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Amelung, Torsten

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Explaining Regionalization of Trade in Asia Pacific: A Transaction Cost Approach

by

Torsten Amelung

Institut für Weltwirtschaft an der Universität Kiel
The Kiel Institute of World Economics

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Kiel Institute of World Economics
Department IV
Duesternbrooker Weg 120, D-2300 Kiel

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I. Introduction

Recent investigations on the regional distribution of trade flows in the Asia Pacific area suggest that some countries have developed strong bilateral trade links, while others obviously tend to be more closely linked towards trading partners the Asia Pacific area (Amelung (1990)). Moreover, empirical findings indicate that there are groups (clusters) of countries in the Asia Pacific area which - in relative terms - trade more intensively with the members of their group than with other countries of this area or the world. For instance, eighties there was a clear separation between a South East Asian group of trading partners comprising Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand and a group of North East Asian countries encompassing Korea, Taiwan, Japan, China, Hong Kong and the USA as a non-Asian nation. However, the cluster analysis does not explain why this pattern of regionalization emerges. In economic theory the regionalization of trade flows has been attributed to the discrimination of countries through legal (El-Agraa (1988), Nienhaus (1987), p. 84) and natural trade barriers (Langhammer (1983), Deardorff (1987)). Following Viner's custom unions theory (Viner (1950)) a group of countries can negotiate preferential stariff treatment for their members, thus discriminating against non-member countries. Given such an institutional arrangement regional trade is expected to rise as a consequence of trade creation and trade diversion. Moreover, regionalization of flows can be enhanced by differences in transport costs resulting from the spatial remoteness of trading partners. As Deardorff shows, these differentials may affect both the direction and composition of trade, since they constitute natural trade barriers.

However, the process of regionalization in Asia Pacific can hardly be explained by preferential treatment and differences in transport costs. Beside the New Zealand-Australia Free Trade Arrangement, institutional arrangements such as the Bangkok Agreement or even the ASEAN PTA have not been successful, as

their impact on regional trade flows was negligible (Brockmann, Hofmann, Rieger (1990); Amelung (1989); Wong (1988)).

Moreover, spatial distance between trading partners in Asia Pacific is not likely to cause large differences in transport costs that could explain a regionalization of trade flows. bulk of trade in the Asia Pacific area is due to sea transport (Yeats (1981, 1982)). Transportation by ship is subject to quite low freight costs, which are a function of distance, while major component of shipment cost is terminal costs. This to the fact that spatial distance between trading partners have a comparatively low impact on transport costs and on the degree of regionalization.

Nevertheless, there are a few other obstacles to trade which may lead to the regionalization of trade flows (see Table 1). These obstacles are market imperfections in the sense of the neoclassical model of perfectly competitive markets in general equilibrium (Schenk (1982)). Such imperfections are sometimes identified with transaction costs, even though this The opportunity costs of obstacles or trade strictly correct. measured by the gains from trade foregone. contrast, transaction costs are incurred, when the transactors attempt to overcome these obstacles through market-making activities (Casson (1982)). Such activities require the allocation of resources such as labour, energy or capital (see Table 1). Hence, transaction costs are private costs for the transactors and determine the profitability of trade from the firms' perspective (Williamson (1979)).

This paper focusses on the question whether differences in transaction costs across countries may affect the direction of trade and the degree of regionalization in Asia Pacific. The second chapter features the variety of transaction costs involved in international trade and shows how differences in transaction costs between countries may explain regional trading patterns. In the third chapter these theoretical findings will be tested empirically for the trade flows in the Asia Pacific region.

Table 1: Classification of Marketing-making Activities

Obstacle to trade	Marketing-making activity	Major resource input
No contact between buyer and seller	Contact-making via search or advertisement	Administrative labour
No knowledge of reciprocal wants	Specification of the trade and communication of details to each party	Administrative labour
No agreement over price	Negotiation	Administrative labour
No confidence that goods correspond to specification	Monitoring: i.e. screening of quality, metering of quantity, timing of instalments, observation of "contingent" events	Administrative labour
Need to exchange custody of goods	Transport	Energy, applied via manual utilization of transport equipment
Tariffs, taxes on gains from trade, price regulations, quotas	Payment of taxes and tariffs. Avoidance or evasion of taxes, tariffs, regulations or quotas	Administrative labour
No confidence that restitution will be made for default	Enforcement	Administrative labour

Source: Casson (1982).

II. Transaction Costs involved in International Trade

International trade involves an exchange of goods, services. information and capital between trading partners in different countries. Such an exchange bears higher transaction costs domestic trade, as international trade differs from trade within national boundaries in three ways. Firstly, international is affected by the lack of enforceable laws. On the national laws guarantee property rights for each transactor level such engaging in an exchange of goods and capital. Individuals trade internationally run the risk of expropriation and wilful default. For instance, an exporter may not be in a position enforce any legal action against a customer abroad, if the latter refuses to pay in time. In the same vein, a bank extending a loan the risk of wilful default without to foreign creditors runs compensation. Moreover, enforceable legal claims for national trading partners deliberately expose themselves to foreign exchange risk as international payments are due to other currencies than the legal tenders of the trading partners. risks, which all can be hedged by respective insurance contracts, add to the costs of international transactions, no matter if transactors buy an insurance contract or not.

Secondly, international trade can involve an exchange of goods between two proportionally remote trading partners. On average, the geographical distance between domestic trading partners should be lower than between international trading partners. The costs of moving goods or services over space can be expected to rise with increasing distance. As a result, international trade in goods and services can be subject to higher distance-induced transaction costs than national trade.

Thirdly, trading in goods and services involves intense communication between trading partners. Especially, the gathering of information or the bargaining and contracting inhibit costs both on national and international transactions. However, costs of communication are likely to be higher in international trade, since on the national level there is a wide range of costless

public information services. In addition, the exchange of information tends to be more difficult when the trading partners do not share a common ethnic and cultural origin. Hence, the information requirements needed to engage in business with foreigners are larger in international than in domestic trade.

Summing up, there are three factors determining transaction costs in international trade, namely the lack of enforceable property spatial distance between trading partners and rights, the the information goods. In order to determine in what wav these factors impact on the structure and the direction of analysis of international trade, a more detailed the kinds of transaction costs is needed.

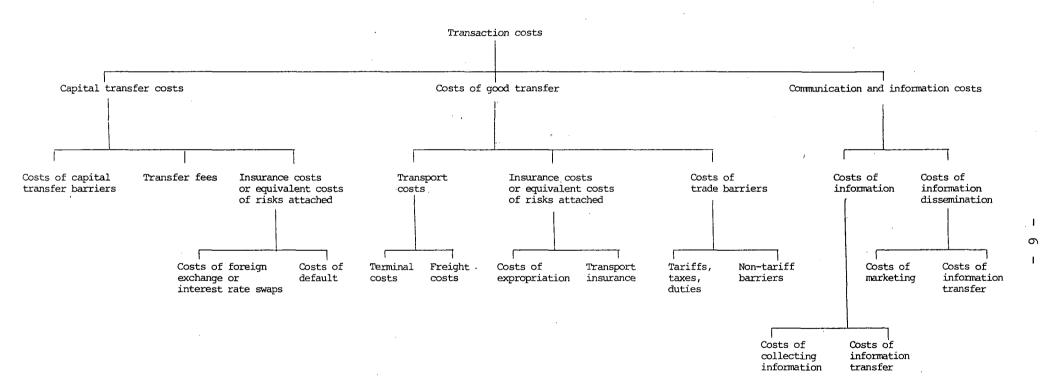
Following Vahlne and Wiedersheim-Paul (1977) international trade in goods and services involves three kinds of transactions namely flows of goods, capital and information. Each of these transactions are subject to various transaction costs as they are given in Table 2.

a) Communication and Information Costs

Communication and information costs encompass all resources which domestic firms allocate towards the gathering of information on firms, products and foreign countries (information costs) as well as the processing and supply of information to the foreign market and trading partner (costs of dissemination). The processing of information facilitates an orderly decision-making process on part of the trading partners (Bates (1988)).

The collection of information on a foreign market is costly, since many of its characteristics cannot be expected to generally known but have to be investigated. One crucial that determines the availability of information is the government's information policy. Many governments regard information and its diffusion as a public good and therefore subsidize institutions providing costless information or contacts between trading partners. In this respect, the information policy of

Table 2: Overview on the Kinds of Transaction Costs in International Trade



country does also affect the direction of trade flows, since these government information services focus on particular foreign trading partners and products. This involves a discrimination against products and markets which are neglected by the government's information policy. In general, the government tends to provide more information services on domestic than on foreign affairs. Hence, domestic suppliers of goods have a natural advantage in information costs vis-à-vis foreign suppliers, so that differences in information sets can serve as natural trade barriers (Ringle (1977), p.45)).

As far as information on foreign markets is not publicly available, firms wishing to engage in foreign trade have to investigate this information on their own account. In general, investigations are inhibited by cultural, social, religious and ethnic differences (see Caves 1971, p. 5). Hence, the information cost intensity of trade for a domestic firm exporting depends on the country of destination. In case of a strong cultural and lingual affinity between the home country of the exporter and the importing country, costs of information and information dissemination can be expected to be less relevant (see Herrmann et al. (1982), p. 16). Basically, exporting firms will prefer those foreign markets where they can rely on comparative advantage in information costs vis-à-vis firms from other countries (see Bilkey and Tesar (1977) and Bilkey (1978). This may lead to a sequence of foreign market entry starting with countries where information costs are lower due to cultural affinity with the country of the exporter (Carlson (1977)). Since cultural affinity is often very high between neighbour states, there is reason to assume that in general foreign trade starts off with neighbour trade.

