

ABSTRACT

This research studies Thai – Japanese Economic Relations after the Economic Crisis 1997 by analyzing JTEPA as a case study. The researcher focuses on how JTEPA contributes to the change between Thailand and Japan economic relations. This paper has identified the economic relations between Thailand and Japan on trade, investment and ODA since the post-war period and also analyzes the causes of the economic problems such as trade deficit, technology transfer, dependency etc. This research shows the internal and external factors that stimulate Thailand to negotiate EPA with Japan. This paper also identifies the opportunity and threat that challenges Thailand to pursue its national interest from this pact. Moreover, this paper shows that JTEPA encourages the interdependence on economic relations between Thailand and Japan. Although JTEPA cannot develop Thailand and Japan to be equal partners, it is an instrument to encourage the partnership with more consideration of each partner's desire in the next step of the economic relations.