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Coverage of Trade in Services under ASEAN+1 FTAs †

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Abstract: This paper examines how ASEAN-centered free trade agreements (FTAs) or so-called ASEAN+1 FTAs are correlated among themselves and thus have the potential to be merged into one single commitment toward the establishment of a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). The "Coverage Index" defined in this paper highlights similarities and differences among the ASEAN+1 FTAs (i.e., ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services 8th package [AFAS-8], ASEAN-China Free Trade Area 2nd package [ACFTA-2], ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement [AANZFTA], and ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement [AKFTA]). It has been found that the degree of liberalization in terms of the Coverage Index is highest under AFAS-8, which could serve as the focal point for the convergence of the ASEAN+1 FTAs which are positively correlated with AFAS-8. Also, the ASEAN priority integration sectors are making progress (with the exception of transport-related sectors). While the Coverage Index shows rather low levels of commitment by the member countries, a feasible policy suggestion is to further prioritize the priority integration sectors, including transport-related sectors, for a seamless ASEAN Economic Community as well as for a well-connected RCEP.

Keywords: Trade in services, RCEP, liberalization

JEL Classification: F13, F15

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1. Introduction

This paper deals with how ASEAN-centered FTAs (the so-called "ASEAN+1 FTAs¹) are correlated among themselves and thus have the potential to be merged into one single commitment in terms of how many of the member countries cover each of the service subsectors in their commitments. This attempt is expected to clarify what more could be done in the actual policy arena toward the establishment of a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The structure of this paper is as follows. The next section defines "Coverage Index" and makes some discussions on the similarities and differences among the four ASEAN+1 FTAs (i.e., the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services [AFAS], ASEAN-China Free Trade Area [ACFTA], ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement [AANZFTA], and ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement [AKFTA]).² Section 3 makes an extension analysis with an exclusive focus on the ASEAN countries. A comparison with GATS commitment is also made. Section 4 makes some policy suggestions and concludes this paper.

2. Overall comparison of the ASEAN+1 FTAs using the "Coverage Index" Convergence of the ASEAN+1 FTAs

For the convergence of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS), ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA), ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA), and ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA), an overall comparison of service trade commitments would be needed. In this section, one such comparison is made through the introduction of the "Coverage Index." It is expected that this sort of analysis will shed some new light on the realization of the

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¹ In this paper, the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) and the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTAs are included as part of the ASEAN+1 FTAs.

² Under the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (AJCEP), negotiations on market access are ongoing as of this writing; as for the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (AIFTA), negotiations on trade in services are reportedly progressing, but relevant information is not yet publicly available.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) among the ASEAN members and their dialogue partners in the near future.

Definition of the "Coverage Index"

The "Coverage Index" (introduced and discussed in, for example, Adlung and Roy, 2005) attempts to capture the extent to which the sectors are covered by the participating countries. It is defined as "the share of commitments by FTA members in a certain sector." When all the participating countries are committed to the service sector at issue, the value of the Coverage Index takes a maximum value of 1.0. When no participating countries are committed, the value is 0.0. When the commitment is made by some (not all) the countries, the Coverage Index takes a value between 0.0 and 1.0, depending on the number of countries with commitments. For instance, when half of the FTA member countries are committed to a service sector, the sector's Coverage Index takes a value of 0.5. Since there are three broad types of commitments (i.e., "No limitation" [symbolized as "N"], "Limited commitment" [symbolized as "L"], and "Unbound" [symbolized as "U"]), the Coverage Index can be calculated for each of these three commitments (or noncommitment in the case of "U").

The Coverage Index and the Hoekman Index ⁴ (Hoekman, 1995) are complementary in the sense that the former index measures the "horizontal" coverage of FTA member countries' commitments in a particular service sector while the latter index measures the "vertical" depth of each member country's commitment in a particular service sector. It is expected that with the calculation of this Coverage Index, some convergence scenarios for the four existing ASEAN+1 FTAs--AFAS (package 8, abbreviated in this paper as AFAS-8), ACFTA (package 2, abbreviated as ACFTA-2), AANZFTA, and AKFTA--are facilitated.

Results of the Coverage Index calculations

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³ Under this commitment pattern, there are some legal descriptions stipulating the restrictions in terms of market access or national treatment.

⁴ The Hoekman Index method of calculation assigns the value of 1.0 for the sectors with "None" or no limitation, the value of 0.5 for those with "Limited" or some legal restriction, and the value of 0 for those sectors with "Unbound" or no promise of market openings. In this sense, the "depth" of limitation in a particular sector is not captured. See Ishido (2011) for an application of the Hoekman Index calculation to the commitment level under ASEAN+1 FTAs.

The results of Coverage Index calculations in terms of the "N-commitment," "L-commitment," and "U-commitment" are listed in the database constructed for this study at the back of this paper (note that these three types of indices add up to 1.0). Since the most disaggregated information seems to be useful for actual negotiations for convergence, the full listing is made. It is, however, rather hard to get an overall sense of similarities among the four ASEAN+1 FTAs.

Table 1 lists the Coverage Index calculation results at the 55-sector level. In the calculation, the simple average of the values for the most detailed 154 subsectors under the same 55-sector classification code is taken. This table reveals the following observations. In the spirit of increasing the number of sectors with "N-commitment" away from "U-commitment" and through "L-commitment," the focus is first placed only on "N-commitment."

AFAS-8 has an average Coverage Index value of 0.38 (the highest among the four ASEAN+1 FTAs), with "01.B Computer and Related Services" taking the highest value of 0.71. ACFTA-2 has an average Coverage Index value of 0.20, with "09.B. Travel Agencies and Tour Operators services" taking the highest value of 0.57. AANZFTA has an average Coverage Index value of 0.25, with the sector "01.B. Computer and Related Services" taking the highest value of 0.58. AKFTA has an average Coverage Index value of 0.19, with the sector "09.B. Travel Agencies and Tour Operators services" taking the highest index value of 0.56.

AFAS-8 has relatively high values of Coverage Index in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) "priority integration sectors" of e-ASEAN, air transport, healthcare, logistics, and tourism. In air transport, the N-commitment value is 0.13 for "11.C. Air Transport Services." In e-ASEAN (01.B. Computer and Related Services), the value is 0.71. In healthcare, "08.A. Hospital Services" has a value of 0.56 while "08.B. Other Human Health Services" has a value 0.41. For tourism, "09.B. Travel Agencies and Tour Operators services" has a value 0.63 while "09.C. Tourist Guides Services" has a value of 0.30. In logistics, "04.B. Wholesale Trade Services" has an N-commitment Coverage Index value of 0.48; "11.B. Internal Waterways Transport," 0.26; "11.E. Rail Transport Services," 0.32; "11.F. Road Transport Services," 0.42; and

"11.H. Services Auxiliary to All Modes of Transport," 0.39.⁵ The ASEAN priority integration sectors are shadowed in the table. It also seems that these priority integration sectors are, relatively speaking, making progress (with the exception of transport-related sectors). That said, since the corresponding values under the other ASEAN+1 FTAs are lower overall, more convergence efforts would be needed toward establishing an RCEP.

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⁵This is due to lack of detailed official definition of the priority integration sectors. Thus, in this paper, we take the following sectors as the priority integration sectors: 01.B. Computer and Related Services, 02.C. Telecommunication Services, 04.B. Wholesale Trade Services, 08.A. Hospital Services, 09.B. Travel Agencies and Tour Operators services, 09.C. Tourist Guides Services, 11.A. Maritime Transport Services, 11.B. Internal Waterways Transport, 11.C. Air Transport Services, 11.E. Rail Transport Services, and 11.F. Road Transport Services.

Table 1. List of the Coverage Index calculations at the 55-sector level

Tuble 1. East of the coverage much		AFAS-8			ACFTA-2	2	A	ANZFT	A		AKFTA	
Sector	N- commit ment	L- commit ment	U- commit ment									
01.A. Professional Services	0.41	0.13	0.45	0.27	0.07	0.66	0.34	0.25	0.41	0.27	0.09	0.64
01.B. Computer and Related Services	0.71	0.15	0.15	0.44	0.07	0.49	0.58	0.28	0.14	0.43	0.04	0.53
01.C. Research and Development Services	0.43	0.07	0.50	0.18	0.03	0.80	0.14	0.26	0.60	0.21	0.02	0.78
01.D. Real Estate Services	0.14	0.00	0.86	0.13	0.01	0.86	0.14	0.27	0.59	0.06	0.00	0.94
01.E. Rental/Leasing Services without Operators	0.34	0.09	0.58	0.16	0.02	0.83	0.23	0.26	0.52	0.18	0.02	0.80
01.F. Other Business Services	0.41	0.06	0.54	0.22	0.03	0.75	0.24	0.26	0.51	0.24	0.02	0.74
02.A. Postal Services	0.11	0.11	0.78	0.03	0.06	0.91	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.03	0.06	0.91
02.B. Courier Services	0.61	0.11	0.28	0.32	0.02	0.66	0.24	0.24	0.52	0.24	0.10	0.66
02.C. Telecommunication Services	0.61	0.20	0.18	0.36	0.17	0.47	0.43	0.32	0.25	0.41	0.12	0.47
02.D. Audiovisual Services	0.28	0.06	0.66	0.13	0.02	0.85	0.11	0.27	0.62	0.13	0.02	0.85
02.E. Other	0.06	0.01	0.93	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.00	0.00	1.00
03.A. General Construction Work for Building	0.48	0.18	0.35	0.31	0.08	0.61	0.48	0.30	0.22	0.36	0.09	0.55
03.B. General Construction work for Civil Engineering	0.48	0.18	0.35	0.36	0.15	0.49	0.44	0.32	0.24	0.45	0.16	0.39
03.C. Installation and Assembly Work	0.48	0.18	0.35	0.34	0.10	0.56	0.42	0.30	0.28	0.38	0.10	0.52
03.D. Building Completion and Finishing Work	0.46	0.18	0.36	0.27	0.02	0.70	0.36	0.31	0.32	0.26	0.08	0.66
03.E. Other	0.46	0.18	0.36	0.26	0.09	0.65	0.40	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.09	0.61
04.A. Commission Agents' Services	0.59	0.08	0.34	0.32	0.05	0.64	0.33	0.25	0.42	0.28	0.00	0.72
04.B. Wholesale Trade Services	0.48	0.06	0.46	0.22	0.01	0.77	0.29	0.25	0.46	0.25	0.01	0.74
04.C. Retailing Services	0.38	0.05	0.58	0.19	0.01	0.80	0.22	0.25	0.53	0.19	0.03	0.77
04.D. Franchising	0.49	0.03	0.49	0.27	0.00	0.73	0.19	0.25	0.56	0.27	0.00	0.73
04.E. Other	0.25	0.00	0.75	0.11	0.02	0.86	0.06	0.25	0.69	0.07	0.00	0.93

