



Japan and the TPP: The View from Asia

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Strong ASEAN Support

- ▶ Four TPP members are also ASEAN members: Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam
- ▶ All four have repeatedly urged Japan to get in
 - Wanted Japan in sooner, but will take it now
- ▶ Benefits:
 - Economic payoffs for TPP overall
 - Linkages to Japan's value chains critical for ASEAN
 - Unexpressed interest: Japan as counterweight to US in negotiations
- ▶ But, in general, TPP likely to pull ASEAN members in different directions

Less Enthusiastic Australia/New Zealand Support

- ▶ Australia and New Zealand grant economic benefits arguments of Japan in agreement, but worried about...
- ▶ Problems concluding bilateral deal with Aus
- ▶ Issues of agriculture loom large
- ▶ Risks of delay (and possible collapse) are seen as significant
- ▶ Reluctance to get caught in middle of US-J
- ▶ Unexpressed: J dilutes their position in TPP

TPP Vs. RCEP

- ▶ Is a sense in some in Asia that TPP not so necessary with RCEP coming up
- ▶ RCEP much less ambitious—easier to carve out sensitivities for everyone
- ▶ But, agreement with lots of exceptions will deliver few economic benefits to many
- ▶ Political problems likely in RCEP negotiations
- ▶ Pull between TPP and non-TPP members in RCEP