Cultural affinity evolves as a result of long-term historical processes facilitating cultural exchange, e.g. colonial occupation and migration. In this respect, cultural similarity is also a function of geographical distance, since in many cases prohibitive costs of bridging distances have prevented large-scale migration between remote countries. As a result, avail-

ability of information and cultural similarity can be especially high in neighbour states that have a historical tradition in factor mobility and exchange of information and therefore Even where high information costs may have existed before, they have been gradually removed through historical relations that cultural barriers make less surmountable enhance communication links between two countries (Herrmann et. al. (1982)). As a result of this time-consuming process, the direction of a country's foreign trade may change rather slowly. Due to these historical factors, one can hypothesize that there inertia element in international trade as far as its geographical concentration is concerned.

In addition to these historical aspects, there is also a shortterm self-propelling effect inherent in international trade, since information costs may decline as a result of increasing intensity of foreign trade and information exchange. If an exporter enters a foreign market as a pioneer, he has to engage in costly market making activities one of them being information gathering. Since many information goods do not allow for a exclusion of other users (Bates (1988)), there may be considerable spill-overs of knowledge and information to other firms in the home country of the exporter. For these successors market entrance is clearly less costly than for the pioneer, since the successors behave as free-riders thus using costless information investigated by the pioneer and taking advantage of his costs.

Apart from the costs of gathering information, firms have to come up for the costs of information transfer. The level of transfer costs is highly dependent on the availability of a well-functioning infrastructure for communication. As a result of the cal progress in telecommunication networks, costs of information transfer have been drastically reduced in the last two decades. Nevertheless, a high degree of information transfer costs is still dependent on the distance between trading partners, since to satisfy a large part of their demand for transactors use information through personal contacts. The latter are subject to travel costs that are a function of distance between trading partners (Klaassen (1988), pp. 88-92) and the development of an infrastructure required for passenger transport.

Beside gathering information. firms must also disseminate information on their products and activities to their customers in the foreign market. For instance, firms have to adapt their marketing strategy for the foreign market and effective distribution network. Just like the costs information collection, the adaption costs are affected by the cultural similarity between the trading partners, since the demand for certain products, i.e. food or textiles, is highly dependent on country-specific tastes and customs. The costs of adaption are also generally higher, if the firm exports geneous goods, that are either service-intensive or subject high communication requirements, e.g. non-standarized investment goods (Ringle (1977), Olson and Wiedersheim-Paul (1978), p. For this reason, many exporters have to become multinationals, as these information services cannot be delivered by firms in importing country or treated as a seperate product.

Furthermore, the relevance of information costs is affected by the size and the export orientation of the firms in a Both the costs of collecting information and the costs adaption are fixed costs in the sense that the of unit costs information tend to decline with increasing production (Herrmann et al. (1982), p. 57). Hence, large producers exporting absorptive markets may experience considerable large and formation cost advantages compared to smaller enterprises engaging on a smaller foreign market. Moreover, the cost of adaption in export-oriented enterprises, as these should be lower can make use of their experience and skills that have been accumulated in other foreign markets, if the knowledge is not too country-specific (Caves (1982), chap. 2). Hence, the degree to which information costs form obstacles to trade depends on the size and the international experience of the industries in the exporting and importing countries (Lall, Khanna, Alikhani (1987)).

Up to this point, it has been implicitly assumed that exporter has to bear the information costs. In practice, however, it is not unusual that firms look for suppliers on an national market and are prepared to take over a large amount the information costs required. Given the lack of communication networks and other market-making activities in many developing countries, importers pay a higher share of the information involved in North-South trade than in North-North trade. As result, a high share of the mark-up paid for marketing services in North-South trade may accrue to the importer. Depending on the distribution of transaction costs, there may be different prices of the same product on different markets.

b) Costs of Good and Capital Transfers

Apart from the costs of information, transactors have to pay for the transfer of goods and capital. In this respect, a first group of transaction costs comprises the cost equivalents of barriers to trade and capital transfers, while the latter can be regarded as a non-tariff barrier to trade. As the effect of these obstacles on the direction trade has been broadly discussed in the literature on the custom unions theory (e.g. Amelung (1989); Balassa, Stoutjesdijk (1984); Orantes (1984); El-Agraa (1988)), the further analysis will rather focus on transport costs and risks in international trade.

Transport costs consist of two components: terminal costs which are fixed cost components and freight costs which are a function of distance between transactors. Differences in distance between trading partners impact on the direction of trade, since standard trade theory shows that producers prefer to market their products within their regional entity in order to spend a smaller share of their value-added on transport costs (Yeats (1981), pp. 15-17). Lösch (1954), Earlier works in location theory, e.g. asserted that given increasing freight costs markets may reach a maximum geographical extension, beyond which there is no demand for the good because of prohibitive transport costs. Following Deardorff (1987) transport costs are natural trade barriers in the sense that some goods and services may only be traded within delimited regions thus being non-tradables outside the respective region, while other goods are traded worldwide.

In general, the protective effect of transport costs share of freight costs in total unit costs tends to be lower for goods with a rather high value added, low weight and small size for instance durable consumer goods and capital goods (Langhammer (1987)). By contrast, raw materials and non-durables show a higher intensity of transport costs. As Yeats has shown, there are a number of countries that had to adjust their export structure because they faced a comparative disadvantage in transport costs resulting from their remote geographical position. Yet, there is another component of transport costs which is a positive function of distance and value-added. The owner of the goods transported have to take into account the capital costs of the good for the period of transport.

Beside distance, there are some other factors that can affect the level of transport costs. Transport costs between two countries can be extremely high, when the infrastructure, i.e. railroad tracks, roads, harbours, is not well developed. For instance Yeats (1982) shows that the Philippines had little trade with their regional trading partners, since the sea traffic between the Philippines and the other ASEAN states was underdeveloped and costly. The lack of infrastructure may lead to a phenomenon called roundabout trade, which means that an entrepot trader acts as an intermediary.

Moreover, there is a high fixed cost element in transport namely the terminal costs. If the share of terminal costs in total transport costs is very high, total transport costs per unit of distance will fall considerably with increasing distance. The terminal cost intensity of transport depends on the transport equipment eligible for trade. For instance, terminal costs are fairly low in road transport, while the freight rates are comparatively high. The opposite applies to sea transport, which shows a high intensity of terminal costs. Hence, island eco-

nomies which are heavily dependent on sea transport cannot exploit comparative advantages due to geographical proximity to its trading partners, since the geographical distance does not necessarily reduce transport costs. However, differences in freight costs can enhance regionalization, when neighbour states share a border line that is quite long relative to the size of the two countries. In this case, a higher share of bilateral trade can be conducted via road or rail transport, so that small geographical distance and lower freight costs may impact on the direction of trade.

The equivalent of transport costs in capital transfers are the transfer fees charged for the transfer of capital between two countries. Given the technical progress in the banking sector, distance has no impact on the level of transfer costs. just like the transport cost the costs of capital availability of an infrastructure on the providing market-making activities, i.e. a modern banking sector international communication networks (Thiessen (1988), Chap. 2).

Beside costs of goods and capital transfer, the of expropriation and default form an important cost component international goods and capital transfer. Transactors of goods and capital deliberately expose themselves to risks due to the lack of enforceable property rights in international trade. Contracting parties or their governments may take advantage of this lack of enforcement and default in a contract. On one hand the transactors can insure themselves against such risks. In this case, the insurance premium determines the level of transaction costs between trading partners.

On the other hand, the trading partners can engage in market-making activities that increase the reliability of transactions, and reduce the incentives for breaking contracts. This is done through contractual arrangements that are much more complicated than trade on the national level. Following North (1987) there are basically three kinds of contractual systems, namely personal

exchange, impersonal exchange with third party enforcement and impersonal exchange without third party enforcement.

Personal exchange relies on personal ties between trading partners, like for instance friendship or family membership. Given these ties trading partners have a large set of information about each other, while defaulting in a contract can be tioned by a loss of reputation making the defaulting party an outsider without personal ties. Hence, the personal exchange not subject to high transaction and information costs, there is no need for an extensive checking the reliability of and monitoring the default risk. trading partners Personal exchange in international trade is positively affected by cultural homogeneity of the trading partners. When the trading partners have similar cultural roots, their moral attitudes likely to reveal much resemblance. This may add to the reliability of the partners (North (1987)). Since such conditions especially in smaller geographical regions, personal exchange well-developed in regional and local trade. Moreover, personal exchange is characterized by the frequency of repeat dealings. As the change of trading partners causes substantial information costs and risks to the transactor, there is a tendency towards stable and long-term partnerships. Therefore, a system of personal exchange involves substantial barriers-to-entry for outsiders (see Johanson and Mattsson (1987), p. 2, Carlson (1977), p. 22). As the number of personal ties in a given area are restricted, there are certain limits to the trade potential can evolve under this system of contracting.