05.A. Primary Education Services	0.26	0.10	0.64	0.07	0.03	0.90	0.14	0.26	0.60	0.05	0.00	0.95
05.B. Secondary Education Services	0.34	0.15	0.51	0.09	0.03	0.88	0.35	0.27	0.38	0.16	0.03	0.81
05.C. Higher Education Services	0.36	0.10	0.54	0.20	0.06	0.74	0.34	0.29	0.36	0.20	0.05	0.75
05.D. Adult Education	0.54	0.10	0.36	0.24	0.03	0.73	0.24	0.28	0.48	0.27	0.02	0.70
05.E. Other Education Services	0.44	0.11	0.45	0.23	0.06	0.72	0.36	0.29	0.34	0.14	0.01	0.85
06.A. Sewage Services	0.50	0.14	0.36	0.25	0.03	0.72	0.36	0.25	0.39	0.26	0.03	0.70
06.B. Refuse Disposal Services	0.51	0.11	0.38	0.24	0.02	0.74	0.35	0.24	0.41	0.25	0.02	0.73
06.C. Sanitation and Similar Services	0.44	0.06	0.50	0.22	0.02	0.76	0.33	0.24	0.43	0.17	0.02	0.81
06.D. Other	0.55	0.09	0.36	0.26	0.02	0.72	0.32	0.24	0.44	0.28	0.02	0.69
07.A. All Insurance and Insurance-related Services	0.47	0.12	0.41	0.38	0.15	0.47	0.34	0.37	0.29	0.32	0.15	0.53
07.B. Banking and Other Financial Services	0.38	0.10	0.52	0.32	0.11	0.57	0.34	0.31	0.35	0.24	0.09	0.67
07.C. Other	0.05	0.05	0.90	0.02	0.00	0.98	0.03	0.26	0.71	0.03	0.01	0.95
08.A. Hospital Services	0.56	0.16	0.28	0.17	0.03	0.80	0.20	0.30	0.50	0.33	0.06	0.61
08.B. Other Human Health Services	0.41	0.11	0.48	0.15	0.03	0.82	0.14	0.26	0.60	0.09	0.00	0.91
08.C. Social Services	0.36	0.05	0.59	0.05	0.00	0.95	0.04	0.25	0.71	0.05	0.00	0.95
08.D. Other	0.25	0.04	0.71	0.11	0.00	0.89	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.00	0.00	1.00
09.A. Hotels and Restaurants	0.70	0.10	0.20	0.55	0.09	0.36	0.54	0.27	0.19	0.50	0.10	0.40
09.B. Travel Agencies and Tour Operators Services	0.63	0.09	0.29	0.57	0.07	0.36	0.61	0.28	0.10	0.56	0.06	0.39
09.C. Tourist Guides Services	0.30	0.00	0.70	0.19	0.01	0.80	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.20	0.00	0.80
09.D. Other	0.48	0.09	0.44	0.09	0.02	0.89	0.05	0.24	0.71	0.11	0.02	0.86
10.A. Entertainment Services	0.54	0.05	0.41	0.28	0.02	0.69	0.18	0.26	0.56	0.24	0.01	0.75
10.B. News Agency Services	0.18	0.00	0.83	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.06	0.25	0.69	0.00	0.00	1.00
10.C. Libraries, archives, museums and other cultural services	0.29	0.04	0.68	0.07	0.00	0.93	0.06	0.25	0.69	0.07	0.00	0.93
10.D. Sporting and Other Recreational Services	0.35	0.04	0.61	0.24	0.03	0.73	0.18	0.26	0.56	0.14	0.03	0.83
10.E. Other	0.16	0.08	0.76	0.05	0.00	0.95	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.00	0.00	1.00
11.A. Maritime Transport Services	0.55	0.16	0.29	0.23	0.04	0.73	0.21	0.27	0.51	0.24	0.05	0.71

11.B. Internal Waterways Transport	0.26	0.08	0.66	0.04	0.01	0.95	0.01	0.25	0.74	0.01	0.00	0.99
11.C. Air Transport Services	0.13	0.01	0.87	0.16	0.03	0.82	0.09	0.25	0.66	0.18	0.02	0.80
11.D. Space Transport	0.06	0.01	0.93	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.00	0.00	1.00
11.E. Rail Transport Services	0.32	0.12	0.56	0.07	0.00	0.93	0.13	0.25	0.63	0.07	0.00	0.93
11.F. Road Transport Services	0.42	0.07	0.51	0.31	0.02	0.67	0.21	0.24	0.55	0.16	0.01	0.83
11.G. Pipeline Transport	0.14	0.09	0.78	0.05	0.02	0.93	0.17	0.27	0.56	0.07	0.02	0.91
11.H. Services Auxiliary to All Modes of Transport	0.39	0.09	0.52	0.24	0.05	0.71	0.22	0.25	0.53	0.20	0.04	0.75
11.I. Other Transport Services	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.05	0.00	0.95
Average	0.38	0.09	0.53	0.20	0.04	0.76	0.23	0.27	0.51	0.19	0.04	0.77

Next, what could be the similarity of the overall coverage patterns among the ASEAN+1 FTAs away from U-Commitment? In order to see this point, the combination of "N-Commitment" and "L-Commitment" is made: where the summation of the N-Commitment and L-commitment values takes the value of more than 0.5 (i.e., where the U-commitment value is less than 0.5), the N-Commitment and L-Commitment figures are highlighted in bold. As shown in the table, AFAS-8 is the most highly committed while the commitment of AANZFTA is a bit lower but still similar to AFAS-8. ACFTA-2 and AKFTA are rather similarly committed at a lower level than under AFAS-8 and AANZFTA. Indeed, there is a wedge between the groups of "AFAS-8 and AANZFTA" and "ACFTA-2 and AKFTA," which should be addressed in future policy negotiations for convergence

Table 2 lists the Coverage Index calculations at the most aggregated 11-sector level. Again, this consists of the simple average for the values under the same 11-sector classification. Figures 1 to 3 graphically compare the levels of the Coverage Index by each of the commitment patterns (N, L, or U). This level of aggregation shows the following. In the spirit of increasing the number of sectors with "N-commitment" away from "U-commitment" and through "L-commitment," the focus is placed only on "N-commitment."

AFAS-8 has an average Coverage Index value of 0.39, with "09. Tourism and Travel Related Services" taking the largest Coverage Index value (0.53) for N-commitment while "11. Transport Services" has the smallest Coverage Index value (0.25). ACFTA-2 has an average Coverage Index value of 0.21, with "09. Tourism and Travel Related Services" having the largest Coverage Index value (0.35) and "08. Health Related and Social Services" and "11. Transport Services" having the lowest Coverage Index value of 0.12 for N-commitment.

AANZFTA has an average Coverage Index value of 0.24, with "03. Construction and Related Engineering Services" taking the highest value of 0.42. The sector "08. Health Related and Social Services" has the lowest Coverage Index value of 0.09. AKFTA has an average Coverage Index value of 0.20, with "09. Tourism and Travel Related Services" taking the highest sectoral value of 0.34 while "10. Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Services" has the lowest value of 0.09. It should be noted that since this FTA has a separate chapter on Mode 4, which covers almost all the

subsectors, the index tends to be overvalued.

An interesting observation is that "there are smaller variations in terms of liberalization level across sectors in AFASs." This observation might suggest that AFAS-8 is rather "harmonized," an encouragement for boosting relevant policy coordination toward an RCEP.

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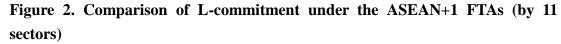
⁸This is a comment from Mr. Yoshifumi Fukunaga (ERIA).

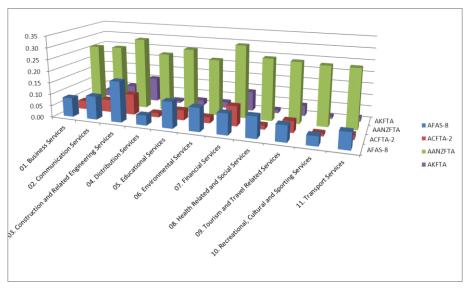
Table 2. List of the Coverage Index calculations at the 11-sector level

		AFAS-8			ACFTA-2	}	A	ANZFT	4		AKFTA	
Sector	N- commit ment	L- commit ment	U- commit ment									
01. Business Services	0.41	0.08	0.51	0.23	0.04	0.73	0.28	0.26	0.46	0.23	0.03	0.74
02. Communication Services	0.34	0.10	0.56	0.17	0.05	0.78	0.16	0.26	0.58	0.16	0.06	0.78
03. Construction and Related Engineering Services	0.47	0.18	0.36	0.31	0.09	0.60	0.42	0.31	0.27	0.35	0.10	0.55
04. Distribution Services	0.44	0.04	0.52	0.22	0.02	0.76	0.22	0.25	0.53	0.21	0.01	0.78
05. Educational Services	0.39	0.11	0.50	0.17	0.04	0.79	0.29	0.28	0.43	0.16	0.02	0.81
06. Environmental Services	0.50	0.10	0.40	0.24	0.03	0.73	0.34	0.24	0.41	0.24	0.03	0.73
07. Financial Services	0.30	0.09	0.61	0.24	0.09	0.67	0.24	0.31	0.45	0.20	0.08	0.72
08. Health Related and Social Services	0.40	0.09	0.51	0.12	0.02	0.86	0.09	0.27	0.64	0.12	0.01	0.87
09. Tourism and Travel Related Services	0.53	0.07	0.41	0.35	0.05	0.60	0.36	0.26	0.38	0.34	0.05	0.61
10. Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Services	0.30	0.04	0.66	0.13	0.01	0.86	0.10	0.25	0.65	0.09	0.01	0.90
11. Transport Services	0.25	0.07	0.68	0.12	0.02	0.86	0.12	0.25	0.63	0.11	0.02	0.87
Average	0.39	0.09	0.52	0.21	0.04	0.75	0.24	0.27	0.49	0.20	0.04	0.76

Figure 1. Comparison of N-commitment under the ASEAN+1 FTAs (by 11 sectors)

Source: Data from table 2.





Source: Data from table 2.

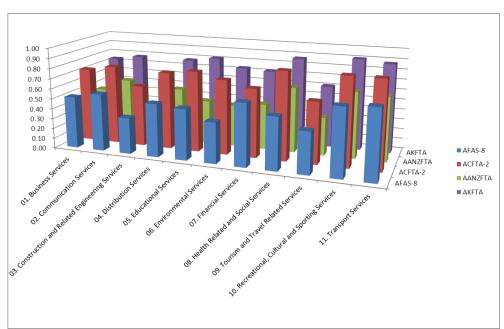


Figure 3. Comparison of U-commitment under the ASEAN+1 FTAs (by 11 sectors)

Source: Data from table 2.

A summary result is shown in table 3. This table calculates correlation coefficient between all the pairs of the ASEAN+1 FTAs based on the database constructed for this study (i.e., calculation is made at the most disaggregated 154-sector level).

