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KANYA PRAVITHANA : THE ANALYSIS OF TRADE GROWTH IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

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The purpose of the study is to analyze intra-APEC trade pattern, as well as to consider the contribution of intra-industry trade and inter-industry trade to intra-APEC trade growth. Two periods, 1985-1989 and 1989-1993 are compared. The analysis of the determinants of intra-industry trade between Thailand and ASEAN members has also been given attention in this study. All computations of data used are classified according to the United Nations' Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) at the 2 digit level for manufactured products.

It was found that each group of countries defined in the Asia-Pacific region had relatively high share of Intra-APEC trade in total multilateral trade. The contribution of this share rose continuously during 1985-1993, most of which was composed of manufactures. In fact, intra-industry trade mainly accounts for the growth in all groups in APEC members. Especially during 1989-1993, intra-industry trade increased the importance from 1985-1989. The contribution of intra-industry trade to total trade growth is greater than that of inter-industry trade in all groups. It is evident that in the case of East Asia and ANZCERTA, total growth in intra-APEC trade of those groups was caused by the expansion of intra-industry trade.

As for the regression analysis on the determinants of intra-industry trade between Thailand and ASEAN countries in 1991, the results seem to support the general hypotheses that the degree of Intra-Industry trade was raised by similarities in factors of productions, complexities and techniques for product differentiation, high level of Japan multinational activities and low geographical distance, however, the coefficients of the proxy variables for tariff barriers and similarities in per capita income are not statistically significant to explain the intra-industry trade between Thailand and ASEAN countries .

As intra-industry trade plays an important role for intra-APEC trade growth, elimination of trade barriers for those industries involves in intra-industry trade may cause less adjustment cost than those of inter-industry trade. Therefore, APEC members should co-operate reduce their protection for enhance overall APEC trade volume in the long run.

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