By contrast, impersonal exchange is not a function of personal relationships and thus facilitates a substantial expansion of international trade. Impersonal exchange without third party enforcement comprises all contractual arangements, in which information and reliability is not given from the beginning and which cannot be enforced by law. The risk involved in these contractual arrangements is higher than in personal exchange. In the same vein, transaction costs are higher than in the case of personal exchange, since there are high costs of information and

insurance. Under a system of impersonal exchange, foreign trade evolves as a slow process starting off with small and few transactions, as both trading partners have to prove their reliability (1987), p. 5). (Johanson and Mattsson Large firms that internationally known and have developed a widely accepted reputation find it easier to deal with impersonal trade third party enforcement than smaller enterprises, as the former can afford considerable investment in early warning and monitoring systems. Moreover, large firms are in a position to develop a publicly known corporate image or brand name, which adds to reliability as a trading partner and serves as a substitute for the gathering of information. In this respect there are considerable barriers to entry in impersonal exchange. Given barriers in personal exchange and impersonal exchange third party enforcement there is a high degree of inertia as as the geographical concentration of partnerships is concerned.

Impersonal trade with third party enforcement is another form of contracting. In its purest form, transactors can enforce their property rights in the country of their trading partners, even though they are not located However, in that foreign country. impersonal exchange with third party enforcement requires extensive legal cooperation between authorities of two countries. A precondition for such a cooperation is a bilateral of law codes and a willingness for political cooperation. this kind of institutional arrangement between two countries, there is no difference between domestic trade within countries and bilateral trade between these countries. Yet, there are two substitutes for this arrangement. Exporters can also set up subsidiaries in foreign countries and thus become legally treated as domestic firms in nationals that are the importing country. Hence, the firm substitutes the risks due expropriation of export goods and debt default for the risk of corporate expropriation. The latter risk can be regarded as а fixed cost element, while costs due to the former risk are а function of the number of transactions. Hence, this substitution transactions may reduce transaction costs when the frequency of is very high.

The alternative way to reduce risks of default is provided various document-against-payment schemes. The transaction goods and capital is partly taken over by reliable banks which are paid for their international reliability in these transfrom these documents-against-payment schemes actions. Apart international banks provide a broad set of services (e.g. future contracts, export factoring, swap deals) reducing risks individuals engaging transaction costs for in international trade. Especially the risk due to the fluctuation of rates are major obstacles to foreign trade (Nsouli (1984)). Hence, trade can be expected to flourish when there are welldeveloped international banking systems in the home countries of the transactors. A financial system facilitating a trading of risks and monetary cooperation between governments constitute market-making activities reducing transaction costs.

III. The Empirical Impact of Transaction Costs on the Direction of Trade in Asia Pacific

As it was shown in the last section, there are a variety of transaction costs which are obstacles in international trade and cause costs for transactors. Since these costs are not uniform for all countries, it is very likely that differences in these costs may affect the direction of trade. This may lead to a regionalization of trade in the sense that there may be clusters of countries that share low transaction costs and therefore engage in intense bilateral trade relations.

This leads to the question, how bilateral trade links, that is the variable to be explained in the following, can be measured. In an earlier fact-finding study on regionalization in Asia Pacific (Amelung (1990)), the export shares (EXP), i.e. the share of export from country i to country j in total exports of country i, were calculated in order to correct for the differences in size among countries and show the relative importance of bilateral trade links. On the basis of these export shares, it has been shown that there are clear trends of regionalization in the Asia Pacific area. Using regression analysis it will be tested,

whether it is possible to establish a causal relationship between these export shares and transaction cost for bilateral trade in 17 Asia Pacific countries, as they are listed in Table A1 in the appendix. However, the endogenous variable is subject to fluctuation because of changes in export prices and quantities. For this reason, export shares have been averaged on the basis of export values for the 1981-1987 period.

a) The Model and Data Sources

As far as the exogenous variables are concerned, there is a striking lack of data on transaction costs that enter the cost calculations of transactors engaging in international trade. For this reason one has to resort to proxies that can be derived from the hypotheses discussed in the last section. The model that will be tested for the Asia Pacific area comprises the following variables:

Export =
$$a + b_1$$
 HIST + b_2 CRED + b_3 CUL + b_4 EXST + b_5 LAB
+ b_6 DIS + b_7 CAP + b_8 BOR + b_9 PCI + b_{10} PROT
+ b_{11} SIZE + b_{12} DASEAN + b_{13} DBANG + b_{14} DSPFT

The first variable is the historical level of export shares (HIST). (Table A1 in the appendix provides a complete lists of all variables and countries.) It can be hypothesized that this variable is positively related to the export values of the 1981-1987 period. There are two reasons for that. Firstly, it can be argued that relationships between trading partners are fairly robust due to high barriers-to-entry as a result of costs and risks involved in international trade. Secondly, trade has a self-propelling effect, since information diffusion can reduce information costs over time. The diffusion of information occurs faster the more individuals have obtained that kind of information. For this reason, information costs can be expected to decline more rapidly between pairs of countries that have tradition in bilateral trade and and thus a high degree of

information on the trading partners (inertia element in international trade). In an earlier study by Herrmann et al. (1982) trade data of 1900 have been taken in order to explain the trade flows between OECD countries in the seventies. The measuring of historical trade flows is somehow difficult, since many countries in the Asia Pacific area achieved their independence after the Second World War. Statistical data reaching back to the colonial period are either not available or not reliable. For this reason, export shares for 1966 have been calculated, as they can be obtained from the IMF Direction of Trade Statistics.

The second variable (CRED) refers to sovereign risk involved in international trade. The higher the reliability in transactions the more trade can be expected to grow between two trading partners. The credibility of trading partners can be proxied by the debt default risk of the particular countries. The respective country ratings ranging from 0 for bad debtors and 100 for good ones have been derived from the publications of the Institutional Investor. The CRED variable features the sum of these ratings for the two trading partners in 1985.

Another risk component in foreign trade is due to exchange rate fluctuations. The variable EXST measures the correlation coefficient of the two trading partners' exchange rate vis-à-vis the US\$. A high positive correlation coefficient would imply a relative stability in the exchange rate movements of the trading partners. The opposite is true for negative exchange rate fluctuations, since in this case an appreciation of one currency is accompanied by a depreciation of the other.

In order to capture the effects of barriers to capital transfers, the percentage difference between the official and market exchange rate was averaged on the basis of yearly from Pick's Currency Yearbook (now called World Currency book) for the period 1981-1986. It can be argued that this percentage difference is higher the more exchange controls implemented. The CAP variable proxying the extent of calculated transfer barriers between trading partners was follows:

$$CAP_{ij} = \frac{1}{7} \sum_{t=1980}^{1986} \frac{b_{jt} - e_{jt}}{e_{jt}}$$

where b_{jt} is the black market rate in the year t for the importing country j and e_{jt} is the respective official or effective exchange rate.

In addition, there are transaction costs resulting from tariffs and non-tariff barriers. Since data on the implicit protection for our sample of countries are not available, we took a dummy variable PROT in order to capture the effect of protectionism on foreign trade. These dummies have been derived from classifications of countries with respect to their degree of outward orientation, as it is available in the World Development Report 1987 for the period 1973-1985. In this report a broad sample developing countries have been classified into various i.e. strongly outward oriented, moderately outward oriented, moderately inward oriented and strongly oriented. The PROT variable shows the degree of inward orientation for the importing country. The dummy equals 0 (1) for strongly (moderately) outward oriented countries and 3 (2) strongly (moderately) inward oriented countries.

Preferential tariff treatment resulting from institutional integration schemes was proxied by introducing dummies for their member countries. DBANG equals 1 for the member countries of the Bangkok Agreement in the sample (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, South Korea). In the same vein, dummies were introduced for the ASEAN countries (DASEAN; Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand), the South Pacific Free Trade Arrangement (DSPFT; Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea), and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (DSAARC, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan).

Moreover, the CUL variable measures the cultural homogeneity of countries. As it was discussed in the last chapter cultural homogeneity of trading partners reduces risks, costs of information, marketing and bargaining. Hence the regression

coefficient is expected to yield a positive sign. The index of cultural similarity used in the regresssion was calculated as follows:

$$CUL_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{n} \min \left[\frac{e_{ik}}{n} - \frac{e_{jk}}{n} \right]$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} e_{ik} - \sum_{k=1}^{n} e_{jk}$$

where e_{i1} (e_{i2}) is the number of population belonging to the ethnic group k in country i (j). The data for the calculation of the index have been obtained from the Fischer Weltalmanach (1985) and refer to 1981 and 1982 depending on the particular countries.

Earlier studies, e.g. Herrmann et al. (1982) or Abebe (1980) have tested the lingual affinity by analyzing whether the official languages in pairs of countries are identified. Since English is a widely accepted language in Asia Pacific, it does not make sense to test lingual similarity as communication costs are not likely to evolve because of language problems. For this reason, in this study the ethnic origin of the population was taken as a yardstick in order to assess whether cultural similarity can impact on personal ties, resemblance of customs and habits etc.

Next, two variables with a geographical dimension enter the equation. The first one, DIS, measures the distance between the main ports of the respective trading partners thus serving as a proxy for freight costs. The distance variable has been measured by using the Reeds Marine Distance Table. However, it has to be noted that this variable implicitly measures other transaction costs. For instance, communication is often subject to extensive business travelling, which costs more the larger the distance is. Moreover, it is likely that cultural homogeneity is correlated with geographical distance, since historical migration is function of geographical distance.

The other geographical variable, BOR, attempts to proxy the relevance of border trade due to geographical conditions. If two nations share a border which is very long relative to their size,

there is a high potential of regional trade, since road and rail transport is more important. The proxy for geographical conditions facilitating such border trade is defined as follows:

$$BOR_{ij} = \frac{L_{ij}}{A_{i}}$$

where L_{ij} is the length of the border line between the two trading partners (country 1 and country 2), while A_i is the total area of the exporting country i. Since many of the countries in the Asia Pacific area are so-called island economies, borders were also assumed to exist between countries, when the distance across the sea between did not exceed 100 km. This is the maximum range of small vessels with low terminal costs eligible for regional trade. The length of the border lines have been measured by using the world map published by the National Geographic Magazine.