As shown in table 3, AFAS-8 has rather high correlations with ACFTA-2 and AKFTA; on the other hand, its correlation with AANZFTA is not so high. The highest level of correlation (0.98) is observed between ACFTA-2 and AKFTA, indicating that both of these FTAs are actually highly converged with each other. AANZFTA is somewhat exceptional in the sense that it has a separate chapter on the movement of people (corresponding to Mode 4 of service supply). When Mode 4 is excluded in the calculation of coefficients involving AANZFTA, the FTA (AANZFTA) is also rather highly correlated with the other three FTAs.

Overall, all the correlation coefficients are positive, indicating that industry-level commitment patterns are more or less shared among all the ASEAN+1 FTAs.

Table 3. Correlation coefficient between all the pairs of the ASEAN+1 FTAs

	AFAS-8	ACFTA-2	AANZFTA(1-4)	AANZFTA(1-3)	AKFTA
AFAS-8	-				
ACFTA-2	0.76	-			
AANZFTA(1-4)	0.32	0.40	-		
AANZFTA(1-3)	0.70	0.95	-	-	
AKFTA	0.76	0.98	0.41	0.96	-

Notes: AANZFTA (1-4) means that all the four modes have been considered in the calculation for this FTA; AANZFTA (1-3) means that only modes 1-3 have been considered; this is because AANZFTA is unique in that it has a separate chapter on mode 4, which might be a source of deflated correlation. The correlation coefficients involving AANZFTA (1-3) use data on modes 1-3 only (excluding data on mode 4).

Source: Calculated from the database constructed for this study (version updated on October 3, 2013).

It would be useful to make a by-mode analysis of the Coverage Index. For ease of viewing, only the 11-sector disaggregation results are shown in tables 4 to 8 for Modes 1 to 4, respectively. In the following, N-commitment is the sole focus. In Mode 1 (table 4), AFAS-8 has an average Coverage Index value of 0.48, while ACFTA-2 has 0.19; AANZFTA, 0.24; and AKFTA, 0.19. Thus, AFAS-8 has the highest average commitment level among the four ASEAN+1 FTAs. In Mode 2 (table 5), AFAS-8 has the highest average index value of 0.66 while ACFTA-2 has 0.36; AANZFTA, 0.40; and AKFTA, 0.36. In Mode 3 (table 6), AFAS-8 has the highest index value of 0.39 while ACFTA-2 has an average value of 0.25; AANZFTA, 0.29; and AKFTA, 0.24. In Mode 4 (table 7), AFAS-8 has the highest (albeit low in absolute terms) average value of 0.04 while ACFTA-2 has 0.03; AANZFTA, 0.02; and AKFTA, 0.02. Also, AANZFTA has the highest L-commitment value (since it has a separate service chapter in which almost all the sectors are committed).

Table 4. Coverage Indices of the ASEAN+1 FTAs in Mode 1

		AFAS-8			ACFTA-2	2	A	ANZFT	4		AKFTA	
Sector	N- commit ment	L- commit ment	U- commit ment									
01. Business Services	0.59	0.01	0.40	0.30	0.01	0.69	0.36	0.01	0.62	0.29	0.01	0.69
02. Communication Services	0.46	0.04	0.50	0.20	0.05	0.75	0.19	0.02	0.79	0.20	0.05	0.75
03. Construction and Related Engineering Services	0.25	0.00	0.75	0.10	0.00	0.90	0.28	0.00	0.72	0.15	0.00	0.85
04. Distribution Services	0.56	0.00	0.44	0.21	0.01	0.78	0.24	0.00	0.76	0.22	0.00	0.78
05. Educational Services	0.54	0.00	0.46	0.11	0.00	0.89	0.32	0.00	0.68	0.17	0.00	0.83
06. Environmental Services	0.63	0.00	0.38	0.16	0.00	0.84	0.33	0.00	0.67	0.16	0.00	0.84
07. Financial Services	0.30	0.05	0.65	0.23	0.05	0.72	0.20	0.06	0.73	0.19	0.05	0.76
08. Health Related and Social Services	0.56	0.00	0.44	0.14	0.00	0.86	0.10	0.00	0.90	0.16	0.00	0.84
09. Tourism and Travel Related Services	0.71	0.00	0.29	0.44	0.00	0.56	0.42	0.01	0.57	0.38	0.00	0.63
10. Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Services	0.36	0.00	0.64	0.09	0.00	0.91	0.08	0.00	0.92	0.06	0.00	0.94
11. Transport Services	0.32	0.01	0.67	0.12	0.01	0.88	0.12	0.01	0.88	0.09	0.01	0.90
Average	0.48	0.01	0.51	0.19	0.01	0.80	0.24	0.01	0.75	0.19	0.01	0.80

Table 5. Coverage Indices of the ASEAN+1 FTAs in Mode 2

		AFAS-8			ACFTA-2	2	A	AANZFT	4		AKFTA	
Sector	N- commit ment	L- commit ment	U- commit ment									
01. Business Services	0.64	0.00	0.36	0.35	0.00	0.65	0.40	0.01	0.59	0.35	0.00	0.65
02. Communication Services	0.54	0.00	0.46	0.28	0.00	0.72	0.24	0.00	0.76	0.28	0.00	0.72
03. Construction and Related Engineering Services	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.67	0.00	0.33	0.83	0.00	0.17	0.80	0.00	0.20
04. Distribution Services	0.70	0.00	0.30	0.36	0.00	0.64	0.32	0.00	0.68	0.33	0.00	0.67
05. Educational Services	0.71	0.00	0.29	0.36	0.00	0.64	0.54	0.00	0.46	0.35	0.00	0.65
06. Environmental Services	0.80	0.00	0.20	0.41	0.00	0.59	0.52	0.00	0.48	0.39	0.00	0.61
07. Financial Services	0.52	0.04	0.44	0.42	0.04	0.54	0.41	0.04	0.55	0.34	0.04	0.62
08. Health Related and Social Services	0.69	0.00	0.31	0.20	0.00	0.80	0.17	0.00	0.83	0.20	0.00	0.80
09. Tourism and Travel Related Services	0.78	0.00	0.23	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.56	0.00	0.44	0.55	0.00	0.45
10. Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Services	0.52	0.00	0.48	0.24	0.00	0.76	0.17	0.00	0.83	0.16	0.00	0.84
11. Transport Services	0.41	0.00	0.59	0.20	0.00	0.80	0.19	0.00	0.81	0.18	0.00	0.81
Average	0.66	0.00	0.33	0.36	0.00	0.63	0.40	0.00	0.60	0.36	0.00	0.64

Table 6. Coverage Indices of the ASEAN+1 FTAs in Mode ${\bf 3}$

	AFAS-8			ACFTA-2			ANZFT	4	AKFTA			
Sector	N- commit ment	L- commit ment	U- commit ment									
01. Business Services	0.38	0.18	0.45	0.26	0.10	0.65	0.32	0.07	0.60	0.27	0.06	0.66
02. Communication Services	0.30	0.19	0.51	0.17	0.10	0.72	0.18	0.06	0.77	0.16	0.11	0.73
03. Construction and Related Engineering Services	0.60	0.30	0.10	0.44	0.24	0.33	0.53	0.26	0.21	0.43	0.28	0.29
04. Distribution Services	0.47	0.14	0.39	0.31	0.05	0.64	0.32	0.00	0.68	0.31	0.03	0.66
05. Educational Services	0.30	0.27	0.43	0.19	0.09	0.72	0.29	0.12	0.59	0.13	0.08	0.79
06. Environmental Services	0.53	0.25	0.23	0.35	0.06	0.59	0.48	0.01	0.51	0.38	0.06	0.57
07. Financial Services	0.33	0.17	0.50	0.28	0.19	0.54	0.29	0.20	0.52	0.25	0.20	0.56
08. Health Related and Social Services	0.34	0.28	0.39	0.14	0.07	0.80	0.10	0.06	0.83	0.10	0.06	0.84
09. Tourism and Travel Related Services	0.49	0.20	0.31	0.36	0.14	0.50	0.42	0.09	0.49	0.36	0.13	0.51
10. Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Services	0.31	0.09	0.60	0.17	0.04	0.79	0.13	0.03	0.85	0.12	0.03	0.85
11. Transport Services	0.23	0.16	0.61	0.13	0.05	0.82	0.14	0.03	0.83	0.12	0.03	0.84
Average	0.39	0.20	0.41	0.25	0.10	0.64	0.29	0.08	0.63	0.24	0.10	0.66

Table 7. Coverage Indices of the ASEAN+1 FTAs in Mode 4 $\,$

	AFAS-8			ACFTA-2			AANZFTA			AKFTA		
Sector	N- commit ment	L- commit ment	U- commit ment									
01. Business Services	0.03	0.14	0.84	0.02	0.04	0.94	0.02	0.95	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.95
02. Communication Services	0.04	0.17	0.79	0.02	0.06	0.92	0.02	0.98	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.92
03. Construction and Related Engineering Services	0.03	0.40	0.57	0.03	0.12	0.85	0.03	0.98	0.00	0.03	0.14	0.84
04. Distribution Services	0.01	0.03	0.96	0.01	0.01	0.98	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.99
05. Educational Services	0.00	0.18	0.82	0.00	0.08	0.92	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.99
06. Environmental Services	0.05	0.15	0.80	0.05	0.05	0.91	0.04	0.96	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.91
07. Financial Services	0.05	0.09	0.86	0.04	0.06	0.90	0.05	0.95	0.00	0.01	0.05	0.94
08. Health Related and Social Services	0.00	0.09	0.91	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
09. Tourism and Travel Related Services	0.13	0.08	0.80	0.09	0.06	0.85	0.06	0.94	0.00	0.09	0.06	0.85
10. Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Services	0.02	0.07	0.91	0.01	0.01	0.98	0.01	0.99	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.98
11. Transport Services	0.05	0.11	0.84	0.03	0.02	0.94	0.02	0.98	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.94
Average	0.04	0.14	0.83	0.03	0.05	0.93	0.02	0.98	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.94

Tables 8 to 11 show the correlation coefficient of the Coverage Index among the ASEAN+1 FTAs under Modes 1 to 4, respectively. Table 8 shows that in Mode 1, ACFTA-2 and AKFTA have the highest correlation value of 0.97 while table 9 shows that ACFTA-2, AANFTA, and AKFTA have a common correlation value of 0.96. Table 10 indicates that ACFTA-2 and AKFTA have a correlation value of 0.96, and table 11 shows that AFAS-8, ACFTA-2, and AKFTA share a common correlation value of 0.96. In Modes 1 to 3, AFAS-8 has positive correlations with all the other ASEAN+1 FTAs, and in Mode 4, AFAS has strong, positive correlations with ACFTA-2 and AKFTA. Since AFAS-8 will be at the center of the RCEP in the near future, the remaining three ASEAN+1 FTAs (ACFTA-2, AANZFTA, and AKFTA) should ensure that each service sector be covered by as many member countries as possible.

