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MARIA CURIE-SKŁODOWSKA UNIVERSITY



Wrocław  
**UNIVERSITY  
OF ECONOMICS  
AND BUSINESS**

# The 13th Asia-Pacific International Conference

## Navigating Global Risks: The Role of Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific's Future

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Authors & Abstracts



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[wojciech.stachyra@wp.pl](mailto:wojciech.stachyra@wp.pl)**(R)evolution in bloodstream. Reconfiguration of inter-state crude oil flows in the Indo-Pacific during the COVID-19 pandemic**

The aim of the paper is to present the results of research on changes in the structure and functioning of interstate oil flows caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Around 80 percent of the world's maritime oil pass through the Indian Ocean region annually. Despite the global trend of moving away from fossil fuels for low-carbon energy sources, these flows continue to be the lifeblood of the global economy and therefore still remain interesting and important subject of research. More importantly, they define commodity-capital chains of interdependences, determining the positions and roles that individual states play in the global architecture of geo-economic spheres of influence. The aim of the author was to identify and benchmark the oil zones of influence in the Indo-Pacific region between 2019 and 2022, i.e. immediately before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Particular attention was paid to the elements of change and continuation. The former depict the pandemic-forced reconfiguration of linkage chains. The latter point to structures that have proven to be resilient to the violent changes brought about by the pandemic. The study was conducted using original methods of network analysis, based on the use of mathematical elements of graph theory.

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[artwr@gazeta.pl](mailto:artwr@gazeta.pl)**Between revisionist and status-quo powers – deepening integration as an indispensable condition for the peaceful coexistence in the Indo-Pacific region (the case for developmental regionalism)**

Robert Schuman, Paul-Henri Spaak and Jean Monnet are credited with the successful development of the idea of integration in the European Union in the wake of WW II. The founding Fathers' grand project secured the peaceful order and stability resulting in the establishment of democratic states and free market economic policies. The deepening cooperation turned out to be a key factor to the prosperity in Europe and the containment of nationalist tendencies which generated conflicts in the past. Although on one hand politics and religion impeded the cooperation in the Asian-Pacific area there are however cross regional dilemmas which make the Indo-Pacific cohabitation bound to succeed in the near future. The environmental problems, social upheavals, competition for water and other resources as well as weakening



appeal of competitive advantages not only cast shadow on claims by countries such as China to be a number one economy in the world but also provoke the question about further economic rise of the whole region. Without emulating integration models tested in other parts of the world the region is, sooner or later, doomed to stagnation and conflicts. What the region needs is the political will of leaders and institutional framework to avoid the prevalence of nationalism and the fateful warnings against regional "peaking powers". The region must however adapt its own integration model tailored to its distinct needs which will eschew the traps of common traditional hegemonic practices of development aid offered by developed world driven by corporate interests. Most likely it should be attuned to a variant of „public goods developmental regionalism" as the tested transnational paradigm pursued successfully in Africa which have combined private and state capital, coordinated industrial policies and economic linkages. This presentation will address the issue whether competing frameworks of cooperation such as BRI, CPTPP, IPEF, RCEP and QUAD are really facilitators of lasting peace and economic progress.

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## Contemporary EU-China Trade Relations

The main goal of presentation is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the factors shaping contemporary trade relations between the European Union and the People's Republic of China, particularly in the context of trade liberalization and comparative advantage. The impact of ongoing liberalization on the intensity and structure of trade exchanges between EU member states and China will be discussed. Additionally, the effect of comparative advantage on exports will be examined, identifying key changes, challenges, and opportunities arising from dynamic transformations in global markets. The aim is to provide theoretical and practical foundations to aid in formulating an effective EU trade strategy towards China, enabling the optimization of mutual economic relations.

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## Creating an organisation's relationship with its environment on the example of companies with Japanese capital in Poland

The aim of the presentation is a comparative analysis of companies' practices in the field of building relations with the environment, carried out on the example of information obtained from companies with Japanese capital operating in Poland and companies representing foreign capital other than Japanese. In accordance with the assumptions presented in the paper, it was assumed that companies using Japanese management techniques more often and to a greater extent than companies representing other foreign capital and using non-Japanese management techniques undertake activities aimed at building relations with the environment. This information was verified by looking at the different areas of activity of Japanese companies in which activities are undertaken to build relationships with the organisation's environment. The aim of the presentation is a comparative analysis of companies' practices in the field of building relations with the environment, carried out on the example of information obtained from companies with Japanese capital operating in Poland and companies representing foreign capital other than Japanese. By the assumptions presented in the paper, it was assumed that companies using Japanese management techniques more often and to a greater extent than companies representing other foreign capital and using non-Japanese management techniques undertake activities aimed at building relations with the environment. This information was verified by looking at the different areas of activity of Japanese companies in which activities are undertaken to build relationships with the organisation's environment.

