

ASEAN+3 Connectivity: Perspectives and Prospects
Organised by National Institute of International Strategy (NIIS),
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ASEAN+3 INTEGRATION: A MALAYSIAN PERSPECTIVE

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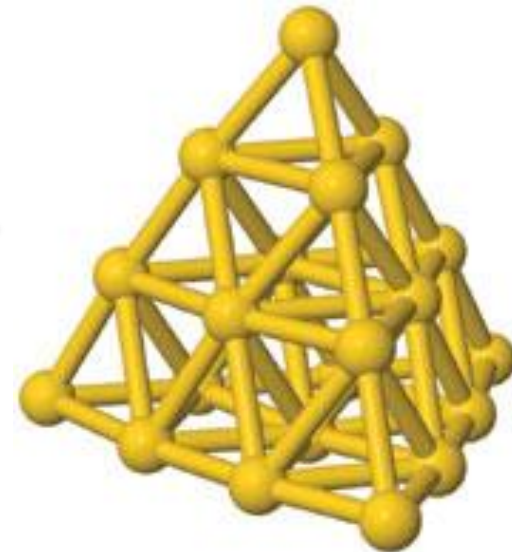
contents

- APT is important
- What is hindering the integration process?
- Comments – Malaysia and the APT

What's
Next?

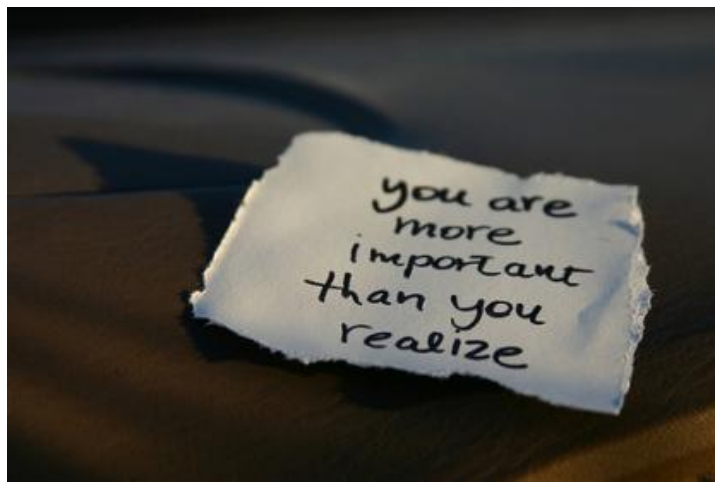
15 years on, APT is important

1. APT is the most developed/established amongst all ASEAN processes
 - EAEC, ASEM, EASG, CAFTA
 - the AFC was the catalyst in bringing us much closer together and promote macroeconomic and financial stability in the region as well as in individual ASEAN countries.



15 years on, APT is important

2. Trade and investment is growing and becoming more important
 - Greater outward-oriented trade and FDI policies towards ASEAN due to ASEAN+1 FTAs, APEC
 - CJK MNCs and firms have production networks and supply chains throughout ASEAN
 - Improved digital and physical connectivity and support services have increased cross-border T&I
 - Rapid growth by China has contributed to closer economic links



15 years on, APT is important

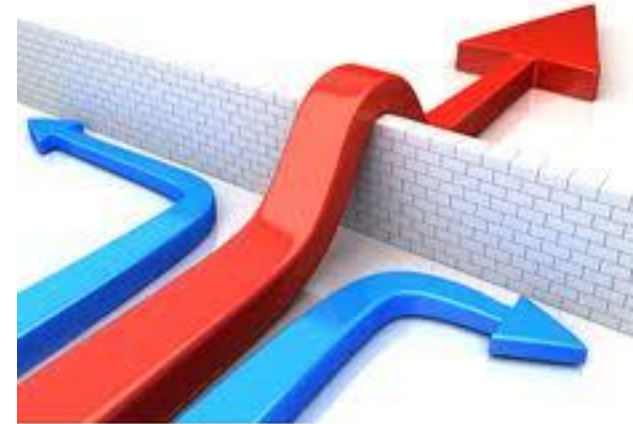
3. APT has the most agreements, and more integrated, than other ASEAN processes

4. There are efforts to move APT much closer together
 - APT is becoming more functional with ASEAN processes (e.g. MPAC)

3. History and culturally connected
 - historical experiences tie the region's countries together

challenges to the APT integration process

1. Vulnerabilities in the world economy
2. Align differences in political, interests and priorities of APT countries
3. Conflicting interests among the APT members could constrain the extent to which cooperation takes place
 - Widening economic gap between rich and poor countries
4. Amalgamation of FTAs/RTAs
 - APEC, TPP, RCEP and other bilateral FTAs



but the question is ...



in light of the ongoing events ...

WHERE IS MALAYSIA?



comments

1. Malaysia has always adopted the concentric circle approach
 - AEC-APT-EAS
 - Fits the idea of ASEAN Centrality



comments

2. APT has the most attention

- 65 mechanisms for functional cooperation
- EAVG II
 - how to strengthen cooperation after 15 years
 - Greater involvement of the people: EAC



comments

3. Focus on APT has always been strong, and will only get stronger

4. APT has a stronger comparative advantage than other similar processes
 - APT in Finance: 13 out of 65 mechanisms
 - However, EAS has its own advantage in disaster management than the APT



comments

5. The concentric circle approach is not based on ideology.

- Pragmatic approach with the APT region – increase interdependency in trade, investment and cultural exchanges.

6. APT countries should promote further integration without outside interference



Thank You