Table 8. Correlation Coefficient of the Coverage Indices among the ASEAN+1 FTAs (Mode 1)

ASEAN+1 FTA	AFAS-8	ACFTA-2	AANZFTA	AKFTA
AKFTA	-			
ACFTA-2	0.64	-		
AANZFTA	0.70	0.95	-	
AKFTA	0.65	0.97	0.96	-

Source: Calculated from the database constructed for this study.

Table 9. Correlation Coefficient of the Coverage Indices among the ASEAN+1 FTAs (Mode 2)

(1110000 =)				
ASEAN+1 FTA	AFAS-8	ACFTA-2	AANZFTA	AKFTA
AKFTA	-			
ACFTA-2	0.68	-		
AANZFTA	0.71	0.96	-	
AKFTA	0.66	0.96	0.95	-

Source: Calculated from the database constructed for this study.

Table 10. Correlation Coefficient of the Coverage Indices among the ASEAN+1 FTAs (Mode 3)

ASEAN+1 FTA	AFAS-8	ACFTA-2	AANZFTA	AKFTA
AKFTA	-			
ACFTA-2	0.67	-		
AANZFTA	0.70	0.94	-	
AKFTA	0.66	0.96	0.95	-

Source: Calculated from the database constructed for this study.

Table 11. Correlation Coefficient of the Coverage Indices among the ASEAN+1 FTAs (Mode 4)

ASEAN+1 FTA	AFAS-8	ACFTA-2	AANZFTA	AKFTA
AKFTA	-			
ACFTA-2	0.96	-		
AANZFTA	-0.35	-0.46	-	
AKFTA	0.96	1.00	-0.46	-

Source: Calculated from the database constructed for this study.

3. An extension analysis: Focus on the ASEAN countries only

This section makes the same analysis as the previous section but with an exclusive focus on the ASEAN member countries. Table 12 lists the Coverage Index calculations at the 55-sector level, with an exclusive focus on the ASEAN countries. China under ACFTA, Australia and New Zealand under AANZFTA, and Korea under AKFTA were excluded. Likewise, table 13 lists the Coverage Index calculations at the 11-sector level, again with an exclusive focus only on the ASEAN member countries. As is shown in table 13, AFAS-8 has the highest Coverage Index for N (0.39) followed by AANZFTA (0.23), ACFTA-2 (0.22), and AKFTA (0.20). As for individual sectors, "09. Tourism and Travel Related Services" has the highest N-commitment at 0.53, signifying that more than half of the ASEAN member countries have confirmed full liberalization. On the other hand, both "10. Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Services" and "11. Transport Services" under AANZFTA and AKFTA have the lowest N-commitment value of 0.09. Figures 4, 5, and 6 graphically show the commitments under each of the four FTAs.

The N-Commitment and L-Commitment figures combined are highlighted in bolded red. As discussed in table 1 (which includes non-ASEAN members' commitments), there

is a similarity between AFAS-8 and AANZFTA. The commitment patterns are also similar between ACFTA-2 and AKFTA. As in the case of table 1, the pair of "AFAS-8 and AANZFTA" is more highly committed than the pair of "ACFTA-2 and AKFTA." The average figures imply that, overall, ASEAN member countries are most widely committed under AFAS-8. Also, the ASEAN priority integrated sectors (defined in this paper as the shadowed sectors in the table) are rather well covered by the ASEAN member countries, judging from the overall correspondence of the red-colored figures and the red-colored sectors (with the exception of transport-related sectors toward the bottom of the table).

Table 12. List of the Coverage Index calculations at the 55-sector level (focus on the ASEAN countries only)

Table 12. List of the Coverage much	AFAS-8			ACFTA-2			ANZFT	·	AKFTA			
Sector	N- commit ment	L- commit ment	U- commit ment									
01.A. Professional Services	0.41	0.13	0.45	0.26	0.06	0.68	0.29	0.26	0.45	0.25	0.09	0.66
01.B. Computer and Related Services	0.71	0.15	0.15	0.44	0.07	0.49	0.56	0.29	0.16	0.40	0.05	0.56
01.C. Research and Development Services	0.43	0.07	0.50	0.17	0.03	0.80	0.14	0.26	0.60	0.16	0.02	0.82
01.D. Real Estate Services	0.14	0.00	0.86	0.08	0.00	0.93	0.04	0.25	0.71	0.04	0.00	0.96
01.E. Rental/Leasing Services without Operators	0.34	0.09	0.58	0.17	0.02	0.81	0.15	0.26	0.59	0.14	0.01	0.85
01.F. Other Business Services	0.41	0.06	0.54	0.21	0.02	0.77	0.19	0.26	0.55	0.20	0.02	0.78
02.A. Postal Services	0.11	0.11	0.78	0.04	0.06	0.90	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.04	0.06	0.90
02.B. Courier Services	0.61	0.11	0.28	0.29	0.01	0.70	0.29	0.24	0.48	0.24	0.06	0.70
02.C. Telecommunication Services	0.61	0.20	0.18	0.35	0.16	0.49	0.38	0.32	0.30	0.38	0.13	0.49
02.D. Audiovisual Services	0.28	0.06	0.66	0.13	0.02	0.85	0.10	0.26	0.64	0.11	0.02	0.86
02.E. Other	0.06	0.01	0.93	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.00	0.00	1.00
03.A. General Construction Work for Building	0.48	0.18	0.35	0.30	0.08	0.63	0.45	0.31	0.24	0.35	0.10	0.55
03.B. General Construction work for Civil Engineering	0.48	0.18	0.35	0.36	0.15	0.49	0.40	0.34	0.26	0.46	0.16	0.38
03.C. Installation and Assembly Work	0.48	0.18	0.35	0.34	0.10	0.56	0.38	0.31	0.31	0.38	0.10	0.53
03.D. Building Completion and Finishing Work	0.46	0.18	0.36	0.26	0.01	0.73	0.31	0.33	0.36	0.29	0.09	0.63
03.E. Other	0.46	0.18	0.36	0.25	0.09	0.66	0.35	0.31	0.34	0.29	0.09	0.63
04.A. Commission Agents' Services	0.59	0.08	0.34	0.31	0.04	0.65	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.25	0.00	0.75

04.B. Wholesale Trade Services	0.48	0.06	0.46	0.20	0.00	0.80	0.20	0.25	0.55	0.24	0.00	0.76
04.C. Retailing Services	0.38	0.05	0.58	0.18	0.00	0.83	0.13	0.25	0.63	0.16	0.03	0.81
04.D. Franchising	0.49	0.03	0.49	0.23	0.00	0.78	0.15	0.25	0.60	0.23	0.00	0.78
04.E. Other	0.25	0.00	0.75	0.08	0.00	0.93	0.08	0.25	0.68	0.08	0.00	0.93
05.A. Primary Education Services	0.26	0.10	0.64	0.05	0.01	0.94	0.09	0.26	0.65	0.05	0.00	0.95
05.B. Secondary Education Services	0.34	0.15	0.51	0.08	0.01	0.91	0.28	0.28	0.45	0.18	0.04	0.79
05.C. Higher Education Services	0.36	0.10	0.54	0.20	0.04	0.76	0.28	0.30	0.43	0.20	0.04	0.76
05.D. Adult Education	0.54	0.10	0.36	0.24	0.01	0.75	0.29	0.29	0.43	0.28	0.01	0.71
05.E. Other Education Services	0.44	0.11	0.45	0.23	0.04	0.74	0.30	0.30	0.40	0.15	0.01	0.84
06.A. Sewage Services	0.50	0.14	0.36	0.23	0.03	0.75	0.29	0.25	0.46	0.23	0.04	0.74
06.B. Refuse Disposal Services	0.51	0.11	0.38	0.21	0.01	0.78	0.28	0.24	0.49	0.21	0.03	0.76
06.C. Sanitation and Similar Services	0.44	0.06	0.50	0.19	0.01	0.80	0.25	0.24	0.51	0.19	0.03	0.79
06.D. Other	0.55	0.09	0.36	0.24	0.01	0.75	0.24	0.24	0.53	0.24	0.03	0.74
07.A. All Insurance and Insurance-related Services	0.47	0.12	0.41	0.38	0.14	0.48	0.33	0.37	0.30	0.33	0.15	0.53
07.B. Banking and Other Financial Services	0.38	0.10	0.52	0.32	0.10	0.57	0.32	0.32	0.36	0.25	0.10	0.66
07.C. Other	0.05	0.05	0.90	0.03	0.00	0.98	0.04	0.26	0.70	0.04	0.01	0.95
08.A. Hospital Services	0.56	0.16	0.28	0.19	0.04	0.78	0.24	0.31	0.45	0.36	0.06	0.58
08.B. Other Human Health Services	0.41	0.11	0.48	0.16	0.04	0.80	0.11	0.26	0.63	0.10	0.00	0.90
08.C. Social Services	0.36	0.05	0.59	0.05	0.00	0.95	0.05	0.25	0.70	0.05	0.00	0.95
08.D. Other	0.25	0.04	0.71	0.13	0.00	0.88	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.00	0.00	1.00
09.A. Hotels and Restaurants	0.70	0.10	0.20	0.54	0.09	0.38	0.53	0.28	0.20	0.50	0.11	0.39

09.B. Travel Agencies and Tour Operators services	0.63	0.09	0.29	0.56	0.06	0.38	0.60	0.28	0.13	0.54	0.06	0.40
09.C. Tourist Guides Services	0.30	0.00	0.70	0.21	0.01	0.78	0.15	0.25	0.60	0.15	0.00	0.85
09.D. Other	0.48	0.09	0.44	0.10	0.03	0.88	0.06	0.24	0.70	0.13	0.03	0.85
10.A. Entertainment Services	0.54	0.05	0.41	0.25	0.01	0.74	0.21	0.26	0.53	0.23	0.01	0.76
10.B. News Agency Services	0.18	0.00	0.83	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.00	0.00	1.00
10.C. Libraries, archives, museums and other cultural services	0.29	0.04	0.68	0.08	0.00	0.93	0.08	0.25	0.68	0.08	0.00	0.93
10.D. Sporting and Other Recreational Services	0.35	0.04	0.61	0.19	0.04	0.78	0.14	0.26	0.60	0.15	0.04	0.81
10.E. Other	0.16	0.08	0.76	0.05	0.00	0.95	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.00	0.00	1.00
11.A. Maritime Transport Services	0.55	0.16	0.29	0.23	0.04	0.73	0.21	0.27	0.52	0.22	0.05	0.73
11.B. Internal Waterways Transport	0.26	0.08	0.66	0.04	0.01	0.96	0.01	0.25	0.73	0.01	0.00	0.99
11.C. Air Transport Services	0.13	0.01	0.87	0.17	0.03	0.81	0.09	0.26	0.66	0.14	0.02	0.84
11.D. Space Transport	0.06	0.01	0.93	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.00	0.00	1.00
11.E. Rail Transport Services	0.32	0.12	0.56	0.06	0.00	0.94	0.07	0.24	0.69	0.07	0.00	0.93
11.F. Road Transport Services	0.42	0.07	0.51	0.32	0.01	0.67	0.17	0.24	0.59	0.17	0.01	0.82
11.G. Pipeline Transport	0.14	0.09	0.78	0.05	0.03	0.93	0.05	0.28	0.68	0.05	0.03	0.93
11.H. Services Auxiliary to All Modes of Transport	0.39	0.09	0.52	0.17	0.04	0.80	0.17	0.25	0.58	0.13	0.04	0.83
11.I. Other Transport Services	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.00	0.00	1.00
Average	0.38	0.09	0.53	0.26	0.06	0.68	0.29	0.26	0.45	0.25	0.09	0.66