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## Cultural institutions in city diplomacy of Tokyo

The main objective of the research is to determine the role of cultural institutions in city diplomacy in Tokyo. The capital city of Japan is a popular tourist destination, but the question is, how do cultural institutions like theaters and museums influence Tokyo's city diplomacy? City diplomacy is the idea of cities being sub-national actors in international relations, interacting with each other or with other actors. The idea can be divided into political, economic, and cultural activities. Hence, the research focuses on the third activity to examine its importance and influence on city diplomacy in general, as shown in the example of Tokyo.

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## Development Strategies of Defense Industry in Changing Global Order: South Korean Approaches as Implications for Poland

Amid shifts in the global power structure, the defense industry is emerging as a crucial sector for economic development and national security. It is closely related to the industrial structure and developed in the form of the military-industry complex (MIC). This article examines South Korea's defense industry development strategies to explore actionable insights for Poland. By integrating technological advancement with robust support for the defense sector, South Korea has crafted a unique model that strengthens technological autonomy and security in a volatile global economic and political order. The impact of South Korea's defense industry on its national economy is evident in employment generation, technology innovation, and dynamic partnerships with the private sector, underscoring its role in economic resilience and competitiveness. The article highlights the potential benefits for Poland, which faces its own geopolitical challenges and modernization needs, in drawing from South Korea's experiences. With a strategic focus on enhancing civil-defense sector cooperation, technological innovation, and international partnerships, Poland could bolster its industrial growth and defense capabilities, contributing to long-term economic security and regional stability.

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## Digital Platforms in Indonesia: Growth Drivers and Potential Risks

Digital platforms have become a significant force in reshaping Indonesia's economic landscape, driving innovation and connectivity across various sectors. The aim of the presentation is to explore the role of these platforms in the country by analysis of the key sectors where digital platforms operate, the drivers behind their existence and growth, the risks they pose to the economy. As the most important factors driving the growth of these platforms can be considered technological advancements, foreign investments, ownership structure, customer demand, and government policies. The rise of digital platforms is also related with its challenges such as market monopolization, data privacy, consumer protection concerns, and labor market disruptions which will be analyzed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the implications for Indonesia's economy. The findings are based on a literature review, interviews and own observations conducted during the preliminary research in Indonesia.

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## Doing business in ASEAN countries - threats and opportunities

ASEAN, on the one hand, is a group of countries that are very diverse economically, politically and culturally, and on the other hand are attractive export and investment markets. These countries are characterized by high demand dynamics, large income diversification and dynamically developing capital markets. There are a number of arguments such as – the rate of economic growth, the size of the population, the high dynamics of consumer demand and the transformational nature of the economies, which speak for the taking of investment and business activities in this region of the world. The purpose of the publication is to analyze opportunities and risks in business activities in ASEAN markets and to assess the effectiveness of potential business strategies. Practical implications are statistical and business justification for taking such actions and expected benefits and profits. The methodology used in the publication is based on the analysis of literature and statistical sources, the presentation of available international reports on the role and importance of ASEAN countries in the contemporary world. This topic is expanded by statistical analyses and descriptions of presented economic problems. The added value is the analysis of potential risks and limitations in functioning in these markets.



