies, the so called "One Belt and One Road" initiative.

A main feature of Asia's trade pattern is based on the collaboration of firms in the region to produce intermediate and final goods and then export them mainly to the developed markets in the US and Europe. If the demand in the developed economies slowed down, Asia's growth and internal integration would be seriously affected. An essential problem for Asia is its internal market, especially the market for final goods, is narrow. While Asia's internal trade accounted for over 50 percent of the total, a substantial part of the intraregional trade is about intermediate inputs (43 percent) and the market left for the final goods is only about 50 percent. To sustain the growth of Asia's trade, it is essential to expand Asia's internal market. As a result, Asia's massive export capacity could return to health and Asia would be a more attractive destination to foreign investors. The recent APEC initiative to establish the Asia-Pacific free trade area, the blueprint for the connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region and China's "One Belt and One Road" initiative are all valuable means to expand Asia's internal market and should be appreciated.

This Report has made impressive improvements in the construction of the indices to monitor the progress of Asia's economic integration. Such indices as trade integration index, the index for inter-regional tourist flows, the stock market and general price indices and the inter-dependence index of Asian direct investment flows etc, form a complete and coherent system for the policymakers and cooperate leaders to

know where we stand in the process of Asia's economic integration.

As I have said before, great ambition does not necessarily lead to great results. Asia has great potentials and those potentials must be tapped to support the sustained prosperity of Asia. The direction for the Asian and the Pacific leaders is to have strong political determination and take immediate actions to explore the opportunities inside Asia. A large and ever expanding internal market would reduce risks of the global supply chains, sustain the growth of Asia's exports and reduce the region's trade surplus that has posed serious challenges to the sound macroeconomic management of some major Asian economies.

例之重

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Table of Contents

ACR	ONYMS	IX
FOR	REWORD	X
	OF CONTRIBUTORS	
Cha	pter 1 Trends of Asia's Trade in 2013	1
1.1	Growth of Asia's Trade in 2013	1
1.2	Trends of Asia's Merchandise Trade	5
1.3	Trends of Intra-regional Flow of Intermediate Goods	7
1.4	Growth of Service Trade in Asia in 2013	11
Cha	pter 2 Trade Inter-dependence among the Asian Economies	15
2.1	Asia's Trade Integration Index	15
2.2	Trade Inter-dependence among Asian Economies	16
2.3	Domestic Value Added of ASEAN+3 Countries' Exports	18
Cha	pter 3 Inter-dependence of Asian Economies in Factory Asia	21
3.1	Inter-dependence in Factory Asia	21
3.2	Share of Asian Economies in Intermediate Goods Trade	23
3.3	Distributions of Competitive Advantages in the Global Value Chains	25
Cha	pter 4 FDI Inter-dependence in Asia	35
4.1	Growth of FDI Flows in Asia	35
4.2	Inter-dependence Index for FDI Inflows	42
4.3	Asia's FDI Self-dependence Index	43
Cha	pter 5 Integration in Asia's Service Sector	45
5.1	A GVCs View on Service Trade Integration in Asia	45
5.2	Integration Index of Asian Economies Tourism	48
Cha	pter 6 Financial Integration	53
6.1	Portfolio Investment in Asia	53
6.2	De jure and De facto Financial Openness of Asia	56
6.3	Index of Business Cycle Synchronization	64
6.4	Stock Market Correlation Indices in Asia	65
6.5	Inflation Correlation Indices in Asia	68

Outlook	71
Appendix Important Events of the Asian Economic Integration	75
REFERENCES	80
ACKNOWI FDGEMENTS	81

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1	World Trade in Services by Regions, 2013	2
Table 1.2	Merchandise Trade of Selected Economies in the First Eight Months in 2014	4
Table 1.3	Asia's Intermediate Goods Trade, 2001-2013	8
Table 1.4	Top 22 Parts and Components Traded by Asia, 2012	10
Table 1.5	Top 22 Parts and Components Traded by Asia, 2013	11
Table 2.1	Regional Trade Dependence Indices—Selected Asian Economies, 2004-2013 (percent)	15
Table 2.2	Trade Dependence Indices of Selected Asian Economies, 2009, 2011 and 2013	
	(percent)	17
Table 2.3	Domestic Value Added of ASEAN+3 Exports (unit export)	19
Table 2.4	Domestic Value Added of Manufacturing and Services Exports, ASEAN+3	
	Countries, 2011	19
Table 3.1	Index of Inter-dependence in Factory Asia, 2013	22
Table 3.2	Index of Inter-dependence in Factory Asia, 2011	22
Table 3.3	Intermediate Goods Trade of Factory Asia, Factory Europe and Factory North America,	
	2001-2013 (USD trillion)	24
Table 3.4	Parts and Components Trade of Asian Individual Economies, 2001-2013 (USD billion)	24
Table 3.5	Top 22 Asia's Imports of Parts and Components, 2013	25
Table 3.6	Top 22 Asia's Exports of Parts and Components, 2013	26
Table 3.7	Top 22 EU's Imports of Parts and Components, 2013	27
Table 3.8	Top 22 EU's Exports of Parts and Components, 2013	28
Table 3.9	Top 22 NAFTA's Imports of Parts and Components, 2013	29
Table 3.10	Top 22 NAFTA's Exports of Parts and Components, 2013	30
Table 3.11	Inter-dependence of Asia's Top 22 Traded Parts and Components, 2013	32
Table 3.12	Inter-dependence of Asia's Top 22 Traded Parts and Components, 2011	33
Table 4.1	Foreign Direct Investment into Asian Economies, 2011-2013	35
Table 4.2	Foreign Direct Investment out of Asian Economies, 2011-2013	39
Table 4.3	Inter-dependence Index for FDI Inflows—Selected Asian Economies (host),	
	2013 (percent)	43
Table 4.4	Asia's FDI Self-dependence Index—Selected Asian Economies, 2008-2013 (percent)	44

