

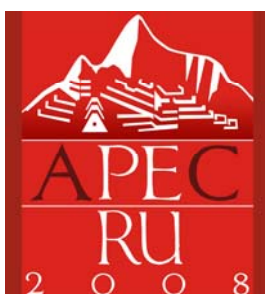


**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Accommodating Multiple Regional Configurations in the Design of Institutional Architecture in the Asia Pacific

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Australia



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**ACCOMMODATING MULTIPLE
REGIONAL CONFIGURATIONS IN
THE DESIGN OF INSTITUTIONAL
ARCHITECTURE IN THE ASIA
PACIFIC**

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**GROWING SUPPORT FOR AN ASIA
PACIFIC COMMUNITY?**

- Ideas floated in my paper in Melbourne
- New proposal from Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd for an Asia Pacific Community
- Such a Community would be inclusive of all players and comprehensive in its vision
- How does this fit with recent developments in the region?

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION

- Continued rise of Asia, and changing balance of power in the global system
- New forms of Pan-Asian identity may be emerging – the creation of a new continent?
- China now setting the pace for regional cooperation
- But also a power struggle for influence and leadership in Asia
- Comprehensive approach to regional community building in the ASEAN Charter of 2007

OVERLAPPING AND CONFLICTING REGIONAL CONFIGURATIONS

- Key motivations for regional groupings
- Deepening functional cooperation
- Regional identity
- Geopolitical weight

GOVERNMENT OR “OFFICIAL” REGIONALISATION

- Evidence from bilateral and multilateral agreements
- In most cases economic benefits from bilateral deals are minimal
- Paramount strategic concerns
- Influence of 9/11
- Aims of big powers in such agreements
- Different views of smaller nations: preference for regional or multilateral agreements
- Thus major divergence of interests

CITY & PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

- High level of competition for investment
- Creation and deepening of local networks of suppliers
- Example of Pearl River Delta
- Creation of agglomeration economies
- International networks of city cooperation

PRIVATE SECTOR OR “BOTTOM UP” REGIONALISATION

- Special role of production networks
- Rationale for such networks
- Defining feature of Asian production system
- Emergence of international networks
- Production zones and growth triangles
- Central role of technology
- Creation of new patterns of interaction between nations
- International trade and investment corridors

SPECIAL PURPOSE ORGANISATIONS

- Environmental issues
- International crime
- Terrorism
- Pandemics and human security

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

- Cultural and ethnic linkages
- Non-governmental policy networks such as PECC and CSCAP
- Advocacy groups
- Discussion groups and roundtables
- All attempt to influence government policy

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE DESIGN OF REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE

- Overlapping configurations for specific purposes of general overarching bodies?
- Where are the outer boundaries?
- Asia Pacific Community or Asian Community, or both?