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## Energy transition in the EU and Asia Pacific - comparative analysis based on Energy Transition Index (by WEF)

As climate change advances, more and more countries are committing to become climate-neutral. To achieve the goal, they need to transform their energy systems, among others. The challenge for developed countries (including from the EU and Asia) is to change power generation systems, while for developing countries (including those in Asia-Pacific) - to develop energy infrastructure and increase production of green energy. The Energy Transition Index is a tool prepared by the World Economic Forum to track countries' progress and level of preparedness for transition to equitable, secure and sustainable energy. Assessment of energy system performance is based on three dimensions: equity, sustainability and security, whereas its transition readiness – on 5 dimensions: regulations and political commitment, finance and investment, education and human capital, infrastructure and innovation. The aim of the paper is to compare changes in the energy systems of the EU and Asia-Pacific countries. In both groups of countries leaders of change are identified, as well as countries lagging behind (countries whose results have deteriorated over the past decade). It may be noted that over the last 10 years, results of the EU countries were, on general, better than that of Asia-Pacific countries, but progress of the remaining was visibly faster (on average). Favorable conditions for solar and wind power generation provide an opportunity to accelerate the energy transition in Pacific Asia, provided that significant investments are made. As a result, they can achieve climate neutrality earlier than they had planned. Unlike many EU countries, whose progress is

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## EU-Asia trade in 'green goods'

The general aim of the presentation/paper is to identify the main trends in the EU-Asian trade-in 'green goods' goods defined as products supporting environmental protection, climate action, green transformation, and sustainable development). The analysis will be based on trade statistics (2010-2023) of EU-27 trade flows (exports + imports) of selected environmental product groups (defined on APEC list + Friends list) with East and South East Asian partners. The conclusions will present the main trends/tendencies in 'green trade' between the Parties and the importance of 'green trade' in bilateral relations.

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## **Faltering One China Policy? Taiwan's Mainland Policy Under Tsai Ing-wen and Lai Ching-te**

This paper critically examines Taiwan's mainland strategy, specifically how the policy has evolved over Tsai's two leadership terms, and thereafter the prospects of peaceful reunification of mainland China and Taiwan under her successor, Lai Ching-te. Relations between the United States and Taiwan, albeit to a lesser extent, is also studied as American policy provides a powerful lever in the formulation of Tsai's Mainland strategy. By applying the audience cost theory and reviewing the key policies and actions undertaken by both Taiwan and the US, as well as Lai's inauguration speech, this paper establishes that Taiwan has moved from a superficial 'pro-status quo' policy to one of 'proactive pro-status quo'. Alarming, short of declaring formal independence, empirical data indicates that both Tsai and Lai have brought Taiwan towards independence in various functional domains, both internally and externally. These further test the mainland's 'red lines' toward the irredentist territory and reduces the strategic space for peaceful means of reunification, although audience costs have restrained Taiwan from adopting further bolder policies. This paper concludes that the risks that embodies a 'proactive pro-status quo' policy are higher due to increasing likelihood of miscalculations and misperceptions.

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## **Foreign Direct Investment from Asia-Pacific countries in Poland**

The process of internationalization in the world economy has been progressing for several decades. One of its elements is the flow of foreign direct investment (FDI). Investments of this type can accelerate economic growth, being additionally a channel for technology transfer. According to the UNCTAD report World Investment Report 2024, among top twenty countries of the largest outflow of FDI in 2023, there are 6 countries from the Asia Pacific region (Japan, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Taiwan (Province of China)) and India. A total of USD 572 billion flowed out from these countries in 2023, which constituted 36% of the value of all global FDI. In light of the above data, the questions arise: whether FDI from the Asia-Pacific region flow to Poland on an equally intensive scale and what is the importance of these investments. The study contains an analysis of the directions of foreign investment inflow to Poland from Asia-Pacific countries, the ownership structure of assets, the industry structure and the regional distribution of these investments in Poland.

The study uses an analytical-descriptive method to analyze the investment processes and a comparative method to compare the value, industry structure and regional location of foreign direct investments flowing to Poland from Asia Pacific countries. The data used were collected by UNCTAD, OECD and the Amadeus (Moody's) database, previously known as Orbis (Bureau van Dijk), which collects the financial statements of enterprises registered in Poland.

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## France's policy towards Asia-Pacific: a Japanese perspective

These days, "Indo-Pacific" is a buzzword among media, diplomatic circles and economists as a recent strategic concept, based on the regional concept "Asia-Pacific". The EU is one of key players in this newly dramatized area, by having published a strategic paper on Indo-Pacific. In fact, France was one of the leading countries besides Germany in the EU, especially in the making process of the EU's Indo-Pacific strategy. Focus on France in this recent change would need understanding of the evolution of French diplomacy since the end of the Cold War, especially French engagement in Asia from the 1990s (for example, the establishment of the ASEM process). So, this presentation aims to relate France's policy towards Asia-Pacific to French diplomacy in the post-Cold War and to the recent evolution of international order, drawing on several interviews. As Japanese literature on this issue has been accumulated and Japan has long engaged in Asia-Pacific, I will make use of this knowledge as well as European sources.