Table 5.1	Distributions of Service Value Added in Gross Exports, Asia, 2009 (percent)	47
Table 5.2	Dependence Indexes on Asian Tourism of Selected Economies, 2010-2013 (percent)	49
Table 5.3	Dependence Indexes on China of Selected Economies, 2010-2013 (percent)	50
Table 5.4	Inter-dependency Indexes among Asian Economies, 2013 (percent)	50
Table 6.1	Matrix of Portfolio Investment in Asia, 2012-2013 (USD million)	54
Table 6.2	Capital Account Restrictions for <i>De jure</i> Rating	
Table 6.3	Rankings of <i>De jure</i> Financial Openness (15 Economies), 1999-2013	
Table 6.4	Rankings of <i>De facto</i> Financial Openness Based on the IFIGDP Method (15 Economies),	
	2001-2013	63
Table 6.5	Asian Business Cycle Synchronization, 1990-2014	64
Table 6.6 (a)	Stock Market Correlation Coefficients in Asia, 2002-2006	67
Table 6.6 (b)	Stock Market Correlation Coefficients in Asia, 2007-2011	67
Table 6.6 (c)	Stock Market Correlation Coefficients in Asia, 2012-2014	67
Table 6.7 (a)	Inflation Correlation in Asia and the US, 2002-2006	68
Table 6.7 (b)	Inflation Correlation in Asia and the US, 2007-2014	68

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1	Asia's Shares of World Merchandise Trade, 2005-2013	1
Figure 1.2	Value and Shares of Asia's Service Trade in the World, 2003-2013	2
Figure 1.3	Merchandise Trade of China and the US, 2001-2013	4
Figure 1.4	Merchandise Exports of Selected Countries	5
Figure 1.5	Asia's Merchandise Exports by Industry, 2013.	6
Figure 1.6	Share of Asia's Manufactured Exports by Category, 2013	6
Figure 1.7	Changes in the Share of Asian Manufactured Exports by Category	6
Figure 1.8	Destinations of Asia's Merchandise Exports, 2013	.7
Figure 1.9	Sources of Asia's Merchandise Imports, 2013	. 7
Figure 1.10	Share of Fuels and Mining Products in Asia's Total Imports from Middle East, 2008-2013	.7
Figure 1.11	Asia's Intermediate Trade, 2001-2013	.8
Figure 1.12	Growth of Asia's Total and Intra-regional Trade in Intermediate Goods, 2002-2013	.9
Figure 1.13	Value of Asia's Intra-regional Trade in Final Goods, 2001-2013	.9
Figure 1.14	Annual Changes of Service Exports in the Asia-Pacific Region, 2005-2013	2
Figure 1.15	Annual Changes of Service Imports in the Asia-Pacific Region, 2005-2013	3
Figure 2.1	Asia's Trade Dependence Indices on Asian Economies, 2004-2013	16
Figure 3.1	Rankings of Factory Asia Dependence on Asian Economies, 2013	23
Figure 3.2	Intermediate Goods Trade of Factory Asia, Factory Europe and Factory North America,	
	2001-2013 2	24
Figure 4.1	Shares of Main Asian Economies in Global FDI Inflows, 2008-2013	38
Figure 4.2	Quarterly FDI Inflows to Main Asian Economies, 2013-2014	39
Figure 4.3	The Share of Main Asian Economies in Global FDI Outflows, 2008-2013	11
Figure 4.4	Quarterly FDI Outflows from Main Asian Economies, 2013-2014	12
Figure 5.1	Share of Service Value Added in Gross Exports of Asian Economies, 2009	16
Figure 5.2	Services Value-added Component of Gross Exports of Asian Economies, 2009	18
Figure 5.3	Dependence Indexes on Asian Tourism of Selected Economies, 2013	19
Figure 6.1	De jure Measure of Financial Openness, 1999-2013	59

