

Foreword

Globalization has been growing at an exponential rate in all areas of economics. The current global financial crisis, which arguably began (or at least the dams broke) in September 2008, will no doubt provoke a steep global economic contraction in the near future, and, with, it the pace of globalization will slow . . . momentarily. But the globalization trend will continue.

Developing countries have become not only an important part of the globalization process but, perhaps, its main protagonist. As suggested by Jagdish Bhagwati in his important work, *In Defense of Globalization*, in the 1950s and 1960s the developed world embraced globalization while the developing world resisted; in the 2000s, the roles have changed: the developing world is forcing the issues of trade liberalization (especially in agriculture and labor-intensive manufacturing, which tend to be the most protected), labor migration, and the like, while the developed countries are resisting.

Regional integration across developing countries has also been rising. Regional economic cooperation accords between developing countries have been around for a long time in various forms, but they have especially proliferated over the past five years. By far the most successful, and in many ways the most ambitious, is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a group that has been around since 1967 and started to become very serious about regional economic integration in the early 1990s.

I have been privileged to witness this evolution of ASEAN integration since I started working on the subject with Seiji Naya, Director of Research and my former boss at the East-West Center; Nargonchai Akrasanee, former Minister of Commerce of Thailand and currently Executive Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of Thailand; the late Kernial Sandhu, founding Director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies; and Cesar Virata, former Prime Minister of the Philippines. They have been excellent teachers over the years and even better friends and colleagues.

This volume represents new work on ASEAN integration with revisions of selected older studies, some of which were co-authored with associates inside and outside ASEAN. They include Reid Click of George Washington University (Chapters 5 and 6), Ganeshan Wignaraja of the Asian Development Bank (Chapter 7), and, of course Seiji Naya of the East-West Center and the University of Hawaii (Chapter 9).

My work on ASEAN and economic integration more generally have been influenced and improved greatly by an army of colleagues who have always been generous with their time and ideas. To name a few: Max Kreinin, Charles Morrison, Chung Lee, Ted James, Nancy Lewis, Chia Siow Yue, Peter Petri, Shigeyuki Abe, Masahiro Kawai, Richard Pomfret, Wisarn Pupphavesa, Mohammed Ariff, Hadi Soesastro, Hal Hill, James Wallar, David Martin, Des Grimble, Tim Buehrer, Pearl Imada-Iboshi, Giovanni Capannelli and Robert McCleery. They have all contributed in one way or another to this work (without assigning culpability!). Alexandra Jarotschkin assisted me in finalizing the manuscript.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff of the East-West Center, including Ralph Carvalho, Kim Fujiuchi, and Laura Moriyama, and Barbara Wiza of the Bologna Center, for all of their help and support over the years.

Michael G. Plummer
November 28, 2008
Bologna, Italy