

GTAP-related Activities 2015-2016

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Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI)

The Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI) is a policy think tank established in 2001. Its mission is to conduct theoretical and empirical research, maximize synergies with those engaged in policymaking, and to make policy proposals based on evidence derived from such research activities. The institute is highly regarded both in Japan and abroad for its activity over the past ten years.

Under the third medium-term plan covering the five-year period commencing April 2011, RIETI is to succeed and build on the achievements it made over the previous ten years and will continue to make efforts to enhance its function as a knowledge platform and secure its position as an internationally esteemed policy think-tank.

The growth of Japan's economy is inseparable from changes in the global economy. "International Trade and Investment" program among above nine programs, focusing on the relationship between the globalization of firms (i.e., exports and overseas production) and growth of the Japanese economy, will study R&D and innovation of globalizing firms, international technology transfer, employment, and industrial clusters from theoretical and empirical perspectives, together with studying international trade and investment rules (i.e., the WTO and regional trade agreements) empirically and from both legal and institutional perspectives. Furthermore, it also will study the impacts on firms and industries of the external shock of the Great East Japan Earthquake, changes in production networks and the structure of trade following recovery, and the effects of restrictive energy and material supply on structural changes in the Japanese economy.

In light of an increasing number of free trade agreements (FTAs), the objective of "A Study of Free Trade Agreements," which is one active project of "International Trade and Investment" program is to investigate the impacts of FTAs on the economies of Japan and other countries, in order to provide the Japanese government with useful information in formulating trade policy. The analyses will take the form of ex-ante and ex-post. The ex-ante analysis is to examine the possible impacts of FTAs, which are still in negotiation or under study, by conducting simulation analyses using the computable general equilibrium models. The ex-post analysis is conducted by using the observed data after the FTAs are enacted. In addition to quantitative analysis, this research undertakes a qualitative analysis focusing on the role of FTAs in reconstructing the world trade system

The GTAP database and models simulations have been employed for the ex-ante studies to estimate the economic impacts of FTAs, in particular, in Asia-Pacific, and

presented and discussed in the various occasions; those include following conferences.

Conferences

- Kawasaki, K., B. Narayanan, H. Guimbard and A. Kuno (2015) “East Asia Tariff Concession: A CGE analysis”, The Eighteenth Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis, Center for Global Trade Analysis, Purdue University, Melbourne, June 17-19, 2015
- Kawasaki, K. (2015) “Tariff Concessions in East Asian EPAs: A CGE Analysis”, Trade Policy Research Network conference, European University Institute (EUI), Florence, July 30, 2015
- The fourth East Asia-EU Trade Roundtable, EUI, Florence, July 31, 2015
- Kawasaki, K. (2015), “REI and GVCs”, The 30th Pacific Economic Community Seminar, “Improving Supply Chain Connectivity towards a Seamless Regional Community”, Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER), Taipei, September 23, 2015