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## Geopolitics in Transition: The Role of BRICS and its New Members

The expansion of BRICS represents a significant shift in global geopolitics and economics. With the inclusion of six new members as of January 1, 2024, it has become essential to analyse the resulting impacts. This study addresses an important research gap by examining the criteria for BRICS membership and

the implications of its expansion on global geopolitics and economics. The research uses critical analysis and desk-based methodologies to assess the structural and strategic transformations within BRICS using frameworks of economic integration, South-South cooperation, and global governance fragmentation. Preliminary findings suggest that adding Middle Eastern and African members strengthens BRICS' ability to counterbalance Western-dominated institutions, such as the G7 and the European Union. However, this growth introduces challenges in aligning diverse economic and political agendas. Additionally, the expansion has a significant impact on the global oil market by increasing the power of major oil producers. Despite these challenges, the growth of BRICS offers chances to support a multipolar world order and create fairer global institutions that better represent developing countries. This research provides insights into the effects of BRICS' growing membership and its role in changing global politics and the economy.

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## **IIT of the selected Asia Pacific countries with near and distant partners**

In the paper we examine intra-industry trade (IIT) of selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region in the years 2000-2022. We treat the high and increasing shares of IIT in the total trade of individual countries and the ASEAN grouping, firstly, as a testimony to the trade integration of countries whose bilateral trade is affected by such values. This is so because IIT represents trade in substitutes, which is particularly sensitive to the presence of trade barriers. Secondly, high and increasing shares of IIT are indicative of the relatively high level of development of the countries conducting it and are mainly characterised by highly developed countries. This is so because the simultaneous export and import of products from the same industries requires the development in both partners of industries producing goods considered by buyers as substitutes - these are usually processing industries, often capital- or technology-intensive. The conduct of IIT can be seen as evidence of the relatively high level of development of the trading partners. We analyse the mutual intra-industry trade of South Korea, China, Hong Kong, India, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Then we look at the shares of their IITs in trade with the EU, the economically strongest EU country, Germany, and also with the US. We conclude the presentation with an analysis of two case studies of economic integration. The first concerns the IIT of Vietnam and Singapore within ASEAN, while the second – the IIT of Poland and Germany within the EU.



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## India's Foreign Policy towards China's Global Development Initiative (GDI)

The paper concentrated on (1) identifying the nature and channels of influence of China's economic statecraft in South Asia and (2) India's strategic competition both in terms of policies of competition with China in the Indo-Pacific Region but also policies towards smaller neighbours who might be considering deeper economic ties and strategic concessions to China. India and China have their economic and political goals regarding the Indo-Pacific Region. Due to the implementation of the RCEP agreement and BRI China as of now has a leading economic power in this region being the same time the economic security threat not only to India but to the global economy. The article also discussed how successful have India's efforts been and the trajectory for the future of Sino-Indian geoeconomics competition in South Asia. To become a leading power in the Indo-Pacific Region India will need to establish multilateral affiliations, especially with Australia and New Zealand, the Quadrilateral Framework (QAUD), BRICS, the G20 and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to face China's power

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## Indo-Pacific Futures: Global Risk and the Role of Cooperation

The main objective of this study is to assess future risks in the Indo-Pacific region and to understand the importance of international cooperation in addressing those risks. The Indo-Pacific region is gaining increasing importance in contemporary world politics and economics. Global risks include conflict between countries in the region, geopolitical tensions, natural disasters, and economic instability. The research will examine how these risks can be mitigated through international cooperation and strategic steps that can be taken to achieve a sustainable future. The research argues that it is difficult for individual countries to manage global risks in the current global environment. International cooperation plays a vital role in political and military fields as well as economic, environmental, and social fields. Cooperation between countries and organizations can establish a balanced relationship between developing and developed countries, which will help reduce global risks. Government documents from various countries in the Indo-Pacific region, reports from international organizations, and

research articles will be used as primary sources. Data from various academic journals, books, and online databases will be analyzed as secondary sources. After data collection, these data will be analyzed to present an overall picture where the role of global risk and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region will be clear. This study hopes that increased cooperation among countries in the Indo-Pacific region will lead to a positive change in global risk management, which will benefit the entire world.

