

KEY WORD : ASEAN PTA / THAILAND-ASEAN TRADE RELATIONS / MARGIN OF PREFERENCE

RATTANA SILPSOPHONKUL : THAILAND-ASEAN TRADE RELATIONS UNDER THE AGREEMENT ON ASEAN PREFERENTIAL TRADING ARRANGEMENT. THESIS ADVISOR ASSO. PROF. VINITA SUKRASEP, Ph. D. 115 pp. ISBN 974-579-889-4

Since ASEAN PTA inception, the arrangement has fallen behind its stated economic goals that could stimulate trade within the region. This paper seeks to evaluate the effects of the exchange of tariff preference in term of increasing Thailand-ASEAN trade and analyze the obstructions that constrain the growth of Thailand-ASEAN trade.

In discussing Thailand-ASEAN trade cooperation, a conceptual framework based on the regional cooperation is used in this study. The concept of regional cooperation is applied to Thailand-ASEAN trade relations and to predict in depth the future trend of greater Thailand-ASEAN trade.

At the end, this research has made clear the following points. At the present time, the ASEAN PTA is not being used as effectively as it should to stimulate greater Thailand-ASEAN trade. The reasons for this disappointing level of achievement are as follows; the Product-by-Product approach has been found to be inefficient and time-consuming, the Across-the-Board approach has also met with main problems -the provisions for an exclusion list of sensitive items, the ineffectiveness of the tariff cuts in actually promoting Thailand-ASEAN trade, the interpretation of the rule of the origin and the determinaton of domestic content requirement- and the existence of non-tariff barriers.

For the ASEAN PTA to be an effective instrument of Thailand-ASEAN trade expansion, not only the magnitude of the tariff cut must be enlarged but also the coverage of the type of products has to include more substantive items. The first step towards this process should be another summit of heads of state as soon as possible to decide on a new programme of ASEAN trade cooperation.