



WROCLAW UNIVERSITY
OF ECONOMICS
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1947 – 2022



ASIA-PACIFIC
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The 11th Asia-Pacific International Conference

The Asia-Pacific Region and the EU. Partners or Competitors?

November 9, 2022

Authors & Abstracts





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The Economic Cooperation Strategy of Poland and South Korea Focused on Trade and FDI in the EU Market

Most economic growth strategies are keen to increase trade and FDI that are based on comparative competitiveness. South Korea has created a legacy known as the miracle of Han River, to succeed in rapid industrialisation focusing on trade and FDI in the global market. As a result, these aspects have become the core instruments in creating high economic growth over the last six decades. This strategy has been functioning properly in the EU market since the EU-Korea FTA was concluded in 2011. In order to develop the growth strategy continuously in the EU, South Korea needs proper strategic partners such as the Visegrad countries, and in particular Poland, with complementary industrial structures in the region. This paper aimed to analyse the two nations' economic cooperation on the long-term basis, and find out why it matches them strategically and practically.

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Investigating The Inward FDI And Green Economic Growth Relationship In The Southeast Asian Region

The objective of this study was to explore how FDI and green economic growth are related in Southeast Asian economies. To this end, a dynamic panel threshold model for the data over the period of 2000-2018 was employed. The main results proved that FDI positively impacts on the green growth progress of these economies, while the magnitude of this impact is stronger for the high fiscal policy development group of Southeast Asian economies. This result proves the 'pollution halo' hypothesis that claims that FDI may enhance green growth progress in a country. In addition, the empirical results illustrated evidence of a fiscal policy development threshold beyond FDI – a green growth linkage in Southeast Asian countries. As major practical policy implications, orienting the economic priorities to improve green fiscal policies, reforming the fiscal integration programmes, planning the creation of green jobs creation and implementing policies to attract FDI under COVID-19 are recommended.

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Strengthening the EU-ASEAN Partnership in post-pandemic times: preliminary research

In the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the world's serious issues. Apart from the health problems, this pandemic has become a multi-aspect matter. Paradoxically, the pandemic also demonstrated how national interests compete with global and regional agreements due to the borderless characteristics and impacts of this issue. Interdependence and mobility contribute to making it a test case for international cooperation, including inter-regional agreements. For that reason, the pandemic has also become a test case for EU-ASEAN inter-regional cooperation. The EU and ASEAN countries individually have been working hard to fight this pandemic. However, both sides recognised the importance of inter-regional cooperation as one of the mechanisms to manage the impact of the pandemic. This paper elaborates on how the EU uses its strategic partnership mechanism toward ASEAN to strengthen its inter-regional relations.

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The post-coup Myanmar: the impact of the military coup in Myanmar on the EU and the Asia-Pacific region

Myanmar has experienced its fourth coup since the military seized power on 1 February 2021. The impact of the coup has been enormous – not only within Myanmar but also the entire region – ASEAN, Asia Pacific, and beyond Asia, which is also the EU. International sanctions, as well as pressures from Myanmar's regional partners, have been growing. However, different states have approached the military regime with their own different interests in mind, at the same time quite understandably. There is no concerted regional approach to Myanmar's unfolding political crisis. A much-needed regional approach would be a determinant of Myanmar's future. This paper explores the trends of Myanmar's unfolding crisis in response to the regional approach.

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Towards Sustainability: Polish-Korean Cooperation for Green Taxation

Environmental protection and sustainable development are becoming increasingly important in the 21st century. In response to these challenges, countries are introducing environmental policies. One of the instruments used is environmental taxes (green taxes). In recent years, Poland and South Korea have been implementing significant projects on political and economic grounds, therefore this study analysed whether cooperation and exchange of experience between the two countries could be another area of joint action. To achieve the goal, green taxes operating in Poland and South Korea were identified. Their relevance was compared and evaluated using the functions of green taxes as a criterion. Literature studies, the economic analysis of legal acts and the analysis of empirical data were used as research methods. A significant limitation of the study was the incompleteness of some of the data for South Korea. Nevertheless, environmental problems in similar areas, such as air pollution can provide a basis for developing cooperation.

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An Overview of Current Cluster Policy Initiatives in Selected Asian Countries

One of the expected effects of shortening the supply chains caused by the recent pandemic was to place most of the production in one location. The increased concentration of production in selected locations may contribute to the creation of new clusters or the development of existing ones. Support from local authorities interested in attracting new businesses to the region may be especially needed during the economic downturn seen since the beginning of the pandemic. The article aims to present the current state, initiatives and tools of cluster policies in selected Asian economies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Cashless payment in Asia – revolution or threat?