Figure 6.2	De facto Financial Openness of Selected Economies Based on the IFIGDP Method,	
	2001-2013	62
Figure 6.3	De facto Financial Openness Based on the GEQY Method, 2001-2013	62
Figure 6.4	De facto Financial Openness Based on the EQSH Method, 2001-2013	62
Figure 6.5	Business Cycle Synchronization in Asia, 1992-2013	65
Figure 6.6	Trends of CPI in Asia and the US, 2007-2014	69

Chapter 1

Trends of Asia's Trade in 2013

1.1 Growth of Asia's Trade in 2013

1.1.1 A Less Prominent Picture

Following the moderate global recovery in 2013, the Asian economies trade kept growing. On merchandise trade, the imports and exports of the Asian economies had grown at about the same rate as the world average. For services, while the Asian

economies were able to manage a positive growth, the growth rates of service trade were lower than the world average. Compared to 2012, Asia's positive growth rates had become less prominent in the global picture as economies in other regions of the world improved their growth records in 2013.

Figure 1.1 shows the changes in the Asia's shares of merchandise imports and exports in the world after the 2008-2009 financial crisis. In 2013, Asia's merchandise exports increased by 2.4 percent as compared to 2.1 percent in 2012 and the total merchandise exports reached USD5,773 billion in 2013, accounting for 31.5 percent of the world

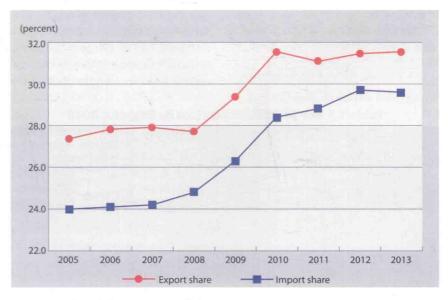


Figure 1.1 Asia's Shares of World Merchandise Trade, 2005-2013

Source: International Trade Statistics 2006-2014, WTO.

¹ However, if it is in volume terms, both merchandise imports and exports of Asia had grown faster than the average of the world in 2013. See Table 1.2, P21 in WTO, International Trade Statistics 2014.

total, a share that is about the same as in 2012. Asia's merchandise imports registered at USD5,423 billion in 2013 and the share in the global merchandise imports was 29.6 percent, which is comparable to the share obtained in 2008.

Figure 1.2 shows Asia's shares in the global service trade. In general, the Asian economies have been able to maintain a moderate and consistent growth rate in service trade. As shown in Figure

1.2, Asia's export of services were USD1,216.5 billion in 2013, which accounted for 26.2 percent of the world's service exports. Asia has been running a deficit in its service trade. In 2013, Asia's service imports reached USD1,234.7 billion, accounting for 28.2 percent of the world's total service imports.

declined, largely due to the sluggish growth in

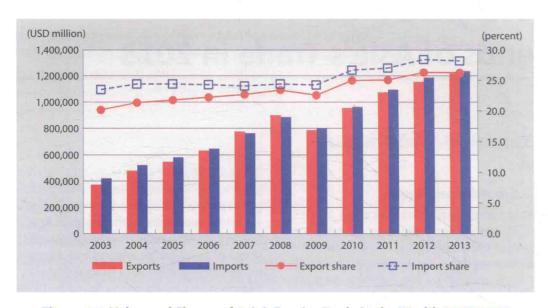


Figure 1.2 Value and Shares of Asia's Service Trade in the World, 2003-2013

Source: International Trade Statistics 2006-2014, WTO.

Table 1.1 shows the composition of Asia's service trade.² Compared to the previous year, there were two notable changes in 2013. First, Asia's imports and exports of transportation service

Trade Statistics, 2014.

Table 1.1 World Trade in Services by Regions, 2013

	Transp	ortation	Travel Other Commerc Services			Total	
Exports	Value (USD billion)	Growth (percent)	Value (USD billion)	Growth (percent)	Value (USD billion)	Growth (percent)	(USD billion)
World	905	1.7	1,185	6.8	2,550	8.7	4,640
North America	100	3.1	204	5.7	457	7.3	761
South & Central America	30	3.4	51	6.3	63	0.0	144
Europe	433	4.1	459	7.2	1,301	9.6	2,193
EU (27)	394	5.6	403	9.2	1,201	10.3	1,998

¹ Calculated according to Tables A8 and A9 in International Trade Statistics 2014.

merchandise trade. The export of transportation service declined by 2 percent while the import declined by 0.8 percent. Second, Asia's travel services enjoyed a high rate of growth, with both 2 Based on Tables III.3, III.5, and III.7 in WTO, International exports and imports growing at around 10 percent.

