The New Normal and East Asian Economic Integration

Mari Pangestu, March 7, 2017 ERIA-JETRO Public Symposium, Jakarta

Three Decades of Economic Integration (1990-2014)



Source: ADB (2015)

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY: THE NEW





RESPONSE CAN NO LONGER BE BUSINESS AS USUAL

World trade growth slowest in 2016 and at or lower than GDP Growth



Source: World Bank, Global Trade Watch, February 2017

Multi Localization and Increased Localization: Maturation of Global Value Chains Especially China



Source: CEIC, Haver, UBS estimates (China Economic Perspectives: The World's Exposure to China Demand, UBS, Global Research, 22 June 2015



Policy Uncertainty impact on Trade



Source: CPB Netherlands Bureau of Economic Policy Analysis, www.PolicyUncertainty.com, Baker, Bloom and Davis (forthcoming), and authors' calculations.

(taken from World Bank, Global Trade Watch, February 2017)

Digital Economy: Trade Growth 2-3%, E-Comm 27%

Global Cross-border B2C Volume 2014-2020

- Cross-border B2C transactions as % of total B2C transactions Transaction volume of global cross-border B2C (in USD billions) Transaction volume of global domestic B2C (in USD billions)
- Compound annual growth rate



OPTIMISM COMES FROM ASIA:

EAST ASIAN GROWTH AND CONTINUED INTEGRATION IS THE NEW TAILWIND

Role as catalyst for broader reforms and members beyond region: building blocks and open regionalism



Source: Australia-China Joint Economic Report

The Asian Response: capture opportunities

- Slow trade Growth (75% investment ↓, maturation of GVC, policy uncertainty), services trade more resilient, growth in digital trade. Asia still growing (average 6%).
 Role of Asia in Global economic recovery and renewed focus and regional cooperation must include INVESTMENT and Importance of Services
- 2. Tailwind on Openness from Asian integration: openness has been and continues to be important (opportunities: complementarity, demographic) and shaping domestic reforms. Shared and collective leadership model in Asia -> completion of RCEP important signal
- 3. Evolution of global value chains: old things happen in new places and new things happen in old places, to be commercially relevant cooperation such as AEC and RCEP need to accommodate the old and new (market access (behind the border), and rules including IP)
- 4. Technology and creative disruption: new production technologies driven by data transfers rather than goods and new ways of selling goods and services, challenges and opportunities in national policies and trade agreements; and technology can contribute to inclusiveness

5. Political Imperative of inclusiveness

From Low to high politics: democracy, increasing "voice" and noise

- Heed the warning signs: management of and focus on inequity and distribution between members and within country
- More complicated politically, including in countries with centralized management, Communication of Openness IMPORTANT
- Broad based development/markets, contestable markets and rules to <u>ensure fair trade</u>, economic cooperation and capacity building/peer pressure to have confidence in reforms: openness, types of policies that will deliver quality of growth (national) and renewed Trade Agreements
- <u>Specific and complementary policies</u> to ensure <u>equitable development</u> between and within countries (adjustment): National (infrastructure; education, training and skill development, social safety nets) and Regional (effective capacity building, SMEs)

6. Most Importantly: Leadership in the future of Asian economic integration

- Headwind due to Retreat from openness: Post Brexit, developments in Europe and President Trump, US signaling bilateral and unilateral
- Direction: anti-globalisation, anti-immigration, nationalism
- Multilateral institutions in question: will US honor the WTO and its rules? Threat of unilateral actions from the US.
 - Missing headwind: Can Asia step up to task (tailwind). AEC and RCEP only game in town (not China led, ASEAN initiative)
 - Asia: collective Asian leadership in regional cooperation such as RCEP and importance of ASEAN centrality (Indonesian leadership v. important, Philippines as Chair of ASEAN); leadership role of China (OBOR, AIIB) and Japan especially for capacity building. Role of India?
 - Keeping the US engaged: beyond bilateral EAS, APEC, G20