In recent times, the financial market has recorded this as „digital payments revolution.” The standard finance industry’s environment has indeed been largely modified as a result of the rise of digital technologies such as cloud computing, intelligent systems, cryptocurrency and machine intelligence. Whenever consumers perceive that physically touching cash poses a significant impact on human health, they choose cashless transactions. The payment gateway revolution resulted from financial digitalisation. This paper attempts to comprehend the public’s perception of a cashless world which is moving away from cash. In the last few years, digital payment software has gone mainstream, but no area has welcomed the revolution more than Asia. In advanced nations, a cashless economy will lead in smooth, seamless, and minimal interactions. It also has the power to bring real social and economic benefits to disadvantaged countries..

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The Chinese-South Korean clothing war – from the social uproar to the political tension

The aim of the study was to analyse how the hanfu vs hanbok controversy crossed the barrier of the battle of words in the social media, and became a threat to the relations between China and South Korea on the political level. Hanbok is a traditional Korean clothing, while hanfu is the attire of the Han people. Hanfu was placed in the spotlight when Xi Jinping announced a move towards Chinese values and culture. Both countries use their national costume as an instrument of soft power. Initially, the disputes and accusations of stealing the costume were part of the nationalistic disputes then limited mostly to the Internet. The situation changed with the Opening Ceremony of the Winter Olympics held in 2022 in Beijing. The appearance of the Korean minority wearing hanbok while holding the Chinese flag was a turning point which enraged South Korean politicians strongly opposed to the misappropriation of the symbol of their culture. There remains a question about the future consequences of these actions.

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Digital and green transitions pushing the automotive industry towards reconfiguration: evidence from China and Japan

Twin transition entails disruptions across the economy, business and society. Driven by tight regulations and new markets, traditional car manufacturers accept the challenge to participate in the 'race' to become green mobility companies. This paper identifies the economic and social consequences of twin transition in the automotive industry in China and Japan, and the reasons behind Sino-Japanese partnerships related to connected and autonomous new energy vehicles. Case studies of the institutional background of the transition in the automotive industry of both these countries, and of the role of Chinese companies in the process of Honda's and Toyota's reorganization towards green and digital cars, underscore the imperativeness of the change. Governments should increase their efforts to build the necessary social consciousness regarding the urgent need for this transition. The key findings indicate that the perspective of addressing social needs may replace the imposed 'race' with socio-economically sustained development..

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Recent effects of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and Japan (an analysis of the period 02.2019-02.2021)

The author reveals the recent effects of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and Japan. The research covered the two-year period since the EPA entered into force in February 2019 up to February 2021. The EPA is the most significant trade agreement of the EU that creates a trade zone for more than 600 million people. The EU-Japan EPA abolished most of the duties charged yearly on EU exports to Japan as well as the those on imported goods from the EU to Japan. The initial analysis was based on the European Commission's data available for the first two years of the functioning of the EPA..

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EU agri-food exports to Korea and Japan – experiences from FTAs

One of the underlying reasons for the EU's FTAs with South Korea and Japan was to address trade barriers for European food and agricultural products exported to those countries and to secure undisturbed access for EU products to the markets of both partners. The general aim of the paper was to identify the main trends in EU's agri-food exports to Korea and Japan in the context of agreed FTAs. The presentation includes the analysis of the main tendencies in selected trade sections, comparing the initial experiences from the trade liberalised under FTAs with ex-ante FTA predictions as well as impact assessments.

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Production Networks Development Between Selected CEE and Asian Economies

The development of international production chains has progressed since the mid-1990s and is now a signature feature of the world economy. Many factors which have made the modern production process often involve the division and location of its phases in different parts of the world. At the same time, it favours the development of international trade. European and Asian, and North American countries are strongly involved in regional value chains, creating geographic blocks of cooperating entities. Nevertheless, production cooperation also includes interregional links. These are the issues of interest in this study. The analysis covers the development of production networks between selected countries in Central and Eastern Europe and selected Asian countries in 1995-2018. In particular, the following issues are analysed: 1) the development of trade based on gross value and domestic value added; 2) the origin of the foreign value added; 3) the commodity structure of the trade.

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The EU-Australia FTA: what do these two partners diverge on?

The EU-Australia FTA is seen as an important initiative for both partners, who all want to become leaders in rule-setting in regional trade. Considering the EU's increasing involvement in the Indo-Pacific, and the recently developed strategy for this region, it is clear that for this agreement there is more at stake than just economic benefits. However, in spite of the importance of achieving a shared vision of regional order, the EU and Australia continuously disagree on certain issues. Historically, agriculture has played a significant role in stalling any progress in trade talks between the two partners. More recent issues revolve around the inclusion of social standards in the FTA, which Australia is not willing to accept. This problem is discussed as an important aspect of the negotiations, because a significant part of becoming leaders in setting the rules is becoming the example for the rest to follow..