Yet, there are three control variables that can be expected to add to the significance of the regression results. Two of them (LAB and PCI) are related to trade theories. LAB proxies the difference in factor endowments according to the Heckscher-Ohlin-Samuelson model. Accordingly, trade between countries is a result of differences in factor endowments. A simple proxy for the differences in the endowments with human capital and physical capital is per-capita income (Havrylyshyn (1987)). A low percapita income is supposed to reveal a rather poor endowment with physical and human capital. In order to have a control variable a similar proxy was used in this study:

$$LAB = \frac{L_{i}/GNP_{i}}{L_{j}/GNP_{j}}$$

where L_i is the labour force of country 1, which is the labourabundant country, while L_j is the labour force of the country that is relatively scarce of labour. A high value of LAB shows that there are tremendous differences in factor endowments leading to higher intensity of trade between the two countries.

Moreover, there is a potential for intra-industry trade (Linder-type of trade), when both trading partners have reached a high stage of development allowing for the diversification of the demand structure. In order to capture this phenomenon, the percapita income of the trading partner with the lower income was included as an additional variable PCI.

Finally, the SIZE variable corrects for the size of the countries. The export shares that constitute the endogenous variable can be expected to be higher when the importing country reveals a higher demand because of a large domestic market, high GDP capita and a free import regime. The SIZE variable features the total import of the importing country in the period 1981-1987. It has to be noted, however, that the SIZE variable comprises some determinants of transaction costs. As it has been argued in the preceding section, there are several fixed cost components of transaction costs that may cause a reduction of unit costs transaction given increasing trade volumes. Since large markets have a high potential for declining unit costs of duction, we expect a negative relationship between the SIZE variable and the relevance of transaction costs.

b) Empirical Findings

The results of the stepwise cross sector regressions obtained from Table 3 on page 22 and 23. Altogether equations were tested. This was necessary because there is a high degree of multicollinearity between some variables (see Table A2 in the appendix). As a consequence, some coefficients are not significant in some equations depending on the selection ofvariables included. As it can be seen from the equations cultural similarity (CUL), geographical distance (DIS), exchange correlation (EXST) and credibility (CRED) of trading partners are significant variables in most of the equations explaining the direction of trade in the Asian Pacific area. Moreover, the trade flows as they are reflected in the HIST variable is highly that significant (equations 6 and 7). This points to the fact trade relations reveal a high element of inertia in the geo-

Table 3: Estimation Results (N = 272)

	Eq.1	Eq.2	Eq.3
CUL	0.043 (1.78)*	0.045 (1.75)*	0.038 (1. 44)
HIST	-	-	-
CRED	0.070* (3.61)***	0.075 (4.98)***	0.082 (5.34)***
EXST	1.332 (1.90)*	1.466 (2.14)**	1.607 (2.30)**
LAB	0.086 (2.54)**	0.068 (2.13)**	0.074 (2.29)**
DIS	-	1.7·10 ⁻⁵ (0.16)	6.1·10 ⁻⁵ (0.55)
PCI	2.6·10 ⁻⁴ (1.08)	-	-
SIZE	-	· -	-
DSPFT	-	- -	0.783 (0.30)
CAP	-3.165 (1.65)*	1.522 (0.68)	1.566 (0.49)
BOR	0.192 (0.54)	0.248 (0.71)	-
PROT	-	1.687 (3.46)***	-1.726 (3.55)***
DSAARC	-	-	4.752 (2.19)**
DASEAN	-	. - .	1.922 (1.25)
DBANG	-	-	-1.328 (0.64)
Constant	-5.602 (2.75)***	-4.086 (2.15)**	-5.468 (2.71)***
$\bar{\mathtt{R}}^2$	0.196	0.225	0.232
F	6.21	10.85	8.46

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	Eq.4	Eq.5	Eq.6	Eq.7
CUL	0.061 (3.19)***	0.066 (3.57)***	0.063 (3.79)***	0.067 (3.99)***
HIST	-	· -	0.274 (8.07)***	0.30 (8.55)***
CRED	0.029 (2.45)**	0.264 (2.32)**	0.022 (2.11)**	0.023 (2.55)**
EXST	-0.498 (0.94)	-0.604 (1.18)	-0.056 (0.13)	
LAB	-0.004 (0.15)	-0.006 (0.24)	-	-
DIS	-2.9·10 ⁻⁴ (3.39)***	-3.1·10 ⁻⁴ (3.82)***	-2.0·10 ⁻⁴ (2.78)***	-1.6·10 ⁻⁴ (2.31)**
PCI	-			_
SIZE	9.4·10 ⁻⁶ (15.71)***	9.6·10 ⁻⁶ (16.05)***	7.1·10 ⁻⁶ (11.45)***	6.8·10 ⁻⁶ (11.60)***
DSPFT	1.129 (0.58)	. -	-	-3.489 (1.96)*
CAP	0.405 (0.23)	0.339 (0.25)	0.661 (0.46)	- · ·
BOR	-0.123 (0.43)	-0.076 (0.30)	-0.049 (0.21)	-0.114 (0.45)
PROT	-	-	-0.105 (3.46)***	-
DSAARC	1.212 (0.73)	-	-	0.847 (0.67)
DASEAN	0.858		-	1.246 (1.27)
DBANG	-4.711 (0.30)	-	-	-
Constant	-0.739 (0.51)	-0.165 (0.12)	-0.613 (0.49)	-1.205 (-1.21)
$\bar{\mathtt{R}}^2$	0.586	0.591	0.671	0.679
F	33.03	49.91	62.41	64.58

Sources: IMF, Direction of Trade Statistics, various issues;
Amelung (1990); World Bank, World Development Report,
various issues; Institutional Investor, Country Ratings,
various issues; Fischer Weltalmanach, various issues;
Pick's Currency Yearbook, various issues; National
Geographic Magazine, 1957 World Map; own calculations.

graphical concentration of international trade. This supports early findings on the stability of regional trade in Asia Pacific (Amelung (1990)). Among the control variables, the coefficient of the SIZE variable adds considerable explanatory power to the equations 4-7.

The degree of outward orientation (PROT) and the proxy for the barriers to capital transfers (CAP) attach significance to equations 1, 2 and 3. The dummy variables indicating the of preferential trading arrangements fail add explanatory power to the equations, except for DSAARC in equation 3 and DSPFT in equation 7. The latter variable, however, does not yield the correct sign. DASEAN does not impact on the though the coefficient of this variable is stable and yields correct sign in equations 3 and 7.

Moreover, the BOR variable does not seem to impact on the regional direction of trade. This can be explained by the relevance of sea traffic in the Asia Pacific and the lack of data on regional trade, which is only partly registered in the national statistics on foreign trade.

Finally, the LAB variable yields significant results in equations 1, 2 and 3, thus confirming earlier studies analyzing differences in factor endownments. By contrast, PCI turns out to be insignificant, though it gives a correct sign.

The rather low explanatory value of equations 1, 2 and 3 points to the fact that a better specification of transaction costs is required, since it is mainly the SIZE and HIST variables adding to the significance of the other equations. As trade barriers between countries account for a large share in total transaction costs, a better indicator for protectionism between countries should be calculated. Moreover, a more careful specification of differences in factor endowments may add to the significance of the equations. Finally, the availability of market-making activities in the particular country, i.e. indicators on average firm size, multinationals and the development of financing services,

should be taken into account. These extensions of the model together with a more direct specification of transaction costs provide opportunities for further research.

IV. Conclusions

formation of regional entities characterized by strong bilateral trade links has been attributed to preferential trade agreements and differences in freight costs in the recent literature. In this paper a broader concept was applied, as other obstacles to international trade incurring transaction costs were included in the analysis. Given such transaction costs (e.g. costs of information, bargaining and insurance) the direction of trade is not only a function of relative differences in production costs but also a function of differences in transaction costs across countries.

In order to assess to what extent these transaction cost differentials affect trade flows, the bilateral trade between 17 countries in Asia Pacific was empirically analyzed. Summing it can be concluded that the determinants of transaction costs between trading partners have a considerable impact the direction of trade in the Asia Pacific area. Cultural similarity among trading partners seems to enhance trade, as it communication and thus reduces costs of information, bargaining and marketing. Moreover, the credibility of trading partners the exchange risks involved in international trade have affected the direction of trade among countries. Moreover the distance between partners affects the opportunities of communication the transaction costs between transport and adds to partners.

Hence, regionalization of trade in the sense that trading activities within a group of countries is more intense than those outside the group can be explained by the difference of transaction costs and their different speed of reduction. Especially the separation between a South East Asian group of countries (Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand) and a North Pacific group (Japan,

USA, China, Hong Kong, Korea), as it was identified in an earlier study (Amelung (1990)) can be explained by transaction cost differentials because the criterion that was used for delimiting those regions in Asia Pacific in that earlier study equals the dependent variable in the regression analysis in this paper.

The case of the Asia Pacific area clearly shows that regional entities are likely to evolve even without any progress in institutional integration schemes especially when transactions are low because of a common cultural tradition and geographical proximity between the countries. Especially the latter determinant seems to suggest, that economic regions can be delimited within geographical areas, even though technical progress has reduced costs of freight and communication substantially.

