

# The Asia-Pacific Regional Economic Integration: Coopetition vs. Conflict

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## **Astract**

In the process of economic globalization, promoting regional trade agreements or regional cooperation has become a plausible strategy to attract foreign direct investment and to promote national competitiveness in the global level. Nonetheless, facing the differential national economic interests and the needs of protection domestic industries, as well as the diverse level of economic liberation domestically, every countries involving FTA negotiation is in the struggle of securing economic sovereignty and national economic development.

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region are in the same situation. Since the 1990s, the Asia-Pacific regional economic integration is accelerating, although the progress of the economic integration in the region starts late in contrast to the EU and NAFTA. The US-lead TPP and the China-lead RCPT are two undergoing high-standard free trade agreement in the region. Both FTAs are expected to reach conclusion in the end of 2015.

This paper aims to analyze how countries balance economic sovereignty while work for promoting national economic development on the other hand when they are involving in TPP and RCPT negotiation. This research will adopt a micro-macro research model by defining all the negotiations and documentations of TPP and RCPT as the crux of micro-analysis so that concluding the consensuses established by these policy documents from various sources.

Subsequently, the final progress of the negotiation of the multilateral agreement will be treated as the objective for macro-analysis so that by confirming the appropriate linkage between each participating countries' decision for balancing between domestic economic sovereignty and further integrating into regional economic cooperation institutions can verify the validity of the proposition for this research project. All the essentials concluded by this study may serve as the reference elements for long term strategic assessment.

**Keywords:** Regional Economic Integration, TPP, RCPT, the Asian-Pacific Region, Free Trade Agreement