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Economic upgrading: global value chains participation and foreign direct investment

This paper links global value chains (GVC) integration and the operations of multinational enterprises (MNEs) in the context of upgrading the host economies. Economic upgrading is referred to as a higher proportion of domestic value added in exports as a result of foreign direct investment (FDI). Particular attention was paid to the impact of GVC on selected Central and Eastern European (CEE) economies. An econometric model was estimated using panel data of 44 sectors for four CEE economies over the period 1995-2018. A primary source of data was the latest edition of the TiVA (Trade in Value Added) database published at the end of 2021. The most important variable in explaining domestic contribution to GVC were flows of foreign inputs. Backward linkages are crucial for building the GVC presence of the economies. The variables of interest – FDI stocks and flows – have a moderate and mixed impact on the level of domestic content in the analysed economies.

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Cooperation between Poland and the Republic of Korea after 1989. Determinants and prospects

The rise of Asian economies in the 20th and 21st centuries has resulted in intensified political and economic cooperation among countries in the region. One example of dynamic economic development, as well as increased innovation in technological and military solutions, is South Korea, and accordingly, Poland aims to develop cooperation with South Korea. In the economic sphere, cooperation and investment are taking place in such sectors as the electronics industry, electromobility and transportation infrastructure. There are good prospects for cooperation between Poland and Korea, which could mean a number of benefits for Poland in terms of access to modern technologies, innovation policy solutions, environmental protection and energy, and the arms industry. The main purpose of the article was to define the role of South Korea in Poland's foreign and economic policy, as well as to identify the priorities and prospects for cooperation in the economic and military fields.

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The Chinese Space Programme – a copy of Western patterns or new creativity?

The Space Exploration Programme carried out by the People's Republic of China is achieving new quality and impact over the last twenty years. Past copies of American and Soviet concepts were treated by the Chinese as milestones, and precisely recreated based on Russian technologies and, with time, their own production capacities. However, more and more new inventions and missions are either original Chinese products or created as a new approach to the subject, making China the creator of trends in space research. This article aims to highlight the importance of the space programme for the Chinese leadership, list previously unseen projects (such as quantum communication, concepts for new space propulsion vehicles, orbital energy) as well as their position in East Asia's security architecture.

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Intra-Regional Trade in East Asia – the Perspective of China

The authors studied intra-industry trade in East Asia through the prism of bilateral trade flows between China – the largest regional economy in nominal terms – and the other fourteen Member States of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), i.e. Japan, the Republic of Korea, ten ASEAN Member States, Australia, and New Zealand. The paper's main objective was to characterise the intra-regional merchandise trade of China in the period 2012-2021, including disaggregated data from the automotive industry. Using the UN Comtrade database, the authors analysed intra-industry bilateral trade flows disaggregated to six-digit HS tariff codes. The authors recognised the automotive industry as an essential sector of intra-regional trade and division of labour, a trigger of GVCs' expansion and networking in manufacturing activities inside East Asia. The most important trends in the automotive trade were identified, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

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The role of Chinese market for selected European car brands

The automotive industry in the era of increasing globalization and surrounded by numerous competitors gathers business operators that want to satisfy their customers. One of the strategic goals of car manufacturers is to make a profit. For this purpose, they expand into foreign markets. Currently, the largest market in the world is China. The aim of the study is to investigate the importance of China for selected car brands using numerical data. The research method used to identify the problem is the literature analysis and the statistical method. Due to the number of inhabitants, rising living standards and urbanization, the Chinese market plays a key role for European entrepreneurs. Its importance is visible in the number of vehicles sold, factories located, and the importance of innovative solutions expected by Chinese customers.

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The sources of different approaches of European and Asian smart cities for coping with the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted states, regions and cities, among them – smart cities, which are the subject of this study. During the turbulent times, they were forced to emerge new ways of functioning in various spheres (from mobility to public health). The high usage of ICT technologies and the innovative character of such cities formed a foundation for a rapid digitalization transformation during the pandemic. However, the approaches to coping with the pandemic vary, especially between Europe and Asian smart cities – the source of the difference springs from their specific development paths. In a collective approach, European cities are much more like each other than Asian cities, they cooperate, and the role of citizen participation is significant. In Asia, the process of shaping smart cities is strongly diversified – for example, some of them are built from scratch, some as formed as business centres and others as technological hubs. Moreover, advanced Internet of Things system is often implemented as one of the basic engines of development. In Europe, this system is less common and extensive as well as has a different structure. Apart from the above-indicated differences, cultural ones have played a significant role in responding to the pandemic.



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The event is held under the honorary patronage
of the Rector of the Wrocław University of Economics and Business prof. dr hab. Andrzej Kaleta.



Co-financed from the state budget: Ministry of Education and Science, „Doskonała Nauka” Program.
Co-financing value: PLN 42,575. Total value: PLN 48,375.



The project is financed by the Ministry of Education and Science in Poland under the programme
„Regional Initiative of Excellence” 2019 - 2023 project number 015/RID/2018/19 total funding amount
10 721 040,00 PLN.