Moreover, policy variables seem to matter whether countries form an economic region. A coordination of monetary policies reducing exchange rate fluctuations between countries can help to lower transaction costs and enhance trade. In the same vein, the unilateral lifting of barriers for capital transfers and trade may substantially reduce transaction costs in Asia Pacific and provide opportunities for regional trade integration.

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Table Al: Variables in the Equation

Importer	Exporter	Export	exstab	cul	dis	bor 2	lab	cred	pci	cap 2	hist	size	prot
USA	Australia	10.73	0.0000	20.00	12920	0.00	1.5411	178.2	10830	0.00	13.01	2312047	0
	Japan	33.65	0.0000	0.05	11120	0.00	1.5217	191.2	11300	0.00		2312047	0
•	New Zealand	14.17	0.0000	20.30	11600	0.00	2.3448	166.0	7010	0.00	15.74	2312047	0
	Bangladesh	17.89	0.0000	0.00	17000	0.00	89.3505	111.9	150	0.00	16.89	2312047	0
	China	8.12	0.0000	0.30	13240	0.00	53.0230	164.4	310	0.00	0.01	2312047	0
	Hongkong	30.18	0.0000	1.30	14360	0.00	2.7602	163.0	6230	0.00	20.76	2312047	0
	India	19.56	0.0000	0.00	19000	0.00	52.4489	142.4	270	0.00	19.34	2312047	0
	Indonesia	19.53	0.0000	0.30	16080	0.00	26.7193	145.7	530	0.00	23.27	2312047	0
	Korea	35.31	0.0000	0.00	12440	0.00	7.5276	153.4	2150	0.00	38.45	2312047	0
	Malaysia	14.01	0.0000	0.30	16320	0.00	7.4599	160.6	2000	0.00	17.98	2312047	0
	Pakistan	9.07	0.0000	0.00	19600	0.00	35.2699	123.8	380	0.00	11.71	2312047	0
	Papua NG.	3.06	0.0000	1.00	11920	0.00	20.0816	136.0	680	0.00	0.00	2312047	0
	Philippines	34.90	0.0000	0.30	13840	0.00	24.4159	114.5	580	0.00	39.48	2312047	0
	Singapore	19.34	0.0000	0.30	16160	0.00	2.2834	174.2	7420	0.00		2312047	0
	Sri Lanka	20.70	0.0000	0.00	18600		41.2592	120.0	380	0.00		2312047	0
	Thailand	16.61	0.0000	0.30	16160		18.6498	148.1	800	0.00		2312047	0
Austŗalia	USA	-2.27	0.0000	20.00	12920	0.00	1.5411	178.2	10830	G.00	2.17	165101	1
*	Japan	2.83	0.5978	0.00		0.00	1.0127	177.2	10830	0.00	3.05	165101	1
	New Zealand	14.80	0.9413	91.00	3000	0.00	1.5215	152.0	7010	0.00	4.57	165101	1
	Bangladesh		-0.9596	0.00	10280		57.9788	97.9	150	0.00	1.72		1
	China		-0.8563	0.30	9400		34.4062	150.4	310	0.00		165101	1
	Hongkong		-0.9074	1.00	8360	0.00	1.7910	149.0	6230	0.00	2.20	165101	1
	India		-0.9228	0.00	11240		34.0337	128.4	270	0.00	2.00	165101	1
	Indonesia		-0.9276	0.50	6480		17.3379	131.7	530	0.00	8.40	165101	
	Korea		-0.8670	0.00	9680	0.00	4.8846	139.4	2150	0.00	0.64	165101	. 1
	Malaysia		-0.3870	0.50	7640	0.00	4.8407	146.6	2000	0.00	2.97	165101	1
•	Pakistan		-0.8834	0.00	12480		22.8864		380	0.00	3.10	165101	_
•	Papua NG.		-0.8765	2.00	3320		13.0307	122.0	680	0.00		165101	1
	Philippines		-0.9265	0.20	7120		15.8433	100.5	580	0.00		165101	1
	Singapore	3.31	0.3886	0.50	7280	0.00	1.4817	160.2	7420	0.00	3.23	165101	1
	Sri Lanka		-0.8873	0.00	9720		26.7727	106.0	380	0.00	4.41	165101	. 1
_	Thailand ·		-0.5891	0.80	8520		12.1017	134.1	800	0.00	0.25	165101	1
Japan	USA	10.74	0.0000	0.05	11120	0.00	1.5217		11300	0.00	7.79	946198	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1}}$
	Australia	26.76	0.5978	0.00	9040	0.00	1.0127		10830	0.00	18.49	946198	1
	New Zealand		0.5294	0.05	10640		1.5409	165.0	7010	0.00	8.37	946198	1
	Bangladesh		-0.6147	0.00	6080		58.7157	110.9	150	0.00	2.17	946198	1
	China		-0.4107	0.05	2200		34.8435	163.4	310	0.00	18.84	946198	1
	Hongkong		-0.4366	0.05	3680		1.8138	162.0	6230	0.00	5.82		
	India		-0.4110	0.00	8120		34.4662		270	0.00	8.57	946198	1· 1
	Indonesia		-0.6419	0.05	6840		17.5583	144.7	530	0.00	20.73	946198	
	Korea		-0.5730	0.00	1360		4.9466	152.4	2150	0.00	26.27	946198	1
	Malaysia		0.2066	0.05	6440		4.9022		2000	0.00	27.81	946198	1
	Pakistan		-0.3998	0.00	8680		23.1772		380	0.00	3.99		1
	Papua NG.		-0.3931	0.00	5720		13.1964	135.0	680	0.00	1.41	946198	
	Philippines		-0.4693	0.05	3840		16.0446	113.5	580	0.00	33.02		1 .
	Singapore		0.7229	0.05	6400		1.5005	173.2	7420	0.00	18.70		1.
	Sri Lanka		-0.7608	0.00	7880		27.1130	119.0	380	0.00	2.50		1
	Thailand	14.08	-0.7707	0.05	5680	U.UU	12.2555	147.1	800	0.00	20.54	946198	1

Table Al (cont.)

Importer	Exporter	Export	exstab	cul	dis	bor	lab	cred	pci	cap -	hist	size	prot
New Zealand	USA	0.36	0.0000	20.30	11600	0.00	2.3448	166.0	7010	0.00	0.42	42213	, 1
new bealand	Australia	5.23	0.9413	91.00	3000	0.00	1.5215	152.0	7010	0.00	6.27	42213	1
	Japan	0.59	0.5294	0.05	10640	0.00	1.5409	165.0	7010	0.00	0.60	42213	1
	Bangladesh		-0.9724	0.00	13040		38.1056	85.7	150	0.00	0.69	42213	1
	China		-0.7528	0.50	11160		22.6129	138.2	310	0.00	0.00	42213	-
	Hongkong		-0.9233	1.50	10800	0.00	1.1771	136.8	6230	0.00	0.91	42213	1
	India		-0.8986	0.40	14160		22.3681	116.2	270	0.00	0.76	42213	1
	Indonesia		-0.8499	0.50	9400		11.3951	119.5	530	0.00	0.38	42213	1
	Korea		-0.9163	0.00	11560	0.00	3.2103	127.2	2150	0.00	0.00	42213	1
	Malaysia		-0.3286	0.90	10480	0.00	3.1815	134.4	2000	0.00	0.82	42213	1
	Pakistan		-θ.8748	0.00	15320		15.0417	97.6	380	0.00	0.38	42213	1
	Papua NG.		-0.8708	1.00	5560		8.5643	109.8	680	0.00	0.00	42213	1
	Philippines		-0.8847	0.50	9600		10.4127	88.3	580	0.00	0.06	42213	1
	Singapore	0.94	0.4481	0.90	10160	0.00	1.0269	148.0	7010	0.00	0.00	42213	1
	Sri Lanka		-0.9171	0.00	12640		17.5960	93.8	380	0.00	2.02	42213	i
	Thailand .		-0.6585	0.50	11280	0.00	7.9537	121.9	800	0.00	0.04	42213	1
Bangladesh	USA	0.10	0.0000	0.00	17000		89.3505	111.9	150	0.95	0.00	17851	3
bungraucsi	Australia		-0.9596	0.00	10280		57.9788	97.9	150	0.95	0.13	17861	3
	Japan		-0.6147	0.00	6080		58.7157	110.9	150	0.95	0.13	17861	.3
	New Zealand		-0.9724	0.00	13040		38.1056	85.7	150	0.95	0.19	17861	3
	China	0.03	0.8017	1.00	3720	0.00	1.6851	84.1	150	0.95		17861	
				0.00	2760		32.3716		150		0.00		. 3
	Hongkong	0.20	0.9327					82.7		0.95	0.04	17861	
	India	0.51	0.9059	10.00	2040	12.50	1.7036	62.1	150	0.95	0.13	17861 17861	3
	Indonesia	0.09	0.8992	0.00	4240	0.00	3.3440	65.4	150	0.95	0.00		
	Korea	0.35	0.9376	0.00	5040		11.8698	73.1	150	0.95	0.00	17861	3
	Malaysia	0.24	0.3360	0.00	2920		11.9774	80.3	150	0.95	0.02	17861	
	Pakistan	1.93	0.9012	0.00	2640	0.00	2.5333	43.5	150	0.95	0.00	17861	3
	Papua NG.	0.00	0.8966	0.00	7520	0.00	4.4494	55.7	150	0.95	0.61	17861	
	Philippines	0.07	0.8861	0.00	3680		3.6595	34.2	150	0.95	0.00	.17861	
	Singapore		-0.4770	0.00	3280	*	39.1303	93.9	150	0.95	0.84	17861	3
	Sri Lanka	0.65	0.9275	0.00	2480	0.00	2.1656	39.7	150	0.95	0.00	17861	3
al '	Thailand	0.82	0.6738	0.00	1800	0.00	4.7910	67.8	150	0.95	0.00	17861	. 3
China	USA	1.43	0.0000	0.30	13240		53.0230	164.4	310	0.24	0.01	21,6766	3
	Australia		-0.8563	0.30	9400		34.4062	150.4	310	0.24	2.64	216766	3
	Japan		-0.4107	0.05	2200			163.4	310	0.24	3.22	216766	3
	New Zealand		-0.7528	0.50	11160		22.6129	138.2	310	0.24	0.66	216766	3
	Bangladesh		0.8017	1.00	3720		1.6851	84.1	150	0.24	0.00	216766	3
	Hongkong	18.42	0.7953	94.00	1640			135.2	310	0.24	0.91	216766	3.
	India	0.36	0.9431	0.00	5960	0.28	1.0109	114.6	270	0.24	0.00	216766	3
	Indonesia	0.49	0.8943	2.50	5280		1.9844	117.9	310	0.24	0.00	216766	3
	Korea	0.00	0.7408	0.00	1320	0.00	7.0439	125.6	310	0.24	0.00	216766	3
	Malaysia	1.10	0.6508	36.00	4560	0.00	7.1077	132.8	310	0.24	0.00	216766	3
	Pakistan	3.29	0.7461	0.00	6480	0.00	1.5033	96.0	310	0.24	5.02	216766	3
	Papua NG.	2.38	0.7339	0.00	5760	0.00	2.6404	108.2	310	0.24	0.00	216766	3
	Philippines	1.48	0.9339	1.50	2360	0.00	2.1717	86.7	310	0.24	0.06	216766	3
	Singapore		-0.0843	76.00	4600		23.2210	146.4	310	0.24	0.00	216766	3
	Sri Lanka	1.81	0.6589	0.00	5880	0.00	1.2851		310	0.24	10.55	216766	3
	Thailand	3.12	0.2861	9.50	3640	0.00	2.8431	120.3	310	0.24	0.00	216766	3