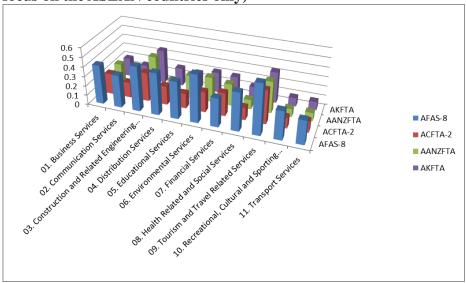
Table 13. List of the Coverage Index calculations at the 11-sector level (focus on the ASEAN countries only)

		AFAS-8			ACFTA-2	}	A	ANZFT	A	AKFTA			
Sector	N- commit ment	L- commit ment	U- commit ment										
01. Business Services	0.41	0.08	0.51	0.22	0.03	0.75	0.23	0.26	0.51	0.20	0.03	0.77	
02. Communication Services	0.34	0.10	0.56	0.16	0.05	0.79	0.15	0.26	0.58	0.15	0.06	0.79	
03. Construction and Related Engineering Services	0.47	0.18	0.36	0.30	0.09	0.61	0.38	0.32	0.30	0.35	0.11	0.54	
04. Distribution Services	0.44	0.04	0.52	0.20	0.01	0.80	0.16	0.25	0.59	0.19	0.01	0.81	
05. Educational Services	0.39	0.11	0.50	0.16	0.02	0.82	0.25	0.29	0.47	0.17	0.02	0.81	
06. Environmental Services	0.50	0.10	0.40	0.22	0.02	0.77	0.26	0.24	0.50	0.22	0.03	0.76	
07. Financial Services	0.30	0.09	0.61	0.24	0.08	0.68	0.23	0.32	0.45	0.20	0.09	0.71	
08. Health Related and Social Services	0.40	0.09	0.51	0.13	0.02	0.85	0.10	0.27	0.63	0.13	0.02	0.86	
09. Tourism and Travel Related Services	0.53	0.07	0.41	0.35	0.05	0.60	0.33	0.26	0.41	0.33	0.05	0.62	
10. Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Services	0.30	0.04	0.66	0.11	0.01	0.88	0.09	0.26	0.66	0.09	0.01	0.90	
11. Transport Services	0.25	0.07	0.68	0.12	0.02	0.87	0.09	0.25	0.66	0.09	0.02	0.90	
Average	0.39	0.09	0.52	0.22	0.03	0.75	0.23	0.26	0.51	0.20	0.03	0.77	

Table 12 lists a more detailed breakdown of sectors: "01.B. Computer and Related Services" under AFAS-8 has the highest N-commitment index value at 0.71 whereas "02.A. Postal Services" and "10.B. News Agency Services" both have low Ncommitment values under all of the four FTAs.

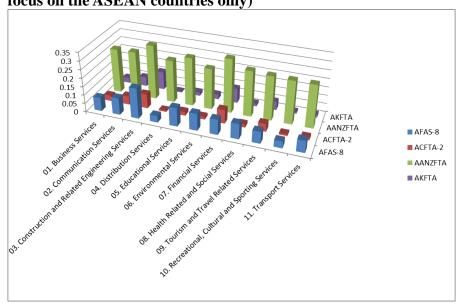
Figure 4. Comparison of N-commitment under the ASEAN+1 FTAs (by 11 sectors,





Source: Data from table 13.

Figure 5. Comparison of L-commitment under the ASEAN+1 FTAs (by 11 sectors, focus on the ASEAN countries only)



Source: Data from table 13.

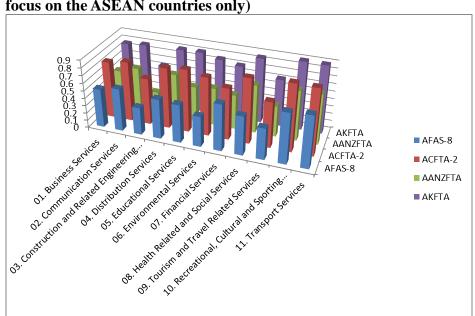


Figure 6. Comparison of U-commitment under the ASEAN+1 FTAs (by 11 sectors, focus on the ASEAN countries only)

Source: Data from table 13.

Table 14 compares the four FTAs in terms of correlation coefficient while tables 15 to 18 show the Coverage Index by mode. As shown in table 14, AANZFTA (with only Modes 1 to 3 being considered) is rather closely correlated with both ACFTA-2 and AKFTA while AANZFTA (with Modes 1 to 4 being considered) is not as closely correlated due mainly to the fact that there is a separate chapter on the movement of natural persons under AANZFTA.

Table 14. Correlation coefficient between all the pairs of the ASEAN+1 FTAs

	AFAS-8	ACFTA-2	AANZFTA(1-4)	AANZFTA(1-3)	AKFTA
AFAS-8	-				
ACFTA-2	0.67	-			
AANZFTA(1-4)	0.31	0.43	-		
AANZFTA(1-3)	0.66	0.95	-	-	
AKFTA	0.73	0.98	0.45	0.97	-

Notes: AANZFTA (1-4) means that all the four modes have been considered in the calculation for this FTA; AANZFTA (1-3) means that only modes 1 to 3 have been considered; this is because AANZFTA is unique in that it has a separate chapter on mode 4, which might be a source of deflated correlation. The correlation coefficients involving AANZFTA (1-3) use data on modes 1 to 3 only (excluding data on mode 4).

Table 15 (the Coverage Index in Mode 1) reveals that in Mode 1, AFAS-8 has the highest N-commitment value of 0.48 while AFCTA-2 has the lowest N-commitment value of 0.16. Table 16 (the Coverage Index in Mode 2) reveals that AFAS-8 has the highest N-commitment value of 0.66 while ACFTA-2 has the lowest N-commitment value of 0.32. Table 17 (the Coverage Index in Mode 3) reveals that AFAS-8 has the highest N-commitment value of 0.39 (which is lower than the highest value under Mode 1 and Mode 2 while ACFTA and AKFTA both have the lowest N-commitment value of 0.24. Table 18 (the Coverage Index in Mode 4) shows that AFAS-8 has the highest (albeit by a small margin) N-commitment value of 0.04 while all the other three FTAs have the same N-commitment value of 0.03. As it stands, all of the FTAs exhibit the lowest commitment among the four modes, indicating that Mode 4 (movement of natural persons) remains the least open.

Table 15. Coverage Indices of the ASEAN+1 FTAs in Mode 1

		AFAS-8			ACFTA-2	2	A	ANZFT	4		AKFTA	
Sector	N- commit ment	L- commit ment	U- commit ment									
01. Business Services	0.59	0.01	0.40	0.23	0.01	0.76	0.31	0.01	0.68	0.27	0.02	0.72
02. Communication Services	0.46	0.04	0.50	0.28	0.05	0.67	0.35	0.04	0.61	0.37	0.05	0.58
03. Construction and Related Engineering Services	0.25	0.00	0.75	0.02	0.00	0.98	0.24	0.00	0.76	0.16	0.00	0.84
04. Distribution Services	0.56	0.00	0.44	0.14	0.00	0.86	0.16	0.00	0.84	0.19	0.00	0.81
05. Educational Services	0.54	0.00	0.46	0.10	0.00	0.90	0.24	0.00	0.76	0.19	0.00	0.81
06. Environmental Services	0.63	0.00	0.38	0.13	0.00	0.88	0.20	0.00	0.80	0.13	0.00	0.88
07. Financial Services	0.30	0.05	0.65	0.26	0.07	0.66	0.29	0.08	0.63	0.26	0.08	0.67
08. Health Related and Social Services	0.56	0.00	0.44	0.10	0.00	0.90	0.13	0.00	0.88	0.18	0.00	0.83
09. Tourism and Travel Related Services	0.71	0.00	0.29	0.31	0.00	0.69	0.39	0.00	0.61	0.36	0.00	0.64
10. Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Services	0.36	0.00	0.64	0.06	0.00	0.94	0.06	0.00	0.94	0.07	0.00	0.93
11. Transport Services	0.32	0.01	0.67	0.08	0.01	0.91	0.10	0.01	0.90	0.11	0.01	0.89
Average	0.48	0.01	0.51	0.16	0.01	0.83	0.22	0.01	0.76	0.21	0.01	0.78

Table 16. Coverage Indices of the ASEAN+1 FTAs in Mode 2

		AFAS-8			ACFTA-2	2	A	ANZFT	4		AKFTA	
Sector	N- commit ment	L- commit ment	U- commit ment									
01. Business Services	0.64	0.00	0.36	0.29	0.01	0.70	0.37	0.00	0.62	0.33	0.00	0.66
02. Communication Services	0.54	0.00	0.46	0.35	0.00	0.65	0.44	0.00	0.56	0.45	0.01	0.54
03. Construction and Related Engineering Services	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.00	0.54	0.80	0.00	0.20	0.80	0.00	0.20
04. Distribution Services	0.70	0.00	0.30	0.28	0.00	0.72	0.24	0.00	0.76	0.29	0.00	0.71
05. Educational Services	0.71	0.00	0.29	0.28	0.00	0.72	0.51	0.00	0.49	0.35	0.00	0.65
06. Environmental Services	0.80	0.00	0.20	0.35	0.00	0.65	0.43	0.00	0.58	0.35	0.00	0.65
07. Financial Services	0.52	0.04	0.44	0.51	0.04	0.45	0.54	0.04	0.42	0.47	0.05	0.48
08. Health Related and Social Services	0.69	0.00	0.31	0.15	0.00	0.85	0.18	0.00	0.83	0.23	0.00	0.78
09. Tourism and Travel Related Services	0.78	0.00	0.23	0.48	0.00	0.53	0.53	0.00	0.48	0.53	0.00	0.48
10. Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Services	0.52	0.00	0.48	0.18	0.00	0.82	0.16	0.00	0.84	0.16	0.00	0.84
11. Transport Services	0.41	0.00	0.59	0.17	0.00	0.83	0.18	0.00	0.82	0.19	0.00	0.81
Average	0.66	0.00	0.33	0.32	0.00	0.68	0.40	0.00	0.60	0.38	0.01	0.62

