

Regional Integration in Asia Course Outline

Regional integration is facilitated by flows of trade, investment, and human resources, which can be intensified by bilateral and pluri-lateral agreements designed to remove the barriers to such flows. When barriers are completely removed, a single market emerges like that of European Union. This course begins with an examination of regional integration in Asia driven by traditional mechanisms of trade and investment under the multilateral framework (WTO) since WWII, with a particular focus on foreign direct investment of Japanese multinationals in Southeast Asia and South Asia which exemplifies a “flying geese” pattern. It then moves into major pluri-lateral agreements, including ASEAN, APEC, CPTPP, RCEP, and bilateral free trade agreements emanated from China, Japan, Korea, and India. It then delves into the topic of labor movement, which has become increasingly important in recent years in facilitating regional integration, focusing on national policies and economic and social effects of labor migration. Finally, the course takes on the issue of digital trade, which has become a new force for cross-border integration through the connections in cyber space. Basic knowledge in trade theory and microeconomics is a pre-requisite for this course.