Table Al (cont.)

Importer	Exporter	Export	exstab	cul	dis	bor	lab	cred	pci	cap	hist	size	prot
Hongkong	USA	1.33	0.0000	1.30	14360	0.00	2.7602	163.0	6230	0.00	0.75	214299	0
	Australia	2.49	-0.9074	1.00	8360	0.00	1.7910	149.0	6230	0.00	2.17	214299	. 0
	Japan		-0.4366	0.05	3680	0.00	1.8138	162.0	6230	0.00	3.78	214299	0
	New Zealand		-0.9233	1.50	10800	0.00	1.1771	136.8	6230	0.00	0.22	214299	0
	Bangladesh	1.01	0.9327	0.00	2760		32.3716	82.7	150	0.00	0.08	214299	0
	China		0.7953	94.00	1640		19.2102	135.2	310	0.00	29.81	214299	0
	India	1.71	0.9316	0.00	4680		19.0022	113.2	270	0.00	0.70	214299	0
	Indonesia	1.28	0.9033	2.50	3.720	0.00	9.6804	116.5	530	0.00	2.79	214299	. 0
	Korea	4.60	0.9445	0.00	2960	0.00	2.7272	124.2	2150	0.00	3.76	214299	0
	Malaysia	1.94	0.3409	36.00	2960	0.00	2.7027	131.4	2000	0.00	1.01	214299	0
	Pakistan	2.92	0.9546	0.00	5400		12.7783	94.6	380	0.00	4.09	214299	0
•	Papua NG.	0.37	0.9515	1.00	5240	0.00	7.2755	106.8	680	0.00	0.00	214299	0
	Philippines		0.9293	1.50	1280	0.00	8.8458	85.3	580	0.00	0.42	214299	0
	Singapore		-0.4172	76.00	3000	0.00	1.2088	145.0	6230	0.00		214299	0
	Sri Lanka	0.95	0.8739	0.00	4360		14.9481	90.8	380	0.00	0.40.	214299	' 0
- 3:	Thailand	4.36	0.5987	8.00	2040	0.00	6.7568	118.9	800	0.00	6.50	214299	0
India	USA	0.74	0.0000	0.00	19000		52.4489	142.4	270	0.13	3.05	121489	3
	Australia		-0.9228	0.00	11240		34.0337	128.4	270	0.13	1.36	121489	. 3
	Japan		-0.4110	0.00	8120		34.4662	141.4	270	0.13	1.71	121489	3
	New Zealand		-0.8986	0.40	14160		22.3681	116.2	270	0.13	0.19	121489	3
	Bangladesh	2.01	0.9059	10.00	2040	12.50	1.7036	62.1	150	0.13	0.27	121489	3
	China	0.29	0.9431	0.00	5960	0.28	1.0109	114.6	270	0.13	0.00	121489	3
	Hongkong	0.37	0.9316	0.00	4680		19.0022	113.2	270	0.13	0.05	121489	3
	Indonesia	0.14	0.9287	0.00	4920	0.00	1.9630	95.9	270	0.13	0.10	121489	3
	Korea	1.71	0.8631	0.00	7040	0.00	6.9676	103.6	270	0.13	0.12	121489	3
	Malaysia	2.71	0.5642	10.00	3760	0.00	7.0308	110.8	270	0.13	1.79	121489	3
	Pakistan	1.19	0.8755	0.00	1120	0.70	1.4871	74.0	270	0.13	0.02	121489	3
	Papua NG.	0.06	0.8671	0.00	9000	0.00	2.6118	86.2	270	0.13	0.00	121489	3
	Philippines Singapore		0.9772	0.00 4.00	5400 4080	0.00	2.1481 22.9696	64.7	270 270	0.13	0.04 7.28	121489 121489	3
	Singapore Sri Lanka		-0.2130				1.2712	1·24.4 70.2	270	0.13 0.13	1.22	121489	3
	Thailand	1.42	0.7929 0.4434	18.20 0.00	1800 3120	0.08 0.00	2.8123	98.3	270	0.13	9.79	121489	3
Indonesia	USA	0.70	0.0000	0.30	16080		26.7193	145.7	530	0.13	0.20		2
Thuonesta	Australia		-0.9276	0.50	6480		17.3379	131.7	530	0.13	0.20	91532	2
	Japan		-0.6419	0.05	6840		17.5583	144.7	530	0.13	1.21	91532	2
	New Zealand		-0.8499	0.50	9400		11.3951	119.5	530	0.13	0.00	91532	2
	Bangladesh	0.25	0.8992	0.00	4240		3.3440	65.4	150	0.13	0.00	91532	2
	China	0.36	0.8943	2.50	5280		1.9844	117.9	310	0.13	0.00	91532	2
•	Hongkong	1.88	0.9033	2.50	3720	0.00	9.6804	116.5	530	0.13	5.89	91532	2
	India	0.61	0.9287	0.00	4920	0.00	1.9630	95.9	270	0.13	0.04	91532	2
	Korea	0.90	0.8554	0.00	6480	0.00	3.5495	106.9	530	0.13	0.24	91532	2
	Malaysia	0.51	0.3889	53.50	1280	1.25	3.5817	114.1	530	0.13	0.00	91532	2
	Pakistan	0.66	0.8575	0.00	6000	0.00	1.3200	77.3	380	0.13	1.13	91532	2
	Papua NG.	0.02	0.8488	1.00	4600	0.68	1.3305	89.5	530	0.13	0.00	91532	2
	Philippines		0.9416	1.50	3040		1.0943	68.0	530	0.13	0.04	91532	2
	Singapore		-0.3973	17.50	1000		11.7015	127.7	530	0.13	0.00	91532	2
•	Sri Lanka	0.07		0.00	3320		1.5442	73.5	380	0.13	0.00	91532	2
	Thailand	1.17	0.6008	5.50	2520		1.4327	101.6	530	0.13	3.22	91532	2
•	indiidid	****	0.0000	5.50	2324	0100		14110	000			,	-

Table Al (cont.)