Table 17. Coverage Indices of the ASEAN+1 FTAs in Mode 3

		AFAS-8			ACFTA-2	}	A	ANZFT	4	AKFTA		
Sector	N- commit ment	L- commit ment	U- commit ment									
01. Business Services	0.38	0.18	0.45	0.25	0.06	0.69	0.26	0.09	0.64	0.25	0.07	0.68
02. Communication Services	0.30	0.19	0.51	0.21	0.14	0.65	0.28	0.16	0.55	0.28	0.18	0.55
03. Construction and Related Engineering Services	0.60	0.30	0.10	0.33	0.13	0.54	0.44	0.31	0.25	0.42	0.28	0.30
04. Distribution Services	0.47	0.14	0.39	0.28	0.00	0.72	0.24	0.00	0.76	0.28	0.01	0.71
05. Educational Services	0.30	0.27	0.43	0.19	0.04	0.77	0.23	0.14	0.63	0.14	0.07	0.79
06. Environmental Services	0.53	0.25	0.23	0.34	0.01	0.65	0.38	0.01	0.61	0.34	0.06	0.60
07. Financial Services	0.33	0.17	0.50	0.30	0.22	0.48	0.32	0.25	0.43	0.27	0.22	0.51
08. Health Related and Social Services	0.34	0.28	0.39	0.10	0.05	0.85	0.10	0.08	0.83	0.11	0.06	0.83
09. Tourism and Travel Related Services	0.49	0.20	0.31	0.36	0.10	0.54	0.35	0.11	0.54	0.33	0.14	0.54
10. Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Services	0.31	0.09	0.60	0.14	0.03	0.83	0.11	0.03	0.86	0.12	0.03	0.85
11. Transport Services	0.23	0.16	0.61	0.11	0.03	0.86	0.12	0.04	0.84	0.11	0.04	0.85
Average	0.39	0.20	0.41	0.24	0.07	0.69	0.26	0.11	0.63	0.24	0.11	0.65

Table 18. Coverage Indices of the ASEAN+1 FTAs in Mode 4 $\,$

	AFAS-8		ACFTA-2			AANZFTA			AKFTA			
Sector	N- commit ment	L- commit ment	U- commit ment									
01. Business Services	0.03	0.14	0.84	0.02	0.03	0.95	0.02	0.94	0.04	0.02	0.06	0.92
02. Communication Services	0.04	0.17	0.79	0.01	0.08	0.91	0.01	0.99	0.00	0.01	0.13	0.86
03. Construction and Related Engineering Services	0.03	0.40	0.57	0.03	0.11	0.86	0.03	0.97	0.00	0.03	0.15	0.82
04. Distribution Services	0.01	0.03	0.96	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.99
05. Educational Services	0.00	0.18	0.82	0.00	0.03	0.97	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.99
06. Environmental Services	0.05	0.15	0.80	0.05	0.05	0.90	0.05	0.95	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.90
07. Financial Services	0.05	0.09	0.86	0.06	0.07	0.88	0.06	0.94	0.00	0.01	0.07	0.91
08. Health Related and Social Services	0.00	0.09	0.91	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
09. Tourism and Travel Related Services	0.13	0.08	0.80	0.10	0.05	0.85	0.08	0.93	0.00	0.10	0.06	0.84
10. Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Services	0.02	0.07	0.91	0.01	0.01	0.98	0.01	0.99	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.98
11. Transport Services	0.05	0.11	0.84	0.03	0.03	0.94	0.03	0.97	0.00	0.06	0.03	0.91
Average	0.04	0.14	0.83	0.03	0.04	0.93	0.03	0.97	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.92

Tables 19 to 22 list correlation coefficients of the Coverage Index among the four FTAs by mode. As shown, AFAS-8 is somewhat distinct from the other three FTAs in all the modes. A special mention should be made of the fact that in Mode 4, AANZFTA is distinct from the other three FTAs (negative correlation coefficients are observed between AANZFTA and any one of the three other FTAs). This is due to the fact that AANZFTA alone has a separate chapter on the movement of natural persons.

Table 19. Correlation Coefficient of the Coverage Indices among the ASEAN+1 FTAs (Mode 1, ASEAN countries only)

		<i>U</i> /		
ASEAN+1 FTA	AFAS-8	ACFTA-2	AANZFTA	AKFTA
AKFTA	-			
ACFTA-2	0.55	-		
AANZFTA	0.66	0.97	-	
AKFTA	0.62	0.98	0.98	-

Source: Calculated from the database constructed for this study.

Table 20. Correlation Coefficient of the Coverage Indices among the ASEAN+1 FTAs (Mode 2, ASEAN countries only)

ASEAN+1 FTA	AFAS-8	ACFTA-2	AANZFTA	AKFTA
AKFTA	1			
ACFTA-2	0.52	-		
AANZFTA	0.66	0.94	-	
AKFTA	0.63	0.96	0.97	-

Source: Calculated from the database constructed for this study.

Table 21. Correlation Coefficient of the Coverage Indices among the ASEAN+1 FTAs (Mode 3. ASEAN countries only)

1 1115 (111040 0, 1151	27 III (COUIICITE)	, om j		
ASEAN+1 FTA	AFAS-8	ACFTA-2	AANZFTA	AKFTA
AKFTA	-			
ACFTA-2	0.58	-		
AANZFTA	0.67	0.95	-	
AKFTA	0.63	0.97	0.97	-

Source: Calculated from the database constructed for this study.

Table 22. Correlation Coefficient of the Coverage Indices among the ASEAN+1 FTAs (Mode 4, ASEAN countries only)

		- 1)		
ASEAN+1 FTA	AFAS-8	ACFTA-2	AANZFTA	AKFTA
AKFTA	-			
ACFTA-2	0.95	-		
AANZFTA	-0.35	-0.48	-	
AKFTA	0.96	0.99	-0.46	-

Source: Calculated from the database constructed for this study.

In order to have a rough estimate of how the GATS-based Commitment Index has been calculated, the nine ASEAN member countries with GATS commitment tables (i.e., Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam) were incorporated. Table 23 shows the result of the calculations at the 11-sector level. As the average value of the Coverage Index for the N-commitment (0.03) indicates, the ASEAN member countries' commitment under the GATS is significantly lower than their commitments under any of the ASEAN+1 FTAs.

Table 23. GATS-based Coverage Indices (excluding Laos)

	N- commitment	L- commitmen t	U- commitment
01. Business Services	0.03	0.18	0.79
02. Communication Services	0.07	0.21	0.71
03. Construction and Related Engineering Services	0.05	0.22	0.73
04. Distribution Services	0.00	0.12	0.88
05. Educational Services	0.00	0.11	0.89
06. Environmental Services	0.01	0.20	0.78
07. Financial Services	0.11	0.24	0.65
08. Health Related and Social Services	0.01	0.06	0.93
09. Tourism and Travel Related Services	0.05	0.28	0.67
10. Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Services	0.01	0.07	0.92
11. Transport Services	0.01	0.08	0.90
Average	0.03	0.16	0.81

Source: Calculated from the database constructed for this study.

4. Policy suggestions and conclusions

This paper addresses the issue of converging the existing ASEAN+1 FTAs. The Coverage Index used in this paper shows to what extent the FTA members are committed to particular service sectors. Ideally, the index should converge at 1.0, and this is an important consideration since the RCEP should aim for the simplest structure of "N-commitments in all the service sectors by all the partner countries."

This study has revealed that while AFAS-8 is rather distinct, the other three FTAs (i.e., ACFTA, AANZFTA, and AKFTA) are very similarly correlated (except for the fact that the Mode 4 commitment under AANZFTA is unique due to its separate chapter on the movement of natural persons). It has also been found that among the four ASEAN+1 FTAs studies, AFAS is the most deeply committed one. This is promising in the sense that ASEAN is at the center of the policy efforts toward streamlining the ASEAN+1 FTAs. In the services sector, there is no progress in WTO-mediated liberalization efforts (as reported by, for example, Gootiiz and Mattoo, 2009) as of this writing. Overall, therefore, uplifting of the coverage-widening efforts in each of the ASEAN+1 FTAs would be needed for the realization of the RCEP via convergence of these FTAs in the near future. More specifically, it is imperative to: (1) harmonize the N-based as well as L-based commitments among the ten ASEAN member countries under the current three ASEAN+1 FTAS (i.e., among ACFTA, AANZFTA, and AKFTA); (2) attempt to enhance the level of liberalization (an"ASEAN+1 template commitment on services," so to speak); and (3) harmonize the N-based and L-based commitments between the "ASEAN+1 template commitment on services" and AFAS-8 in order to realize a first-version RCEP agreement on services. While the coverage index shows rather low levels of commitment by the member countries, a first-step and more tractable policy suggestion is to further prioritize the priority integration sectors (i.e., "01.B. Computer and Related Services," "02.C. Telecommunication Services," "04.B. Wholesale Trade Services," "08.A. Hospital Services," "09.B. Travel Agencies and Tour Operators services," "09.C. Tourist Guides Services," "11.A. Maritime Transport Services," "11.B. Internal Waterways Transport," "11.C. Air Transport Services," "11.E. Rail Transport Services," and "11.F. Road Transport Services") for a seamless ASEAN Economic Community as well as for a wellconnected RCEP.

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2014-02	Cassey LEE	Competition Law Enforcement in Malaysia	Jan 2014
2014-01	Rizal SUKMA	ASEAN Beyond 2015: The Imperatives for Further Institutional Changes	Jan 2014
2013-38	Toshihiro OKUBO, Fukunari KIMURA, Nozomu TESHIMA	Asian Fragmentation in the Global Financial Crisis	Dec 2013
2013-37	Xunpeng SHI and Cecilya MALIK	Assessment of ASEAN Energy Cooperation within the ASEAN Economic Community	Dec 2013
2013-36	Tereso S. TULLAO, Jr. And Christopher James CABUAY	Eduction and Human Capital Development to Strengthen R&D Capacity in the ASEAN	Dec 2013
2013-35	Paul A. RASCHKY	Estimating the Effects of West Sumatra Public Asset Insurance Program on Short-Term Recovery after the September 2009 Earthquake	Dec 2013
2013-34	Nipon POAPONSAKORN and Pitsom MEETHOM	Impact of the 2011 Floods, and Food Management in Thailand	Nov 2013
2013-33	Mitsuyo ANDO	Development and Resructuring of Regional Production/Distribution Networks in East Asia	Nov 2013
2013-32	Mitsuyo ANDO and Fukunari KIMURA	Evolution of Machinery Production Networks: Linkage of North America with East Asia?	Nov 2013
2013-31	Mitsuyo ANDO and Fukunari KIMURA	What are the Opportunities and Challenges for ASEAN?	Nov 2013
2013-30	Simon PEETMAN	Standards Harmonisation in ASEAN: Progress, Challenges and Moving Beyond 2015	Nov 2013
2013-29	Jonathan KOH and Andrea Feldman MOWERMAN	Towards a Truly Seamless Single Windows and Trade Facilitation Regime in ASEAN Beyond 2015	Nov 2013
2013-28	Rajah RASIAH	Stimulating Innovation in ASEAN Institutional Support, R&D Activity and Intelletual Property Rights	Nov 2013
2013-27	Maria Monica WIHARDJA	Financial Integration Challenges in ASEAN beyond 2015	Nov 2013
2013-26	Tomohiro MACHIKITA and Yasushi UEKI	Who Disseminates Technology to Whom, How, and Why: Evidence from Buyer-Seller Business Networks	Nov 2013