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## Internationalization through interconnected digital platforms

Digitalization and e-commerce have made the business world smaller. Foreign markets are much easier to access than they used to be. The elimination of intermediaries through e-commerce and the ease (low cost) of an online presence in foreign markets creates the illusion of easy global trade. But the reality is different. There are still national borders between the seller and the foreign market (with taxes, documentation problems, costly logistics). The target markets are different from the seller's local market (cultural differences, language differences, different expectations, consumer preferences, different regulations). Digitalization does not change any of this. Even more so when the distance is as great as between the US, EU and Asia-Pacific markets. International e-commerce faces four main challenges: localization, compliance, payments and logistics. In this situation, international marketplace platforms (such as Amazon, eBay, AliExpress, Temu, Allegro), which provide services in these areas in addition to displaying and offering goods, are becoming increasingly important. But it is wrong to think that these platforms alone will take on the role of modern middlemen in international trade. In many cases, the adaptation to local markets is the result of the use of other digital platforms in the marketplace. The end result is a complex multi-level structure of interconnected digital platforms between the seller (e.g. in China) and the buyer (e.g. in Europe). In addition to trading (or service) platforms, this will include payment and delivery platforms. Building interconnections between platforms thus becomes a key mechanism for the internationalization of companies selling through

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## Land use regulation, land reclamation, and industrial productivity: Evidence from China

We study the impact of China's land use regulation on firm productivity. Our theoretical analysis shows that other things being equal, a restriction on the supply of industrial land will reduce the number of operating firms and harm their average productivity. We test the theoretical predictions using Chinese micro data. Our main identification strategy employs a natural experiment based on geography, i.e., counties along China's East Coast were able to circumvent land use regulations by land reclamation. We find that after the central government tightened non-agricultural land use in 2004, a significant productivity gap emerged between coastal and neighboring inland counties. The productivity loss amounts to 25-27% of China's overall productivity growth during the same period of time. Further investigation shows that up to 40% of the productivity loss was due to lower level of industrial agglomeration. We also find that the policy effect was immediately felt by land-intensive firms, but it took time to develop among firms of low land intensity.

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## Navigating Infrastructure Cooperation: Case of Thailand-Japan HSR Project

This paper investigates the Thailand-Japan HSR project between Bangkok and Chiang Mai, analysing the complexities of economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific between two longstanding economic partners. Using a qualitative approach involving process tracing and interviews with key stakeholders, the study explores the interplay between domestic actors in Thailand and Japan's infrastructure diplomacy. While Japan's proposal conformed to Thailand's procurement rules, the project's fiscal fea-

sibility became a critical obstacle. Japan's insistence on maintaining its project specifications, coupled with its reluctance to co-invest or adapt its financial model, revealed discrepancies between international infrastructure initiatives and local economic realities. The case illustrates the broader challenges of balancing financial stability and long-term infrastructure development in cross-border projects, especially within developing economies in the Indo-Pacific like Thailand. It also underscores the critical role of domestic bureaucratic actors in shaping international economic cooperation and highlights the implications for infrastructure diplomacy. This study contributes to the discourse on navigating global risks in the Indo-Pacific by shedding light on how financial constraints and priorities of primary domestic actor(s) can shape large-scale infrastructure cooperation in the region.

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## **Organising International Infrastructure Logistics Projects in China. Selected Aspects**

International investment processes involving the financing or construction of logistics infrastructure on the territory of another country are associated with increased risk and the need to reach a common understanding. Not every country undertakes the necessary infrastructure investment internally due to the long payback period, high time and capital intensity. In contrast, Chinese companies with majority state ownership are gradually implementing individual infrastructure projects in different parts of the world. Their methods of managing and organising the investment process have enabled them to successfully conclude agreements with foreign parties and to build and upgrade linear and point infrastructure in Africa, Asia and Europe. The presentation will outline the financial and management aspects that enable Chinese companies such as COSCO and CRRC to successfully implement international investment projects.



