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- great summary  
- interesting opinion

### Summary on June-20 lecture

The class started with the difference between ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) which aims for the integration between all 10 member countries with the 3 main pillars and AEC (ASEAN Economic Community) which focuses on the economic integration or one of the main purposes of ASEAN. The association was first established during the Cold War in order to balance the power competition from the communist domino effect by the initiation of Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Philippines, and later Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar, and Vietnam (known as CLMV countries) joining the group. This was to promote regional cooperation and ensure stability of the member countries. At first, trade liberalization was made through selective negotiations mainly for large industrial projects and financial cooperation and the impact of the association was not strong until the member countries agreed on AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area) to be more competitive in the global markets (FDIs attraction) and increase intra ASEAN trade by reducing tariffs between member countries and creating trade and financial organizations. In 2003, the direction of economic integration had changed by the concern over the weakened ability to attract FDIs of member countries after 1997 financial crisis and the rise of China and India as new FDI destinations. Therefore, the AEC was proposed to better their performances and bridge their development gaps with plans to have free trade agreement with other 6 external countries: China, Korea, Japan, India, Australia, and New Zealand. To be specific, it targets single market (free flows of goods and services), single production base (free flows of investment, capital, and skilled labor), and other principles (to be competitive economic region, equitable economic development, and integration into the global economy). In the present, ASEAN is considered as a big economy both in trade and GDP for being ranked the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economy in Asia with the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest population in the world of more than 50% being under 30 years old. It is also known for having rapid growth, low volatility, and appropriate inflation rate. Within ASEAN, the fastest growing countries are CLMV countries and the services sector takes the highest share of overall ASEAN GDP. Each member country has their own fields of key industries thus having different GDP share of production structure. ASEAN has had the trade surplus since the 2000s. China also has been the big partner for the region both in export and import and there are also other countries which has grown and declined in trade as well. The biggest share of FDIs sources in 2017 is from the region with the wholesale and retail sector being largest FDIs inflow receiver. Note that Singapore is the biggest FDI receiver of all ASEAN countries and Vietnam if counted only CLMV. All member countries except Brunei and Singapore have minimum wages. Thailand and Singapore are the countries with ageing and aged population of at least one fourth to the total of their population, highest in the region. Most countries have improved rate of access to sanitation, secondary education enrollment, adult literacy, education expenditure share to GDP and communication via internet.

In my opinion, AEC had started since December 2015, almost 4 years now, but it seems to me that there is not many things that have changed by the integration. Moreover, Thailand's economy seems to have lagged behind other countries in ASEAN for some time already according to the statistics shown in the lecture note. I also think that this may be because of Thailand's political instability being one of the factors that has some effect on its economy to some extent for a long time. This also makes me wonder whether it will be problematic when it comes to when the countries have to talk about another main pillar, APSC or the ASEAN Political Security Community, in the future or not. The most interesting

part of the lecture which I have never known about before (because it was never taught in my high school classes even though ASEAN was included in many subjects' curriculum) is about the establishment of ASEAN as it is to fight against the Communism which at that time the power of the regime was very strong.

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### Summary on June-21 lecture

The area of the ancient Funan Empire is now the land of Cambodia whose capital city is at Phnom Penh and is governed by constitutional monarchy under a multiparty democracy. Currently, it just had a new government through election. More than half of its population is under 25 years old and most of them lives in rural area. Those who live in urban area are normally well-educated and eager to work with global companies. Its economy has been growing steadily and rapidly at around 7% per year since 1985. Cambodia and Thailand had first made diplomatic contact with each other in 1950, 3 years before Cambodia got its independence from France, thus making 2020 the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the diplomatic relationship. We also have interlinked history and similar culture. Currently, the relations are considered excellent as there is no conflict between countries. The bilateral relations were made by many official visits whether they are people to people level, ministerial level, top leaders visits, and royal visits. It is also the tradition of member countries in ASEAN for a new leader of a country to visit the others to introduce themselves. There are many bilateral mechanisms such as joint commission on bilateral cooperation (cooperation in all fields), general border committee (about stability along borders), the governor of Cambodia-Thai border provinces meeting, and joint cabinet retreat (about all important issues between countries). In the present, there are more Cambodian tourists visiting Thailand than Thai tourists visiting Cambodia. The lecturer said that this is because some Thai people still have negative thought about Cambodians, Cambodians have positive thoughts towards Thailand (including health care system, traveling spots, etc.), and the traveling cost to travel to Thailand is cheaper than within country for Cambodians. As mentioned before, the Thai royal visits have made a lot of contribution to Cambodian education system as HRH Sirindhorn helped renovate, establish schools and create scholarships. The free education program in Thailand also educate the Cambodian children along the borders. There are many Cambodian migrants both legal and illegal working in Thailand to escape poverty and political conflict in their own country. However, they are changing the destination to work their local companies instead. There are many bilateral border checkpoints that both countries try to upgrade to international level to capture all trade values crossing the borders. In the aspect of economy and investment, Cambodia has signed agreement on investment promotion and protection with 29 countries to attract foreign investment. In bilateral trade, Cambodia has imported Thai goods more than it exported. Moreover, Thai investment in Cambodia has doubled from 2017 to 2018. There are many SEZs or Special Economic Zones in Cambodia both connected and unconnected to Thailand borders. Currently, as there are many tourists crossing the borders, the countries try to ease the process of traveling and drive trade volume by linking the rail road and bridge. The lecture then moved to CLMV mechanism, it aims to reduce the development gaps between CLMV countries and other ASEAN countries. There is also ACMECS, basically CLMV and Thailand, which focuses on complementing economic gap among member countries and promoting sustainable growth of the sub-region.

In my opinion, I agree with the part which the lecturer said that some Thai people still have negative generalized thoughts about the Cambodians and other neighbor countries' population. Since there are some people who posted their opinions on the social media sites, I found that some people are stuck with the long past of Thailand and other countries being war enemy, and some others gained that thought from the news presenting crimes committed by the immigrants and are seen as their bad culture. I think that the generalization from the latter source is not so true because it is not about the culture, rather it is subjective because

there are still many people who live and work without doing such severe crimes as the news present even though many of them enter Thailand illegally. The most interesting part in the lecture for me is about the history of Thailand Cambodia diplomatic relationship which had started even before Cambodia got independent and entered ASEAN.