2013-25Fukunari KIMURA Production Base" for ASEAN beyond 2015Oct Production Base" for ASEAN beyond 201520132013-24Olivier CADOT Emawati MUNADI Lili Yan INGStreamlining NTMs in ASEAN: The Way ForwardOct The Way Forward20132013-23Charles HARVIE, Dionisius NARJOKO, Sothea OUMSmall and Medium Enterprises' Access to Finance: Evidence from Selected Asian EconomiesOct 20132013-22Alan Khee-Jin TAN Regulatory Reform and Industry ChallengesOct 20132013-21Hisanobu SHISHIDO, Shintaro SUGIYAMA, Fauziah ZENMoving MPAC Forward: Strengthening Portfolio and in Search of Practical Financing SchemesOct 20132013-20Barry DESKER, Mely CABALLERO-ANTH ONY, Paul TENGThought/Issues Paper on ASEAN Food Security: Towards a more Comprehensive FrameworkOct 20132013-19Toshihiro KUDO, Satoru KUMAGAI, So UMEZAKIMaking Myanmar the Star Growth Performer in Growth StrategiesSep 20132013-18Ruperto MAJUCAManaging Economic Shocks and Macroeconomic Coordination in an Integrated Region: ASEAN Beyond 2015Sep 20132013-16Cassy LEE and Yoshifumi FUKUNAGACompetition Policy Challenges of Single Market And Production BaseSep 20132013-16Simon TAYGrowth Stural Disasters on Agriculture, Food Platform in Global and Regional Governance20132013-16Danilo C. ISRAEL and Roehlano M. BRIONESGrowth Stural Disasters on Agriculture, Food Platform in Global and Regional Governance Security, and Natural Disasters on Agriculture, Food Impacts	No.	Author(s)	Title	Year
Production Base" for ASEAN beyond 2015 2013 2013-24 Color Emawati MUNADI Lili Yan ING	2012.25	Fukunari KIMURA	Reconstructing the Concept of "Single Market a	Oct
Emawati MUNADI Lili Yan ING Streamlining NTMs in ASEAN: Dota The Way Forward 2013	2013-25		Production Base" for ASEAN beyond 2015	2013
Charles HARVIE, Dionisius NARJOKO, Sothea OUM Economies 2013-22 Alan Khee-Jin TAN Regulatory Reform and Industry Challenges 2013 2013-24 Hisanobu SHISHIDO, Moving MPAC Forward: Strengthening 2013 2013-25 Alan Khee-Jin TAN Fauziah ZEN Portfolio and in Search of Practical Financing 2013 2013-26 ABALLERO-ANTH ONY, Paul TENG Toshihiro KUDO, UMEZAKI Growth Strategies 2013 2013-18 Ruperto MAJUCA Masing Myanmar the Star Growth Performer in Growth Strategies 2013 2013-17 Cassy LEE and Yoshifumi FUKUNAGA and Production Base 2013 2013-16 Danilo C. ISRAEL and Roehlano M. BRIONES Real Each L. TAN Aug 2013 2013-14 Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seek L. TAN Aug 2013 Alien Yu-Hung LAI and Seek L. TAN Servard: Singapore's Experience 2013 2013-15 Alan Khee-Jin TAN Finance: Evidence from Selected Asian 2013 2013-16 Charles HARVIE, Finance: Evidence from Selected Asian 2013 2013-17 Ale Ruperto MAJUCA Finance: Evidence from Selected Asian 2013 2013-16 Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seek L. TAN Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013	2013-24	Ernawati MUNADI	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Dionisius NARJOKO, Sothea OUM Economies Scheme OUM Economies Scheme OUM Economies Oct Regulatory Reform and Industry Challenges 2013		Lili Tali INO	The Way Forward	2013
2013-22 Dionisius NARJOKO, Sothea OUM Economies 2013		Charles HARVIE,	Small and Medium Enterprises' Access to	
Sothea OUM Economies Toward a Single Aviation Market in ASEAN: Regulatory Reform and Industry Challenges 2013 Hisanobu SHISHIDO, Moving MPAC Forward: Strengthening Public-Private Partnership, Improving Project Oct Portfolio and in Search of Practical Financing Schemes Barry DESKER, Mely CABALLERO-ANTH ONY, Paul TENG Towards a more Comprehensive Framework 2013 Toshihiro KUDO, Satoru KUMAGAI, So UMEZAKI Growth Strategies ASEAN in the Next Decade: A Proposal of Five Region: ASEAN Beyond 2015 Cassy LEE and Yoshifum FUKUNAGA and Production Base Ase and Production Base Growing an ASEAN Voice?: A Common Platform in Global and Regional Governance 2013 Danilo C. ISRAEL and Roehlano M. BRIONES Roehlano M. BRIONES Toward a Single Aviation Market in ASEAN: Oct Regulatory Reform and Industry Challenges of Singapore's Experience 2013 Toward a Single Aviation Market in ASEAN: Oct Regulatory Reform and Industry Challenges Oct Provide Partnership, Improving Project Oct Portfolio and in Search of Practical Financing 2013 Thought/Issues Paper on ASEAN Food Security: Oct Thought/Issues Paper on ASEAN Food Se	2013-23	Dionisius NARJOKO,	Finance: Evidence from Selected Asian	
Alan Khee-Jin TAN Regulatory Reform and Industry Challenges 2013		Sothea OUM	Economies	2013
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Shintaro SUGIYAMA, Fauziah ZEN Fauziah ZEN Portfolio and in Search of Practical Financing Schemes Portfolio and in Search of Practical Financing Schemes Thought/Issues Paper on ASEAN Food Security: Towards a more Comprehensive Framework Toshihiro KUDO, Making Myanmar the Star Growth Performer in ASEAN in the Next Decade: A Proposal of Five UMEZAKI Growth Strategies Managing Economic Shocks and Macroeconomic Coordination in an Integrated Region: ASEAN Beyond 2015 Cassy LEE and Yoshifumi FUKUNAGA Towards a more Comprehensive Framework ASEAN in the Next Decade: A Proposal of Five 2013 Macroeconomic Coordination in an Integrated Region: ASEAN Beyond 2015 Competition Policy Challenges of Single Market and Production Base Competition Policy Challenges of Single Market and Production Base Growing an ASEAN Voice?: A Common Platform in Global and Regional Governance Impacts of Natural Disasters on Agriculture, Food Security, and Natural Resources and Environment in the Philippines Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seck L. TAN Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seck L. TAN Impact of Disasters and Disaster Risk Management in Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013	2013-22	Alan Knee-Jin TAN	Regulatory Reform and Industry Challenges	2013
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Thought/Issues Paper on ASEAN Food Security: ONY, Paul TENG Toshihiro KUDO, Satoru KUMAGAI, So UMEZAKI Towards a more Comprehensive Framework ASEAN in the Next Decade: A Proposal of Five UMEZAKI Growth Strategies Managing Economic Shocks and Macroeconomic Coordination in an Integrated Region: ASEAN Beyond 2015 Cassy LEE and Yoshifumi FUKUNAGA Thought/Issues Paper on ASEAN Food Security: Towards a more Comprehensive Framework ASEAN in the Next Decade: A Proposal of Five Growth Strategies Managing Economic Shocks and Macroeconomic Coordination in an Integrated Region: ASEAN Beyond 2015 Competition Policy Challenges of Single Market and Production Base Corwing an ASEAN Voice?: A Common Platform in Global and Regional Governance Impacts of Natural Disasters on Agriculture, Food Security, and Natural Resources and Environment in Roehlano M. BRIONES Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seck L. TAN Impact of Disasters and Disaster Risk Management in Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013			Schemes	
Towards a more Comprehensive Framework ONY, Paul TENG Toshihiro KUDO, Making Myanmar the Star Growth Performer in ASEAN in the Next Decade: A Proposal of Five UMEZAKI Growth Strategies Managing Economic Shocks and Macroeconomic Coordination in an Integrated Region: ASEAN Beyond 2015 Cassy LEE and Yoshifumi FUKUNAGA and Production Base 2013 2013-16 Simon TAY Growing an ASEAN Voice?: A Common Sep Platform in Global and Regional Governance 2013 Impacts of Natural Disasters on Agriculture, Food Security, and Natural Resources and Environment in the Philippines 2013 Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seck L. TAN Impact of Disasters and Disaster Risk Management in Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013	2013-20	Barry DESKER, Mely	Thought/Issues Paper on ASEAN Food Security:	0-4
Toshihiro KUDO, Making Myanmar the Star Growth Performer in Sep 2013-19 Satoru KUMAGAI, So UMEZAKI Growth Strategies Managing Economic Shocks and Macroeconomic Coordination in an Integrated Region: ASEAN Beyond 2015 Cassy LEE and Yoshifumi FUKUNAGA and Production Base 2013 2013-16 Simon TAY Growing an ASEAN Voice?: A Common Sep Platform in Global and Regional Governance 2013 Danilo C. ISRAEL and Security, and Natural Resources and Environment in Aug the Philippines 2013 Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seck L. TAN Impact of Disasters and Disaster Risk Management in Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013		CABALLERO-ANTH	-	
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2013-19 Satoru KUMAGAI, So UMEZAKI Growth Strategies Managing Economic Shocks and Macroeconomic Coordination in an Integrated Region: ASEAN Beyond 2015 Cassy LEE and Yoshifumi FUKUNAGA and Production Base 2013-16 Simon TAY Danilo C. ISRAEL and Roehlano M. BRIONES ASEAN in the Next Decade: A Proposal of Five Growth Strategies Managing Economic Shocks and Macroeconomic Coordination in an Integrated Region: ASEAN Beyond 2015 Competition Policy Challenges of Single Market and Production Base Growing an ASEAN Voice?: A Common Platform in Global and Regional Governance Impacts of Natural Disasters on Agriculture, Food Security, and Natural Resources and Environment in Aug the Philippines 2013 Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seck L. TAN Impact of Disasters and Disaster Risk Management in Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013		Toshihiro KUDO,	Making Myanmar the Star Growth Performer in	Son
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2013-18 Ruperto MAJUCA Region: ASEAN Beyond 2015 Cassy LEE and Yoshifumi FUKUNAGA 2013-16 Simon TAY Cassy LEE and Yoshifumi FUKUNAGA Competition Policy Challenges of Single Market and Production Base Competition Policy Challenges of Single Market and Production Base Competition Policy Challenges of Single Market and Production Base Competition Policy Challenges of Single Market Sep 2013 Platform in Global and Regional Governance Impacts of Natural Disasters on Agriculture, Food Security, and Natural Resources and Environment in Roehlano M. BRIONES Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seck L. TAN Impact of Disasters and Disaster Risk Management in Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013		UMEZAKI	Growth Strategies	2013
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FUKUNAGA and Production Base 2013-16 Simon TAY Growing an ASEAN Voice? : A Common Sep Platform in Global and Regional Governance 2013 Impacts of Natural Disasters on Agriculture, Food Security, and Natural Resources and Environment in the Philippines 2013 Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seck L. TAN Impact of Disasters and Disaster Risk Management in Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013			Region: ASEAN Beyond 2015	2013
FUKUNAGA and Production Base 2013 2013-16 Simon TAY Growing an ASEAN Voice? : A Common Sep Platform in Global and Regional Governance 2013 Impacts of Natural Disasters on Agriculture, Food Security, and Natural Resources and Environment in Aug the Philippines 2013 Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seck L. TAN Impact of Disasters and Disaster Risk Management in Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013	2013-17	Cassy LEE and Yoshifumi	Competition Policy Challenges of Single Market	Sep
2013-16 Simon TAY Platform in Global and Regional Governance Impacts of Natural Disasters on Agriculture, Food Security, and Natural Resources and Environment in Aug the Philippines 2013 Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seck L. TAN Impact of Disasters and Disaster Risk Management in Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013 Aug 2013	2013-17	FUKUNAGA	and Production Base	2013
Platform in Global and Regional Governance 2013 Impacts of Natural Disasters on Agriculture, Food Security, and Natural Resources and Environment in 4 Aug 2013-15 Roehlano M. BRIONES the Philippines 2013 Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seck L. TAN Impact of Disasters and Disaster Risk Management in Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013	2013-16	Simon TAY	Growing an ASEAN Voice? : A Common	Sep
Danilo C. ISRAEL and Security, and Natural Resources and Environment in Aug the Philippines 2013 Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seck L. TAN Impact of Disasters and Disaster Risk Management in Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013		Simon 1711	Platform in Global and Regional Governance	2013
2013-15 Roehlano M. BRIONES the Philippines 2013 Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seck L. TAN Impact of Disasters and Disaster Risk Management in Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013			Impacts of Natural Disasters on Agriculture, Food	
Roehlano M. BRIONES the Philippines 2013 Allen Yu-Hung LAI and Seck L. TAN Impact of Disasters and Disaster Risk Management in Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013	2013.15	Danilo C. ISRAEL and	Security, and Natural Resources and Environment in	Aug
Allen Yu-Hung LAI and 2013-14 Seck L. TAN Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013-14 Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience	2013-13	Roehlano M. BRIONES	the Philippines	2013
Allen Yu-Hung LAI and 2013-14 Seck L. TAN Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience 2013-14 Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience				
2013-14 Singapore: A Case Study of Singapore's Experience Seck L. TAN 2013		Allen Yu-Hung LAI and	•	Aug
in Fighting the SARS Epidemic	2013-14	_		_
			in Fighting the SARS Epidemic	