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## Positioning of smart specialisations in global value chains - concept and evaluation

In recent years, the understanding of how enterprises (national economies) engage in international trade has transformed, coinciding with the emergence of concepts like value chains, global supply chains, and the proliferation of transnational corporations. Direct scrutiny of foreign trade metrics (imports, exports) no longer offers a comprehensive depiction of an economy's or its sectors' actual standing within international dynamics. The focal point has shifted from simply what and how much is exported, to the consideration of the value added through the objects of international exchange. Consequently, ascertaining the genuine participation of innovative enterprises (representing smart specializations) in internationalization and evaluating their position concerning value addition has become notably intricate. As a result, the central focus of this study pertains to issues associated with investigating the endeavors of enterprises operating within domains encapsulated by smart specializations, particularly their roles within global value chains. The main purpose of this study is to formulate a model framework for defining and quantifying the endeavors of enterprises engaged in domains encompassing smart specializations within the context of global value chains (SS in GVC). The immediate outcome of the deliberations expounded in this presentation will result in formulating a benchmark model for evaluating the status of smart specializations within global value chains.

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## Reliance on global supply chains

Formation of global supply chains (GSC) changed both international trade and international dependencies. My goal is to measure the level of dependency of sectors and economies on GSC. First of all, I measure the reliance of particular sectors on purchased intermediate goods. Then I measure the percentage of intermediates purchased by a particular sector in a particular country from foreign sources of supply. I

consider here large European Union economies, such as Germany, France or Italy, but also smaller Central and Eastern European (CEE) economies, which joined EU in year 2004. I apply the recent version of OECD Inter-Country Input-Output tables providing data up to year 2020. The analysis confirms that all analysed economies are chiefly dependent on domestic sources of supply, while the dependence on foreign sources is still considerably diversified. Anyway the dependence on Chinese inputs has achieved significant levels.

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## Shifting Trade Landscapes: Asian Hubs and Authorities in a Globalized World

Since the 1990s, globalization has accelerated, deepening trade connections and fostering the integration of Asian economies into global value chains through the division of production processes. This paper seeks to explore the changing roles of Asian nations within the global trade network from the mid-1990s to the early 21st century. By applying social network analysis (SNA) metrics, the research identifies key primary and secondary trade hubs and authorities in Asia. Kleinberg's HITS algorithm was used to conduct the analysis. The network visualizations were created based on the ForceAtlas2 layout algorithm. The study is based on gross export data and domestic value-added exports in foreign final demand spanning the period from 1995 to 2020. The results demonstrate considerable shifts in the global trade structure over 26 years, largely driven by the forces of globalization. China has risen to become a dominant global hub and a key authority, emphasizing its vital position in international trade. While traditional powerhouses like the United States and Germany remain influential, the regional landscape has shifted, with Asia emerging as a major centre of global trade. Beyond China, nations such as India and Vietnam have also shown remarkable growth, indicating their increasing participation in global value chains.

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## State responses to green transformation in traditional industries of advanced economies: a comparative study of Japan's and Germany's automotive sectors

The green transformation is reshaping industries globally, challenging existing norms in economic, technological, social, and institutional dimensions. It also provides a new avenue for verifying prevailing economic theories and developing new theoretical and conceptual frameworks. This study applies the 'variegated capitalism approach', combined with insights from theories on public policies and the relational global production networks, to identify and analyse the diverse state responses to green transformation and their socio-economic implications. Specifically, it examines the evolving traditional automotive sector in Japan and Germany, which are pivotal due to their export and outward investment dependency and influence on social and national security. The study employs a comparative case study methodology to reveal how the strategic significance of the automotive sector in both countries has strengthened the state's role in driving green transformation. This analysis contributes to the literature on political economy by offering new insights into the interplay between state policies and industrial transformation in the context of global environmental change and invites further discussion on the socio-economic challenges arising from green transformation.

