

**THE POTENTIAL OF THE EAST ASIAN COMMUNITY
TO DEEPEN EAST ASIAN REGIONALISM**

**BY
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CERTIFICATE OF ORIGINAL AUTHORSHIP

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ABSTRACT

This study analyses the East Asian Community (EAC) initiative for its potential in promoting regionalism in East Asia. The main aim of the study is to examine the development of the EAC building process since the regional financial crisis of 1997, which led to a new wave of regionalism in East Asia. The study examines whether the EAC as a form of bandwagoning strategy can deepen East Asian regionalism through national interests and policies used by ASEAN and Japan, China and the United States in pushing for East Asian cooperation. The study particularly focuses upon the impediments to the process of EAC building and how competing forums, initiatives, conflicts and disputes between regional countries have distracted countries from developing an EAC.

The significance of the study is to deepen understanding of the nature of East Asian regionalism and the fate of specific initiatives relative to overall regional and international relations. My research findings indicate that the EAC does not look like becoming an organisation that significantly deepens regional cooperation. East Asian regionalism is characterised by a plethora of regional initiatives. The EAC was proposed as a political organisation to for smaller and weaker countries to bandwagon with regional great powers, thereby contributing to peace and prosperity. In this thesis I argue, however, that there are many barriers in the way of building the EAC. The obstacles seem greater than the drivers for building the EAC, and lead to the conclusion that the fate of the EAC is unlikely to be more successful than other previous regional initiatives. Although the EAC initiative has been supported by both the stronger and weaker countries in the region, the support is on the surface only and is not substantial or deep enough to achieve all that is hoped for.

Key words: Regionalism, East Asian regionalism, regional cooperation, regional integration, regional integration policy

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GLOSSARY AND ACRONYM LIST

A-J TLCB	The Guideline for ASEAN-Japan Transport Logistics Capacity building
AADCP	ASEAN – Australia Development Cooperation Program
ABMI	Asian Bond Markets Initiative
ABMI	Asian Bond Market Initiative
ACCI	ASEAN Cooperation on Climate Change Initiative
ACCP	ASEAN Cyber Capacity Program
ACFTA	ASEAN – China Free Trade Area
ACTI	ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADIC	ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration
ADMM	ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting
ADMM+	ADMM - Plus
AEC	ASEAN Economic Community
AEM	ASEAN Economic Ministers
AFC	Asian Financial Crisis
AFMM	ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Meeting
AFTA	ASEAN Free Trade Area
AHMM	ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting
AIA	ASEAN Investment Area
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
ALAWMM	ASEAN Law Ministers’ Meeting
ALMM	ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting
AMBDC	ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation
AMCA	ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts
AMEM	ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting
AMF	Asian Monetary Fund
AMM	ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting
AMMAF	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agricultural and Forestry
AMMDM	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management
AMME	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment
AMMIN	ASEAN Ministers on Minerals
AMMST	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology
AMMSWD	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development
AMMTC	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime
AMRDPE	ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
AMTI	Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative
APC	Asia Pacific Community
APC	Asian and Pacific Council
APEC	Asia - Pacific Economic Cooperation
APSC	ASEAN Political-Security Community
APT	ASEAN Plus Three
ARF	Asian Regional Forum
ASC	ASEAN Security Community
ASCC	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN-NDI	ASEAN Network for Drugs, Diagnostics and Vaccines Innovation
ASEAN-US PROGRESS	ASEAN – US partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development and Security
ASEAN+1	ASEAN Plus One (separately with China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, European Union, United States, and Canada)
ASEAN +3	ASEAN Plus Three (10 ASEAN members with China, Japan and South Korea)
ASEAN +6	ASEAN Plus Six (10 ASEAN members with China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and India)
ASED	ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting
ASEM	Asia-Europe Meeting
ASPAC	Asia-Pacific Council
ATM	ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting
BFA	Boao Forum for Asia
BREXIT	The process by which the United Kingdom withdraws from the European Union (EU)
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
CEPT	Common Effective Preferential Tariff
CLCS	Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
CMIM	Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation
COC	South China Sea Code of Conduct
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPP	Cambodian People’s Party
CRA	Contingent Reserve Arrangement
SRA	Silk Road Arrangement
CSIS	Center for Strategic and International Studies
DOC	Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea
DPRK	Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
EAC	East Asian Community
EAEC	East Asian Economic Caucus
EAFF	East Asian Forum
EAFTA	East Asian Free Trade Area/Agreement
EAS	East Asia Summit
EAVG	East Asia Vision Group
EC	European Community
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EPA(s)	Economic Partnership Agreement(s)
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FONOPS	US Navy conducted Freedom of Navigations Operations
FTA(s)	Free Trade Agreement(s)
FTAAP	Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IAI	Second Initiative for ASEAN Integration
ICAPP	International Conference of Political Parties in the Asia-Pacific
ISG	International Support Group

JACEP	Japan – ASEAN Comprehensive Economic Partnership
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
M-ATM	ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meetings
NAFTA	North America Free Trade Area
NDB	New Development Bank
NEAT	Network of East Asia Think Tanks
NGOs	Non-governmental Organisations
NMD	National Missile Defence
NMI	New Miyazawa Initiative
OBOR	One Belt One Road
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PCA	Permanent Court of Arbitration
PSI	Proliferation Security Initiative
PTA	Preferential Trade Agreements
RCEP	Regional Cooperation Economic Partnership
ROK	Republic of Korea
RRMAS	ASEAN - Japan regional Road Map for Aviation Security
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
SEA	Southeast Asia
SEATO	Southeast Asian Treaty Organisation
SLD	Shangri - La Dialogue
SNI	Standard National of Indonesia
SOM	Senior Officials Meeting
SPS	Sanitary and PhytoSanitary
TAC	Treaty of Amity and Cooperation
TELMIN	ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting
TMD	Theater Missile Defence
TPP	Trans-Pacific Partnership
TPP11	11 remaining countries still discussing the TPP: Australia, Brunei, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam
TPSEP	Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement
TREATI	Trans-Regional EU-ASEAN Trade Initiative
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
US	United States
VAP	Vientiane Action Programme
WTO	World Trade Organisation
YSEALI	The Young Southeast Asian Leader Initiative

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DEDICATION

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