

Preface

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シリーズタイトル(英)	IDE Spot Survey
シリーズ番号	12
journal or publication title	Deepening Industrial Linkages Among East Asian Countries - In the Light of International Input-Output Analysis
year	1998
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/2344/00010402

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Despite the ongoing recession triggered by the recent currency crisis, the economies of East Asian countries have enjoyed a period of rapid economic development in the past few decades. One of the underlying factors is the cyclical relationship of mutually re-enforcing mechanism between an increase in foreign direct investment on one hand and sound export performance on the other, which is believed to have constituted an important drive for the sophistication of trade/industrial structures and progress of economic interdependency among the regions. Each country's production system is now deeply enmeshed in a complicated network of international industrial linkages, which rendered a global analytical viewpoint absolutely indispensable for the overall understanding of an economy within the region.

In this regard, Institute of Developing Economies has compiled a series of international input-output tables of East Asian countries as analytical tools for the study of economic interdependencies within the region. *The 1990 Asian International Input-Output Table*, linking Japan, the USA, and each of the eight East Asian countries (Korea, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia), was released in the last December, by which the comprehensive input-output tables covering the most of Asia-Pacific region were made available for the years of 1975, 1985 and 1990.

This report makes quantitative analyses over the changes in deepening international industrial linkages within East Asian region, with an extensive use of the Asian international input-output tables. The chapters open with a summary of discussions and comments on some current pressing issues, followed by an investigation of the general trend of commodity flows between countries by referring to national foreign trade statistics. Then, in the succeeding chapters, minute pictures of deepening industrial linkages are examined both at national and international levels for the particular years of 1975, 1985 and 1990. As such, the report is structured to utilize the information from both international input-output tables and the foreign trade statistics in a complementary manner, where the need for informational details (at an industrial level) and timeliness of the data (yearly updates) are simultaneously satisfied.

March 1998

Takao Sano
Hiroshi Osada

The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily coincide with those of the Institute of Developing Economies.