No.	Author(s)	Title	Year
2012 12	Brent LAYTON	Impact of Natural Disasters on Production Networks	Aug
2013-13	Dieiii LAT TON	and Urbanization in New Zealand	2013
2013-12	Mitsuyo ANDO	Impact of Recent Crises and Disasters on Regional	Aug
2013-12		Production/Distribution Networks and Trade in Japan	2013
2013-11	Le Dang TRUNG	Economic and Welfare Impacts of Disasters in East	Aug
2013-11	Le Dang TRONG	Asia and Policy Responses: The Case of Vietnam	2013
	Sann VATHANA, Sothea	Impact of Disasters and Role of Social Protection in	Aug
2013-10	OUM, Ponhrith KAN,	Natural Disaster Risk Management in Cambodia	2013
	Colas CHERVIER	Transfer Production Transfer Production Carlo Ca	2013
	Sommarat CHANTARAT,		
	Krirk PANNANGPETCH,	Index-Based Risk Financing and Development of	
2013-09	Nattapong	Natural Disaster Insurance Programs in Developing	Aug
	PUTTANAPONG, Preesan	Asian Countries	2013
	RAKWATIN, and Thanasin		
	TANOMPONGPHANDH		
2013-08	Ikumo ISONO and Satoru	Long-run Economic Impacts of Thai Flooding:	July
	KUMAGAI	Geographical Simulation Analysis	2013
2013-07	Yoshifumi FUKUNAGA	Assessing the Progress of Services Liberalization in	May
	and Hikaru ISHIDO	the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA)	2013
	Ken ITAKURA, Yoshifumi	A CGE Study of Economic Impact of Accession of	May
2013-06	FUKUNAGA, and Ikumo	Hong Kong to ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement	2013
	ISONO		
2013-05	Misa OKABE and Shujiro	The Impact of AFTA on Intra-AFTA Trade	May
	URATA	TA DE MANIE AND A CORPORT OF	2013
2013-04	Kohei SHIINO	How Far Will Hong Kong's Accession to ACFTA will	May
	G VET 111 112 1	Impact on Trade in Goods?	2013
2013-03	Cassey LEE and Yoshifumi	ASEAN Regional Cooperation on Competition	Apr
	FUKUNAGA	Policy	2013
2012.35	Yoshifumi FUKUNAGA	Taking ASEAN+1 FTAs towards the RCEP:	Jan
2013-02	and Ikumo ISONO	A Mapping Study	2013
		Impact of Liberalization and Impact of Commentation	
2013-01	Kan ITA KI ID A	Impact of Liberalization and Improved Connectivity	Jan
2013-01	Ken ITAKURA	and Facilitation in ASEAN for the ASEAN Economic	2013
		Community	

No.	Author(s)	Title	Year
2012.17	Sun XUEGONG, Guo	Market Entry Barriers for FDI and Private Investors:	Aug
2012-17	LIYAN, Zeng ZHENG	Lessons from China's Electricity Market	2012
2012-16	Yanrui WU	Electricity Market Integration: Global Trends and	Aug
2012-10	Talliul W O	Implications for the EAS Region	2012
	Youngho CHANG, Yanfei	Power Generation and Cross-border Grid Planning for	Ang
2012-15	LI	the Integrated ASEAN Electricity Market: A Dynamic	Aug 2012
	LI	Linear Programming Model	2012
2012-14	Yanrui WU, Xunpeng SHI	Economic Development, Energy Market Integration and	Aug
2012-14	Tamur w O, Aunpeng Sm	Energy Demand: Implications for East Asia	2012
	Joshua AIZENMAN,	The Relationship between Structural Change and	July
2012-13	Minsoo LEE, and	Inequality: A Conceptual Overview with Special	2012
	Donghyun PARK	Reference to Developing Asia	2012
2012-12	Hyun-Hoon LEE, Minsoo	Growth Policy and Inequality in Developing Asia:	July
	LEE, and Donghyun PARK	Lessons from Korea	2012
2012-11	Cassey LEE	Knowledge Flows, Organization and Innovation:	June
		Firm-Level Evidence from Malaysia	2012
	Jacques MAIRESSE, Pierre	Globalization, Innovation and Productivity in Manufacturing Firms: A Study of Four Sectors of China	June
2012-10	MOHNEN, Yayun ZHAO,		2012
	and Feng ZHEN	Manufacturing Firms. A Study of Four Sectors of Clinia	2012
		Globalization and Innovation in Indonesia: Evidence	June
2012-09	Ari KUNCORO	from Micro-Data on Medium and Large Manufacturing	2012
		Establishments	2012
2012-08	Alfons PALANGKARAYA	The Link between Innovation and Export: Evidence	June
2012-06	Allolis FALANOKAKATA	from Australia's Small and Medium Enterprises	2012
2012.07	Chin Hee HAHN and	Direction of Causality in Innovation-Exporting Linkage:	June
2012-07	Chang-Gyun PARK	Evidence on Korean Manufacturing	2012
2012-06	Keiko ITO	Source of Learning-by-Exporting Effects: Does	June
2012-00	Keiko IIO	Exporting Promote Innovation?	2012
2012-05	Rafaelita M. ALDABA	Trade Reforms, Competition, and Innovation in the	June
2012-03	Karaema W. ALDADA	Philippines	2012
	Toshiyuki MATSUURA	The Role of Trade Costs in FDI Strategy of	
2012-04	and Kazunobu	Heterogeneous Firms: Evidence from Japanese	June
	HAYAKAWA	Firm-level Data	2012

No.	Author(s)	Title	Year
2012-03	Kazunobu HAYAKAWA, Fukunari KIMURA, and Hyun-Hoon LEE	How Does Country Risk Matter for Foreign Direct Investment?	Feb 2012
2012-02	Ikumo ISONO, Satoru KUMAGAI, Fukunari KIMURA	Agglomeration and Dispersion in China and ASEAN: A Geographical Simulation Analysis	Jan 2012
2012-01	Mitsuyo ANDO and Fukunari KIMURA	How Did the Japanese Exports Respond to Two Crises in the International Production Network?: The Global Financial Crisis and the East Japan Earthquake	Jan 2012
2011-10	Tomohiro MACHIKITA and Yasushi UEKI	Interactive Learning-driven Innovation in Upstream-Downstream Relations: Evidence from Mutual Exchanges of Engineers in Developing Economies	Dec 2011
2011-09	Joseph D. ALBA, Wai-Mun CHIA, and Donghyun PARK	Foreign Output Shocks and Monetary Policy Regimes in Small Open Economies: A DSGE Evaluation of East Asia	Dec 2011
2011-08	Tomohiro MACHIKITA and Yasushi UEKI	Impacts of Incoming Knowledge on Product Innovation: Econometric Case Studies of Technology Transfer of Auto-related Industries in Developing Economies	Nov 2011
2011-07	Yanrui WU	Gas Market Integration: Global Trends and Implications for the EAS Region	Nov 2011
2011-06	Philip Andrews-SPEED	Energy Market Integration in East Asia: A Regional Public Goods Approach	Nov 2011
2011-05	Yu SHENG, Xunpeng SHI	Energy Market Integration and Economic Convergence: Implications for East Asia	Oct 2011
2011-04	Sang-Hyop LEE, Andrew MASON, and Donghyun PARK	Why Does Population Aging Matter So Much for Asia? Population Aging, Economic Security and Economic Growth in Asia	Aug 2011
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2011-01	Kuo-I CHANG, Kazunobu HAYAKAWA	Location Choice of Multinational Enterprises in China: Comparison between Japan and Taiwan	Mar 2011

No.	Author(s)	Title	Year
	Toshiyuki MATSUURA		
2010-11	Charles HARVIE, Dionisius NARJOKO, Sothea OUM	Firm Characteristic Determinants of SME Participation in Production Networks	Oct 2010
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