Importer	Exporter	Export	exstab	cul	dis	bor	lab	cred	pci .	cap	hist	size	prot
Korea	USA	2.78	0.0000	0.00	12440	0.00	7.5276	153.4	2150	0.05	1.11	210894	0
	Australia	3.75	-0.8670	0.00	9680	0.00	4.8846	139.4	2150	0.05	0.21	210894	0
	Japan	4.47	-0.5730	0.00	1360	0.00	4.9466	152.4	2150	0.05	3.42	210894	0
	New Zealand	1.69	-0.9163	0.00	11560	0.00	3.2103	127.2	2150	0.05	0.00	210894	. 0
	Bangladesh	0.20	0.9376	0.00	5040	0.00	11.8698	73.1	150	0.05	0.00	210894	0
	China	0.00	0.7408	0.00	1320	0.00	7.0439	125.6	310	0.05	0.00	210894	0
	Hongkong	1.99	0.9445	0.00	2960	0.00	2.7272	124.2	2150	0.05	0.45	210894	. 0
	India	1.85	0.8631	0.00	7040	0.00	6.9676	103.6	270	0.05	0.00	210894	0
	Indonesia	2.77	0.8554	0.00	6480	0.00	3.5495	106.9	530	0.05	0.13	210894	0
•	Malaysia	4.85	0.2042	0.00	5840	0.00	1.0091	121.8	2000	0.05	1.30	210894	0
	Pakistan	1.44	0.8900	0.00	7440	0.00	4.6854	85.0	380	0.05	0.00	210894	0
	Papua NG.	6.99	0.8868	0.00	6320	0.00	2.6677	97.2	680	0.05	0.00	210894	. 0
	Philippines	2.44	0.8609	0.00	3520	0.00	3.2435	75.7	580	0.05	2.01	210894	0
	Singapore		-0.5757	0.00	5880	0.00	3.2966	135.4	2150	0.05	0.99	210894	0
	Sri Lanka	0.24	0.9227	0.00	7080	0.00	5.4811	81.2	380	0.05	0.00	210894	. `0
	Thailand.	1.77	0.6959	0.00	4920	0.00	2.4775	109.3	800	0.05	0.06	210894	0
Malaysia	USA	0.78	0.0000	0.30	16320	0.00	7.4599	160.6	2000	9.00	0.15	87118	1
Ŧ	Australia	1.92	-0.3870	0.50	7640	0.00	4.8407	146.6	2000	0.00	1.69	87118	1
	Japan	1.36	0.2066	0.05	6440	0.00	4.9022	159.6	2000	0.00	0.97	87118	1
	New Zealand		-0.3286	0.90	10480	0.00	3.1815	134.4	2000	0.00	0.59	87118	1
	Bangladesh	0.38	0.3360	0.00	2920	0.00	11.9774	80.3	150	0.00	0.00	87118	1
	China	0.74	0.6508	36.00	4560	0.00	7.1077	132.8	310	0.00	0.00	87118	1
	Hongkong	0.78	0.3409	36.00	2960	0.00	2.7027	131.4	2000	0.00	2.73	87118	1
	India	0.80	0.5642	10.00	3760	0.00	7.0308	110.8	270	0.00	1.13	87118	1
	Indonesia	0.37	0.3889	53.50	1280	1.25	3.5817	114.1	530	0.00	0.00	87118	1
	Korea	0.88	0.2042	0.00	5840	0.00	1.0091	121.8	2000	0.00	0.24	87118	. 1
	Pakistan	0.37	0.3295	0.00	4840	0.00	4.7279	92.2.	380	0.00	3.60	87118	1
	Papua NG.	0.33	0.3215	0.00	5360	0.00	2.6919	104.4	680	0.00	0.00	87118	1
	Philippines	2.80	0.4568	1.50	2640	0.00	3.2729	82.9	580	0.00	0.59	87118	. 1
	Singapore	15.86	0.6394	55.00	320	0.30	3.2670	142.6	2000	0.00	0.00	87118	1
	Sri Lanka	0.82	0.0364	0.00	2320	0.00	5.5308	88.4	380	0.00	0.11	87118	. 1
	Thailand	4.39	-0.3853	11.00	1320	1.21	2.5000	116.5	800	0.00	8.12	87118	1
Pakistan	USA	0.37	0.0000	0.00	19600	0.00	35.2699	123.8	380	0.22	0.78	39343	- 2
•	Australia	0.29	-0.8834	0.00	12480	0.00	22.8864	109.8	380	0.22	0.73	39343	2
	Japan	0.46	-0.3998	0.00	8680		23.1772	122.8	380	0.22	1.02	39343	2
	New Zealand	0.29	-0.8748	0.00	15320	0.00	15.0417	97.6	380	0.22	0.00	39343	. 2
	Bangladesh	4.92	0.9012	0.00	264.0	0.00	2.5333	43.5	150	0.22	0.00	39343	2
	China	0.84	0.7461	0.00	6480	0.00	1.5033	96.0	310	0.22	1.74	39343	. 2
	Hongkong	0.13	0.9546	0.00	5,400	0.00	12.7783	94.6	380	0.22	0.22	39343	2
	India	0.09	0.8755	0.00	1120	0.70	1.4871	74.0	270	0.22	0.00	39343	. 2
	Indonesia	0.16	0.8575	0.00	6000	0.00	1.3200	17.3	380	0.22	0.43	39343	2
	Korea	0.41	0.8900	0.00	7440	0.00	4.6854	85.0	380	0.22	0.00	39343	2
	Malaysia	1.07	0.3295	0.00	4840	0.00	4.7279	92.2	380	0.22	0.61	39343	2
	Papua NG.	0.10	0.9998	0.00	9960	0.00	1.7563	67.6	380	0.22	0.00	39343	2
	Philippines		0.8606	0.00	6240	0.00	1.4445	46.1	380	0.22	0.02	39343	2
	Singapore		-0.3769	3.00	5160		15.4462	105.8	380	0.22	0.00	39343	2
	Sri Lanka		0.8271	0.00	2880	0.00	1.1698	51.6	380	0.22	2.53	39343	2
	Thailand	0.33	0.5520	0.00	4120	0.00	1.8912	79.7	380	0.22	0.43	39343	2

Table Al (cont.)

Importer	Exporter	Export	exstab	cul-	dis	bor	lab	cred	pci	cap	hist	size	prot
Papua NG.	USA	0.03	0.0000	1.00	11920	0.00	20.0816	136.0	680	0.00	0.00	6526	1
	Australia		-0.8765	2.00	3320	0.04	13.0307	122.0	680	0.00	2.76	6526	1
	Japan	0.09	-0.3931	0.00	5720	0.00	13.1964	135.0	680	0.00	0.04	6526	1
	New Zealand	0.85	-0.8708	1.00	5560	0.00	8.5643	109.8	680	0.00	0.00	6526	1
	Bangladesh	0.02	0.8966	0.00	7520	0.00	4.4494	55.7	150	0.00	0.04	6526	1
	China	0.02	0.7339	0.00	5760	0.00	2.6404	108.2	310	0.00	0.03	6526	1
	Hongkong	0.08	0.9515	1.00	5240	0.00	7.2755	106.8	680	0.00	0.29	6526	1
	India	0.01	0.8671	0.00	9000	0.00	2.6118	86.2	270	0.00	0.00	6526	. 1
	Indonesia	0.00	0.8488	1.00	4600	0.68	1.3305	89.5	530	0.00	0.00	6526	1
	Korea	0.02	0.8868	0.00	6320	0.00	2.6677	97.2	680	0.00	0.00	6526	1
	Malaysia	0.03	0.3215	0.00	5360	0.00	2.6919	104.4	680	0.00	0.00	6526	1
	Pakistan	0.00	0.9998	0.00	9960	0.00	1.7563	67.6	380	0.00	0.00	6526	1
	Philippines	0.07	0.8514	0.00	4040	0.00	1.2158	58.3	580	0.00	0.00	6526	1
	Singapore		-0.3786	0.00	5040	0.00	8.7946	118.0	680	0.00	0.13	6526	. 1
	Sri Lanka	0.00	0.8233	0.00	7680	0.00	2.0546	63.8	380	0.00	0.00	6526	`1
	Thailand	0.02	0.5518	0.00	5880	0.00	1.0768	91.9	680	0.00	0.00	6526	. 1
Philippines	USA	0.75	0.0000	0.30	13840		24.4159	114.5	580	0.09	1.14	48354	2
	Australia		-0.9265	0.20	7120		15.8433	100.5	580	0.09	1.10	48364	. 2
	Japan		-0.4693	0.05	3840		16.0446	113.5	580	0.09	2.85	48364	2
	New Zealand		-0.8847	0.50	9600		10.4127	88.3	580	0.09	0.68	48364	2
	Bangladesh	0.00	0.8861	0.00	3680	0.00	3.6595	34.2	150	0.09	0.00	48364	2
	China	0.84	0.9339	1.50	2360	0.00	2.1717	86.7	310	0.09	0.03	48364	2
	Hongkong	1.28	0.9293	1.50	1280	0.00	8.8458	85.3	580	0.09	1.02	48364	2
	India	0.07	0.9772	0.00	5400	0.00	2.1481	64.7	270	0.09	0.04	.48364	2
٠.	Indonesia	1.10	0.9416	1.50	3040	0.00	1.0943	68.0	530	0.09	3.33	48364	
	Korea	0.62	0.8609	0.00	3520	0.00	3.2435	75.7	580	0.09	0.32	48364	2
	Malaysia	1.75	0.4568	1.50	2640	0.00	3.2729	82.9	580	0.09	1.18	48364	2.
	Pakistan	0.22	0.8606	0.00	6240	0.00	1.4445	46.1	380	0.09	0.20	48364	2
	Papua NG.	0.76	0.8514	0.00	4040	0.00	1.2158	58.3	580	0.09	0.00	48364	2
	Singapore		-0.2922	1.50	2600		10.6927	96.5	580	0.09	2.10	48364	2
	Sri Lanka	0.03	0.8257	0.00	4600	0.00	1.6898	42.3	380	0.09	0.00	48364	2
	Thailand	0.54	0.4990	1.50	2320	0.00	1.3092	70.4	580	0.09	1.20	48364	
Singapore	USA	1.59	0.0000	0.30	16160	0.00	2.2834	174.2	7420	0.00	0.17	196820	0
singapore	Australia	2.76	0.3886	0.50	7280	0.00	1.4817	160.2	7420	0.00	1.83	196820	Ö
	Japan		0.7229		6400	0.00	1.5005	173.2	7420	0.00	1.41	196820	0
	New Zealand	1.46	0.4481	0.90	10160	0.00	1.0269	148.0	7010	0.00	0.00	196820	Õ
•	Bangladesh		-0.4770	0.00	3280		39.1303	93.9	150	0.00	3.35	196820	0
	China		-0.0843	76.00	4600		23.2210	146.4	310	0.00	0.00	196820	0
	Hongkong		-0.4172	76.00	3000	0.00	1.2088	145.0	6230	0.00	4.84	196820	0
	India		-0.2130	4.00	4080		22.9696	124.4	270	0.00	0.53	196820	0
	Indonesia		-0.3973	17.50	1000		11.7015	127.7	530	0.00	0.00	196820	0
	Korea		-0.5757	0.00	5880	0.00	3.2966	135.4	2150	0.00	0.84	196820	0
	Malaysia		0.6394	55.00	320	0.30	3.2670	142.6	2000	0.00	0.00	196820	0
	Pakistan		-0.3769	3.00	5160		15.4462	105.8	380	0.00	0.00	196820	0
	Papua NG.		-0.3786	0.00	5040	0.00	8.7946	118.0	680	0.00	2.82	196820	0
	-		-0.2922	1.50	2600		10.6927	96.5	580	0.00	0.31	196820	0
	Philippines Sri Lanka		-0.6976	0.00	2640		18.0691	102.0	380	0.00	0.20	196820	0
	Sri Lanka								800	0.00	7.17	196820	0
* *	Thailand	0.30	-0.9152	11.00	1560	0.00	8.1675	130.1	0 V V	V . V V	1.11	170020	v