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## Still Global Britain?: The Future of British Strategy towards Indo-Pacific in the Light of the 2024 Strategic Defence Review

Since 2016, the UK has steadily been developing its engagement outside Europe, particularly in the Indo-Pacific - seen by the Conservative governments as the most economically dynamic region in the world. These efforts led to, among others, the accession to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and creating the AUKUS defence agreement with the US and Australia. Shift of British interest away from Europe towards the Indo-Pacific was also supported by the strategic vision expressed in 2021-2023 Integrated Review. However, the Labour Party government created in July 2024 undertakes to formulate its own vision of Britain's post-Brexit strategy. Importantly, despite Britain's formal withdrawal from the EU in 2020, its post-Brexit relationship with Europe remained dynamic (e.g., the 2023 Windsor Framework). The new Labour government announced its willingness to conclude further agreements with the EU covering security and defence cooperation and selected aspects of the trade relationship. 2026 will also mark the first review of the existing EU-UK relationship. Consequently, the UK's relationship with the EU appears to be growing closer. The aim of this paper will be to analyse the evolution of the UK's post-Brexit Indo-Pacific strategy by assessing its specific aims and devoted resources, and comparing them to the ones to be engaged in Europe. The starting point for this analysis will be the Labour government's Strategic Defence Review (SDR), launched in July 2024 and its relationship with the 2021 Integrated Review. The principal research methods used will be systemic, legal and economic analyses.

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## Sustainable trade in East Asia

The paper aims to characterize the challenges related to sustainable trade in East Asia, illustrate how the region's countries rank in the Sustainable Trade Index (STI) and indicate the necessary actions to promote and implement sustainable development goals in the field of trade. The authors consider sustainable trade as participation in international trade, ensuring long-term benefits from economic growth, social well-being, and environmental protection.



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## The Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and its impact on Asian enterprises exporting to Europe

The European Union's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) imposes stringent sustainability reporting requirements on companies operating within or engaging with the European market. This directive extends beyond EU-based firms, significantly affecting Asian enterprises that export to Europe, requiring them to disclose comprehensive Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) data. This article examines the impact of the CSRD on Asiatic businesses, identifying critical gaps between the directive's requirements and current practices in these companies. The analysis is based on secondary data gathered from industry reports, corporate sustainability disclosures, and case studies from major consultancy firms. Key gaps identified include the lack of standardized ESG frameworks, supply chain transparency issues, and insufficient technological and human resources to meet the directive's demands. The article also provides policy recommendations for businesses, governments, and industry groups to support Asian exporters in achieving compliance with the CSRD. These recommendations include developing localized ESG reporting standards, strengthening supply chain accountability, investing in sustainability training programs, and providing financial assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to upgrade their sustainability infrastructures. Furthermore, regional cooperation on ESG initiatives is encouraged to streamline reporting practices across Asia. By addressing these gaps and implementing the proposed strategies, Asian enterprises will be better equipped to meet CSRD requirements, maintain European market access, and enhance global competitiveness in an increasingly sustainability-driven business landscape. Europe

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## The Dragon's Reach: China's Strategic Ascent in Space

This study explores China's ambitious pursuit of space dominance, emphasizing its strategic capabilities, technological advancements, and policy intentions. The findings reveal that China's spacepower is a formidable force, challenging U.S. supremacy in space. China's extensive use of space assets for communication, navigation, surveillance, and military operations highlights its growing significance as a regional and global player. Additionally, China's development of asymmetric strategies, such as anti-satellite capabilities, underscores its resolve to compete with the United States in space. Understanding China's spacepower is crucial for assessing its future role in international relations and the global governance of outer space. As China continues to invest in its space program, monitoring its progress and implications for global security and cooperation remains essential.

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## The Evolution of Japan's Semiconductor Industry: Redefining Japan's Role

Japan's semiconductor industry has undergone significant changes since its peak in the 1980s. Nowadays, it is facing intense competition and a more challenging market. Despite years of government-led investment, Japan's semiconductor sector has lost ground to Taiwan, South Korea, the United States, and recently to China, whose rapid growth in this field is fueled by strong government support and domestic demand. This study explores the historical factors behind Japan's market share and competitiveness evolution, focusing on the interplay of technological innovation, economic policy, and governance. It also examines recent efforts to revitalize the industry, including public-private partnerships and private investment strategies to rebuild competitiveness. The findings reveal the broader trends shaping Japan's semiconductor landscape and suggest ways for Japan to strengthen its position in the global market.