co	nı	181	nı	 0	м

	Transp	ortation	Travel Other Commercia Services		Charles and Control of the Control o	l Total	
Exports	Value (USD billion)	Growth (percent)	Value (USD billion)	Growth (percent)	Value (USD billion)	Growth (percent)	(USD billion)
Commonwealth of Independent States	41	5.1	26	8.3	47	14.6	114
Africa	27	0.0	39	-9.3	24	9.1	90
Middle East	28	-12.5	48	-5.9	48	4.3	124
Asía	248	-2.0	356	10.6	611	9.5	1,215
Imports		E C					
World	1,165	1.7	1,070	7.5	2,085	6.1	4,320
North America	131	4.8	140	2.9	295	4.6	566
South and Central America	56	1.8	48	9.1	92	7.0	196
Europe	376	3.6	398	5.0	976	7.1	1,750
EU (27)	349	3.6	356	4.7	908	7.1	1,613
Commonwealth of Independent States	31	6.9	68	21.4	75	11.9	174
Africa	65	4.8	26	0.0	68	-2.9	159
Middle East	110	0.0	76	13.4	63	5.0	249
Asia	396	-0.8	315	9.8	517	5.7	1,228

Source: International Trade Statistics 2014, WTO.

1.1.2 Two Largest Merchandise Traders in the World

In 2013 China became the largest merchandise trader of the world. The exports reached USD2,209 billion. However, while being the largest exporter, China is still the second largest merchandise importer of the world after the US. In 2013 China's merchandise imports registered at USD1,950 billion.

China's surplus on merchandise trade expanded in 2013 as compared to that of 2012. Globally, Germany had the largest trade surplus in the world in 2013. In 2013 Germany's trade surplus was USD264 billion in 2013 compared to USD240 billion in 2012. In 2013, while China expanded its trade surplus to USD259 billion in 2013 from USD230 billion in 2012, it had actually become the second largest surplus economy of the world after Germany.

The US, the second largest trading economy of the world, has, to some extent, relied on its voracious import demand to maintain its weight in the global merchandise trading. In 2013, the US

imported USD2,329 billion and exported USD1,580 billion of goods, with a deficit of USD749 billion, compared to the higher USD790 billion registered in 2012. Figure 1.3 shows that the US merchandise exports kept growing after the slump in 2009 while its merchandise imports seemed to be slowing down after 2010.

1.1.3 A Look at Asia's Merchandise Trade in 2014

Table 1.2 shows the merchandise trade of the top Asian economies ranked by the size of the trade for the first 8 months in 2014. The growth rates of imports and exports of the economies within Asia are quite uneven. For some economies like Malaysia, China's Hong Kong, China and India, the export growth rates were well above the world average of 2.1 percent. But for other economies such as Japan, Indonesia, Australia and Thailand, the exports registered negative growth rates in the first 8 months of 2014.

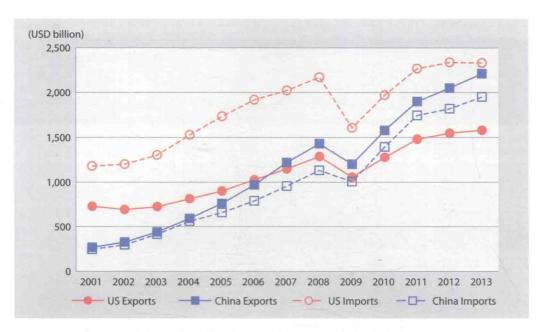


Figure 1.3 Merchandise Trade of China and the US, 2001-2013

Source: International Trade Statistics, 2014, WTO.

Table 1.2 Merchandise Trade of Selected Economies in the First Eight Months in 2014

	Expe	Exports Imports			
Economy	Value (USD billion)	Growth Rate (percent)	Value (USD billion)	Growth Rate (percent)	
China, People's Republic of	1,483.5	3.8	1,283.8	0.8	
Japan	457.8	-3.4	550.5	0.9	
Korea, Republic of	377.6	2.4	351.9	3.1	
China's Hong Kong	305.9	3.9	349.6	4.0	
Singapore	277.0	2.7	249.5	1.4	
India	214.0	3.1	300.5	-7.3	
Australia	164.6	-1.7	166.7	-1.1	
Thailand	149.3	-0.8	150.3	-11.9	
Malaysia	155.8	5.2	139.7	2.0	
Indonesia	117.4	-3.0	118.8	-8.3	
Russia	341.6	1.8	192.5	-9.1	
US	1,075.3	3.3	1,546.3	2.7	
EU	3,973.6	3.9	3,975.3	5.5	
World	12,247.9	2.1	12,538.1	1.9	

Source: IMF Trade Statistics, accessed in January 22, 2015