Table Al (cont.)

Importer	Exporter	Export exstab	cul	dis	bor	lab	cred	pci	cap	hist	size	prot
Sri Lanka	USA	0.04 0.0000	0.00	18600	0.00	41.2592	120.0	380	0.34	0.05	13104	. 2
	Australia	0.17 -0.8873		9720		26.7727	106.0	380	0.34	0.56	13104	2
	Japan	0.15 -0.7608		7880		27.1130	119.0	380	0.34	0.29	13104	2
	New Zealand		0.00	12640	0.00	17.5960	93.8	380	0.34	0.07	13104	2
	Bangladesh	0.08 0.9275	0.00	2480	0.00	2.1656	39.7	150	0.34	0.15	13104	
	China	0.16 0.6589	0.00	5880	0.00	1.2851	92.2	310	0.34	2.81	13104	2
	Hongkong	0.30 0.8739	0.00	4360	0.00	14.9481	90.8	380	0.34	0.39	13104	2
	India	0.79 0.7929	18.20	1800	0.08	1.2712	70.2	270	0.34	1.71	13104	`2
	Indonesia	0.03 0.8586	0.00	3320	0.00	1.5442	73.5	380	0.34	0.11	13104	2
	Korea	0.24 0.9227	0.00	7080	0.00	5.481i	81.2	3,80	0.34	0,00	13104	2
	Malaysia	0.30 0.0364	0.00	2320	0.00	5.5308	33.4	380	0.34	0.17	13104	2
	Pakistan	1.03 0.8271	0.00	2880	0.00	1.1698	51.6	380	0.34	2.29	13104	2
	Papua NG.	0.02 0.8233	0.00	7680	0.00	2.0546	63.8	380	0.34	0.00	13104	2
	Philippines	0.20 0.8257	0.00	4600	0.00	1.6898	42.3	380	0.34	0.00	13104	2
	Singapore	0.83 -0.6976	0.00	2640	0.00	18.0691	102.0	380	0.34	0.46	13104	2
	Thailand	0.32 0.8113	0.00	2360	0.00	2.2123	75.9	380	0.34	1.92	13104	2
Thailand	USA	0.49 0.0000	0.30	16160	0.00	18.6498	148.1	800	0.00	0.42	70611	1
	Australia	0.70 -0.5891	0.80	8520		12.1017	134.1	800	0.00	0.76	70611	1
	Japan	1.32 -0.7707	0.05	5680	0.00	12.2555	147.1	800	0.00	3.08	70611	1
	New Zealand		0.50	11280	0.00	7.9537	121.9	800	0.00	0.00	70611	1
	Bangladesh	0.49 0.6738	0.00	1800	0.00	4.7910	67.8	150	0.00	0.00	70611	1
	China	0.75 0.2861	9.50	3640	0.00	2.8431	120.3	310	0.00	0.00	70611	1
	Hongkong	0.89 0.5987	8.00	2040	0.00	6.7568	118.9	800	0.00	1.77	70611	1
	India	0.47 0.4434	0.00	3120	0.00	2.8123	98.3	270	0.00	0.23	70611	1
	Indonesia	0.33 0.6008	5.50	2520	0.00	1.4327	101.6	530	0.00	2.45	70611	1
	Korea .	0.61 0.6959	0.00	4920	0.00	2.4775	109.3	800	0.00	1.92	70611	1
	Malaysia	3.02 -0.3853	11.00	1320	1.21	2.5000	116.5	800	0.00	1.04	70611	1
	Pakistan	0.67 0.5520	0.00	4120	0.00	1.8912	79.7	380	0.00	0.02	70611	1
	Papua NG.	0.04 0.5518	0.00	5880	0.00	1.0768	91.9	680	0.00	0.00	70611	1
	Philippines	0.95 0.4990	1.50	2320	0.00	1.3092	70.4	580	0.00	0.09	70611	1.
	Singapore	4.19 -0.9152	11.00	1560	0.00	8.1675	130.1	800	0.00	5.45	70611	1
	Sri Lanka	0.29 0.8113	0.00	2360	0.00	2.2123	75.9	380	0.00	0.03	70611	1

Note: Dummy variables showing the membership preferential trading arrangements are not listed as the data can be derived from the text.

Source: See Table 3.

Table A2: Pearson Correlation Coefficients

	EXPORT	EXSTAB	CUL	DIS	BOR 2	LAB	CRED	PCI	CAP2	HIST2	SIZE3	PROT	
EXPORT	1.0000	1116	.1988	.1629	0281	.1230	.4232	.2806	2182	.6503	.7216	3322	
	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	
	P= .	P= .033	P= .000	P= .004	P= .322	P= .021	P= .000	P= .000	P=.000	P= .000	P= .000	P= .000	
EXSTAB	1116	1:0000	.0805	3841	.0995	4256	4516	0745	.1712	1572	1173	.1913	
	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	
	P= .033	P= .	P= .093	P= .000	P= .051	P= .000	P= .000	P= .110	P= .002	P= .005	P= .027	P= .001	
CNT	.1988	.0805	1.0000	2460	.0566	0734	.2186	.1738	0879	.0598	0364	0752	
	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	
	P= .000	P= .093	P= .	P= .000	P= .176	P= .114	P= .000	P= .002	P= .074	P= .163	P= .275	P= .108	
DIS	.1629	3841	2460	1.0000	~.1276	.4386	.3873	.2238	1101	.1014	.4365	1642	
	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	
	P= .004	P= .000	P= .000	P= .	P≈ .018	P= .000	P= .000	P= .000	P= .035	P= .048	P= .000	P= .003	
BOR2	0281	.0995	.0566	1276	1.0000	0767	1287	0529	.1439	0275	0401	.1419	
	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272).	(272)	(272)	(272)	
	P= .322	P= .051	P= .176	P= .018	P= .	P= .104	P= .017	P= .193	P= .009	P= .326	P= .255	P= .010	
LAB	.1230	4256	0734	.4386	0767	1.0000	.1570	2796	.1777	.0851	.2437	.0689	
	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	
	P= .021	P= .000	P= .114	P= .000	P= .104	P= .	P= .005	P= .000	P= .002	P= .081	P= .000	P= .129	
CRED	.4232	4516	.2186	.3873	1287	.1570	1.0000	.6206	4154	.2936	.4171	4088	
	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	
	P= .000	P= .000	P= .000	P= .000	P= .017	P= .005	P= .	P= .000	P= .000	P= .000	P= .000	P= .000	
PCI	.2806	0745	.1738	.2238	0529	2796	.6206	1.0000	2552	.1867	.2801	3606	
	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	
	P= .000	P= .110	P= .002	P= .000	P= .193	P= .000	P= .000	P= .	P= .000	P= .001	P= .000	P= .000	
CAP2	2182	.1712	0879	1101	.1439	.1777	4154	2552	1.0000	1730	2249	.6521	
	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	
	P= .000	P= .002	P= .074	P= .035	P= .009	P= .002	P= .000	P= .000	P= .	P= .002	P= .000	P= .000	
HIST2	.6503	1572	.0598	.1014	0275	.0851	.2936	.1867	1730	1.0000	.5046	2245	
	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	
	P= .000	P= .005	P= .163	P= .048	P= .326	P= .081	P= .000	P= .001	P= .002	P= .	P= .000	P= .000	
SIZE3	.7216	1173	0364	4365	0401	.2437	.4171	.2801	2249	.5046	1.0000	3888	
	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	
	P= .000	P= .027	P= .275	P= .000	P= .255	P= .000	P= .000	P= .000	P= .000	P= .000	P= .	P= .000	
PROT	3322	.1913	0752	1642	.1419	.0689	4088	3606	.6521	- 2245	3888	1.0000	
	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	(272)	
	P= .000	P= .001	P= .108	P= .003	P= .010	P= .129	P= .000	P= .000	P= .000	P= .000	P= .000	P= .	
(COEFFIC	CIENT / (CAS	ES) / 1-T	AILED SIG)	,	' . " IS PI	RINTED IF A	COEFFICIE	ENT CANNOT	BE COMPUTE	ED		•	

Source: See Table 3.