Regionalism: Southeast Asia, East Asia or Asia-Pacific?

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Outline of the lecture

- Regional cooperative schemes in Southeast Asia
- ASEAN regionalism
  - The challenges of diversity, vulnerability and lack of influences
  - The importance of prosperity, mutual assurance and collective representation
- East Asian regionalism
  - Post-financial crisis regionalism in East Asia
  - From the East Asian Summit to the East Asian Community?
- Asia-Pacific regionalism
  - APEC and the role of the US
- Southeast Asia regionalism under redefinition
Regional cooperative schemes in Southeast Asia

- Sub-regional growth zones (endorsed in the 1990s)
  - The Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore Growth Triangle (IMS-GT)
  - The Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT)
  - The Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA)
  - The Greater Mekong Subregional (GMS) Growth Zone

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
  - Founded in 1967, 10 member states
  - The most important regional organization
  - Aiming to establish the ASEAN Community in 2015
Sub-regional growth zones

- BIMP-EAGA
Regional cooperative schemes in Southeast Asia

- **ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Process**
  - East Asian regional grouping started in 1997
  - 10 Southeast and 3 Northeast Asian countries
  - Regular ministerial meetings and annual summit

- **East Asian Summit (or ‘ASEAN Plus Six’ initially)**
  - Expanded East Asian regional grouping started in 2005
  - ASEAN+6, Australia, New Zealand and India
  - ASEAN+8, Russia and the US
  - Annual summit

- **Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**
  - Founded in 1989; 21 Pacific Rim economies since 1998
  - Annual meeting hosted by one of the member economies
ASEAN regionalism: motivations

- The challenge of diversity
  - ‘The ASEAN states have only three things in common: karaoke, durian, and golf.’ (popular ASEAN saying, c.f. Ba, 2009)
  - Ethnic and religious diversity, different levels of economic development, different types of political regimes, etc.

- Security vulnerability
  - Domestic communist, separatist, and terrorist movements
  - Disagreements over territorial claims

- The lack of international influences
  - Little presence in international affairs
  - The overlay of extra-regional powers
ASEAN regionalism: benefits

- Economic prosperity
  - Early industrialization with successful export-oriented sectors
  - FDIs from Japan, the US and other countries
  - Receiving substantial amount of Japanese ODA
  - A successful hub of regional Free Trade Agreements

- Mutual assurance
  - Handling internal security problems without external interference
  - Coping with inter-state security dilemma
  - Dealing with difficult regional security problems like the Vietnam’s invasion of Cambodia in the late 1970s
  - Exporting the ASEAN norms to neighboring countries

- Collective representation
  - Regional cooperation beyond Southeast Asia
East Asian regionalism: APT

  - Speculative attack on Thai currency in 1997
  - The flight of short-term overseas investments
  - Regionwide depreciation of national currencies

- Southeast Asian regionalism reconsidered
  - The shortfall of Southeast Asian economic integration
  - Inadequate economic cooperative mechanism of APEC

- The ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Process
  - East Asian measures to deal with the Financial Crisis
    - AMF → New Miyazawa Initiative; China’s non-depreciation policy
  - APT started from 1997, and gradually developed into a multi-dimensional East Asian regional cooperative mechanism
East Asian regionalism: from the EAS to EAC?

- East Asian Summit (since 2005)
  - Concerns over China’s influence on APT
  - India, Australian and New Zealand signed the TAC and then joined the EAS in 2005, Russia was invited as an observer
  - Russia and the US joined the EAS in 2011
  - So far the outcomes of the EAS have been limited
    - Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA)
    - Joint statement on different global issues

- Proposals for the East Asian Community
  - Ideas of EAC: Mahathir, Koizumi, Hatoyama
  - Possible members of EAC: ASEAN+3, EAS framework…
  - Lack of a concrete proposal on details of the EAC
Asia-Pacific regionalism

- APEC
  - An initially economic oriented inter-regional forum
    - ‘Open (economic) regionalism’ → TPP
    - Focusing on three issues: Trade and Investment Liberalisation; Business Facilitation; Economic and Technical Cooperation
  - Hosting country has strong agenda-setting power
    - Terrorism had been a key subject following 9.11
  - Japan and the US had different expectations on APEC
    - Regional economic development vs. market-based liberalization

- The US’s role in Southeast Asian regionalism
  - US: an important partner in the Southeast Asian security order
  - The US market remains the largest for Southeast Asia
  - However, the US commitment to Southeast or East Asian regionalism is not always for certain…
Southeast Asia regionalism under redefinition

- The features of Southeast Asian regionalism
  - ASEAN: a regional organization with international standing
  - A distinctive set of regional norms and diplomatic practice
  - Standing at the centre of various regional cooperative initiatives

- The future of regionalism in Southeast Asia
  - Which one will be the most important regional forum?
    - ASEAN, APT, EAS, APEC or possible EAC…
  - At which territorial level will regionalism continue to evolve?
    - Southeast Asia, East Asia, or Asia-Pacific…
  - Will Southeast Asian countries (and ASEAN) remain at the centre of future regional cooperation in East Asia?