

GTAP-related Activities 2015-2016

Kenichi Kawasaki

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National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) is an international premier policy school with the aim of contributing to the betterment of democratic governance around the world. We excel at providing interdisciplinary education for future leaders in the public sector and conduct research on contemporary policy issues to generate innovative solutions. Founded in 1997 as a stand-alone graduate institute, GRIPS is comprised of world-class academics and distinguished practitioners with expertise in public sector policy formulation and management.

1. Global EPAs Research Consortium

The Global Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) Research Consortium has facilitated trade policy decision making by assembling high quality information and quantitative studies on the potential impacts of EPAs. The secretariat of the Consortium has been located in the GRIPS ALLIANCE, which is an institute established in 2013 with the aim of accelerating policy innovation and forming a policy community that connects legislative, administrative, and private-sector entities.

The consortium has focused on improving the estimation of changes in economic welfare, production, trade, investment and job creation at both the macro and sector levels. Several specific issues are of special interest.

- Estimating tariff concessions. The effects of new agreements should be distinguished from those agreed in the past but not yet implemented. Careful estimates are needed of the reductions already scheduled in order to create an accurate baseline for assessing future liberalization.
- Estimating non-tariff barriers (NTMs). Liberalization of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) and rules affecting services and investment will be important elements of future agreements. To estimate their effects, barriers with and without potential agreements need to be quantified. Better estimates of the trade costs of NTMs through ad-valorem equivalents (AVEs) are needed.
- Improving computable general equilibrium (CGE) models. Models employed in trade policy simulations need to be further developed, for example by incorporating dynamic mechanisms to reflect trade and investment liberalization.

(Key events)

2013

- Jun Initial proposal accepted (PECC, Vancouver)
- Sep Expert meeting on NTMs (USITC, Washington DC)
- Oct Secretariat started operation (GRIPS, Tokyo)
- Dec Expert meeting on ASEAN NTMs survey (ERIA, Jakarta)

2014

- Jun Organized tariff data session at the GTAP annual conference (IFPRI, Dakar)
- Jul Administrative Agreement to fund NTMs research (WB, Washington DC)
- Sep Progress report (PECC, Beijing)
- Dec TPP tariffs analysis project launched (ITC, Geneva)

2015

- Apr Research Agreement to fund NTMs data collection (UNCTAD, Geneva)
- May Administrative Agreement to fund NTMs research (WB, Washington DC)
- Jun Organized tariff data session at the GTAP annual conference (CoPS, Melbourne)
- Sep Progress report and extension approval (PECC, Manila)

2. Presentations

- “TPP and RCEP toward FTAAP: Economic Analysis,” Seminar on Collective Strategic Study on Issues Related to the Realization of the FTAAP, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Cebu, August 29, 2015.
- “TPP and RCEP toward FTAAP: Economic Analysis,” FTAAP Workshop, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), Manila, September 12, 2015.
- “The Relative Significance of EPAs,” The Fourth Meeting of the Japan-Austria Committee for Issues of the Future, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Austrian Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Tokyo, October 5, 2015.
- “TPP and RCEP toward FTAAP,” Vietnam-Japan Economic Forum 2015, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Japan External Trade Organization, Hanoi, October 14, 2015.
- “TPP and RCEP toward FTAAP,” International Symposium “FTAAP: Asia-Pacific Economic Integration by 2010 and Beyond,” China National Committee for PECC, Beijing, October 15-16, 2015.
- “The Relative Significance of EPAs in Asia-Pacific,” International Symposium on “Current Global Trade Governance: Toward the Next Agenda?” Asian Development Bank Institute and Japan Institute of International Affairs, Tokyo, November 10, 2015.
- “The Relative Significance of EPAs in Asia-Pacific,” China-Japan-Korea Trilateral Seminar “A New Era of Cooperation in Northeast Asia,” Korea Institute for International Economic Policy and National Research Council for Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences, Seoul, December 3, 2015.
- “Impacts of TPP on the US economy,” Public hearing on TPP, United States

International Trade Commission, Washington DC, January 14, 2016.

- “Economic Impacts of TPP/EPAs,” KEIDANREN Symposium “Utilizing TPP,” Tokyo, February 22, 2016.
- “TPP and RCEP toward FTAAP,” Workshop on the Collective Strategic Study for the FTAAP, PECC, Jakarta, April 24, 2016.