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## **The normative-institutional dimension of cooperation of East Asian countries in the implementation of sustainable development**

The purpose of the study is to analyze the interdependent processes: forming the normative content and giving binding force to the “principle of sustainable development” and its inclusion in the catalog of shared values of the “Western security community.” “The principle of sustainable development” has gone a long way from a postulate of law (in the Brundtland Report) to its status as a universal norm of international law. An important step on this path was to give it the status of a constitutional norm in the constitutions of many countries. An equally long and difficult process was the convergence of the place and role of the “principle of sustainable development” in the catalog of principles of the common value system shared by East Asian, European, and North American countries. Analyzing these processes is the starting point for studying the implementation of the “principle of sustainable development” in the regimes of regional, supra-regional, and universal cooperation of East Asian countries. The author presents the formation of the normative content and binding force of the “principle of sustainable development” by international actors focusing on the participation of East Asian countries in this process. The results of the study are considered through the prism of the place of the “principle of sustainable development” in the trans-regional cooperation of the “West”.

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## **The Role of Sustainable Gastronomy to minimise risks in the Indo Pacific: a preliminary study**

Sustainable gastronomy is considered a new concept, although it has been launching since 2018. Sustainable gastronomy covers multidiscipline subjects, which creates lots of opportunities to explore. However, the literature on sustainable gastronomy remains limited, with most of it pertaining to other subjects like tourism, food, agriculture, and engineering. However, it also refers to the richness of potential future discussions. In the Indo-Pacific region, including Indonesia, sustainable gastronomy can play a pivotal role in minimising risks related to several key issues such as environmental degradation, food security, and cultural pres-

ervation. Furthermore, the involvement of multiple stakeholders holds significant importance. Therefore, implementing sustainable gastronomy in Indonesia must involve (1) policy development; (2) international collaboration; (3) cultural and economic initiatives; and (4) education and awareness. By integrating these strategies, sustainable gastronomy can significantly contribute to minimising risks and building resilience in the Indo-Pacific region, promoting a healthier, more equitable, and environmentally secure in the future.

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## The Role of the Asian Tigers in Trade and Investment in Poland

The Asian Tigers, which include Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan, have had a significant impact on trade and investment in Poland. These economies are known for their high growth rates and advanced technological capabilities, which have led to strong economic partnerships with Poland. They have made FDI, especially in the technology and manufacturing sectors, bringing advanced practices and innovations. In return, Poland offers a strategic entry point for these Asian economies into the European market. This mutually beneficial relationship improves Poland's economic landscape and integrates it more deeply into the global economy.

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## The role of the services sector in ASEAN in creating conditions conducive to decent work

This paper analyzes the role of services development and trade in promoting decent work in ASEAN countries, which is a focus on Sustainable Development Goal 8. While the manufacturing sector has traditionally driven growth, its capacity for job creation has diminished. In contrast, the services sector, which is labor-intensive and offers inclusive growth opportunities, has become increasingly important. In many ASEAN countries, particularly for women and disadvantaged groups, services now account for a substantial share of employment. New work forms like telecommuting and the gig economy provide global opportunities but also pose challenges, especially for informal workers facing precarious conditions.



Despite its potential, the services sector's contribution to trade remains modest, though some countries like the Philippines and Thailand have seen growth in service exports. The paper explores the factors behind this trend, including the impact of technological advancements such as ICT, which enhances the tradability of services. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade patterns and the growing role of digitally delivered services are also discussed, highlighting their potential to boost inclusive and sustainable development.

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## Trade Facilitation Initiatives in Asia Pacific

According to the WTO estimates, almost 90% of world trade relies on various trade facilitation mechanisms, trade finance in particular. The sharp decline in the availability of these services after the global financial crisis and during the COVID-19 pandemic has raised awareness of the importance of trade facilitation in the global economic system, especially for the developing countries. Among institutions taking active steps to increase the availability of such services in developing countries are regional development banks. The Asian Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank programs constitute good examples of such efforts. Both institutions strive to increase access to trade finance for small businesses, including women-led businesses, to help them integrate into global supply chains. Hence, the paper aims to analyze the trade facilitation policies of the ADB and the AIIB, as well as their efforts to bridge the gap between demand and supply for trade finance products.



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## US-China rivalry in the Indo-Pacific region

The aim of the presentation is to examine the form of rivalry both superpowers in the Indo-Pacific region. The most important form of rivalry is taking place in the economy, which comprises trade and technology war with the use of many restrictions in the form of retaliatory tariffs and restrictions on technology transfer. Another form of rivalry refers to the competition in a shape of regional order. The question is to what extent China is contesting the US led liberal order.

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