ASEAN and KOREA
Trends in Economic and Labour Relations
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Contents

List of Tables vi

List of Figures viii

Foreword ix

1. Southeast Asia and Korea in Historical Perspective: The Case of Malaysia–South Korea Relations
   Lee Kam Hing and Lee Kyung-chan 1

2. Labour Migration to South Korea: The Case of Philippine Workers
   Stella P. Go 24

3. Trade and Financial Liberalization in South Korea and Implications for Southeast Asia
   Dong-Chon Suh 49

4. South Korea–China Economic Relations and Implications for Southeast Asia
   Jong Kil Kim 80

5. Labour Policy and Industrial Relations in South Korea
   Baik Nam Sung 123

6. South Korean Construction Industry in Southeast Asia
   Lee Kyubang 137

7. South Korean Tourism in Southeast Asia: A Case Study of Thailand
   Nipon Poapongsakorn and Wijit Wongwareethip 157

8. Vietnam’s Labour Policies towards Foreign Firms: The Case of South Korean Firms in Vietnam
   Nguyen Gia Hae 196

Index 211
List of Tables

2.1 Philippines: Land-Based Overseas Contract Workers by Region, 1984–94 25
2.2 Philippines: Selected Economic Indicators 28
2.3 ASEAN: Selected Economic Indicators 29
2.4 Land-Based Filipino Overseas Contract Workers in Asia, 1984–94 35
2.5 Estimated Number of Filipino Migrant Workers in South Korea, 1994–95 36
2.6 Land-Based Filipino Contract Workers in South Korea by Sex and Occupation, 1992–94 36
2.7 Problems of Undocumented Filipino Workers in South Korea 38
2.8 Reported Welfare-Assistance Cases Involving Filipino Workers On-Site, 1994 40
2.9 South Korea: Worker-Trainee Quotas and Runaway Rates by Country of Origin, 1994–95 43

3.1 South Korea: Nominal Rates of Protection by Sector 52
3.2 South Korea: Import Liberalization Ratio (Shares of Automatic Approval Items) 53
3.3 South Korea: Average Tariff Rates 54
3.4 Financial Deepening: $M_2$/GDP 60
3.5 South Korea: Chronology of Financial Liberalization, 1981–96 61
3.6 South Korean Interest Rate Differentials, 1981–93 64
3.7 Tariffs and Other Import Taxes 65
3.8 South Korean Economy in Perspective, 1992 69
3.9 South Korean Exports to ASEAN 71
3.10 South Korean Imports from ASEAN 71
3.11 Factor Endowments, Trade Patterns, and Preferences for Protection 74

4.1 Trend of South Korea’s Trade with China 84
4.2 South Korean Trade with China by Commodity, 1992 and 1994 85
4.3 Trend of South Korean Investments in China 87
List of Tables

4.4 Share of Ownership among South Korean Investments in China 88
4.5 Trend of South Korean Investments in China by Region 88
4.6 Trend of South Korean Investments in China by Industry 89
4.7 Foreign Capital Actually Used in China by Source 91
4.8 South Korean Exports to China and ASEAN by Commodity, 1992 and 1994 96
4.9 South Korean Imports from China and ASEAN by Commodity, 1992 and 1994 97
4.10 China: Foreign Trade by Country 99
4.11 Matrix of Regional Trade: Exports, 1993 100
4.12 Matrix of Regional Trade: Imports, 1993 101
4.13 South Korean Overseas Direct Foreign Investments by Region and Industry 106

5.1 Major Indicators of the South Korean Economy 125
5.2 Major Indicators of Industrial Relations in South Korea 130
5.3 Trends in Labour Disputes in South Korea 131

6.1 Share of Construction Industry in the South Korean Economy 139
6.2 South Korea: Construction Market Structure in 1994 139
6.3 South Korea's Overseas Construction by Region 142
6.4 Trends in Southeast Asia’s Overseas Construction 143
6.5 South Korean Foreign Construction Contracts Awarded by Type of Works 146
6.6 Local Worker Employment Ratio in South Korean Overseas Construction Projects 147
6.7 South Korean Construction Activities in the Southeast Asian Market 148
6.8 Evaluation of Regional Construction Markets 149
6.9 Competitiveness of South Korean Construction Firms 150

7.1 Share of World Tourist Arrivals, Receipts, Expenditures, and Rooms 158
7.2 Indicators of Concentration of Tourism in Asia-Pacific 161
7.3 Tourism Income, Gross Domestic Product, and Export Earnings of Thailand, 1960–94 164
7.4 International Tourist Arrivals in Thailand by Nationality, 1984–94 166
7.5 Purpose of Visits and Accommodation of Tourists in Thailand 168
7.6 Characteristics of Visitors to Thailand by Gender, Age, and Nationality, 1991–94 170
List of Tables

7.7 Characteristics of Visitors to Thailand by Occupation and Nationality, 1991–94 174
7.8 Regressions of Visitor Arrivals and Tourism Receipts in Thailand 179
7.10 Regression of Tourist Arrivals in Thailand, 1980–94 182
7.11 Average Expenditure and Length of Stay of Tourists in Thailand 186
7.13 Economic Relations between South Korea and Thailand 188
8.1 Vietnam’s Economic Growth Rates 196
8.2 Total Foreign Investment in Vietnam by Sector 201
8.3 Top Ten Foreign Investors in Vietnam 201
Appendix 8.1 Vietnam: Foreign Invested Projects in Operation by Province 208
Appendix 8.2 Vietnam: Foreign Investment by Country 209

List of Figures

3.1 South Korea: Commodity Composition of Imports 51
3.2 South Korean Nominal Rates of Agricultural Protection, 1990 58
3.3 South Korea: Trade Dependence Ratio 59
3.4 South Korean Export Shares by Region 70
3.5 South Korean Import Shares by Region 72
8.1 South Korean Investments in Vietnam 202
Foreword

Economic and political links between South Korea and Southeast Asia have been growing rapidly. The expanding ties prompted the Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies (KASEAS) and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore to hold two conferences to enable South Korean and Southeast Asian scholars to examine the issues arising from the closer interactions. This volume comprises the revised and edited versions of papers presented at the second conference held in Seoul in October 1995 on “ASEAN and Korea: Economic and Labour Relations”. Funding for the project came from the ASEAN–Republic of Korea Special Co-operation Fund.

ASEAN and Korea: Trends in Economic and Labour Relations is thus a sequel to ASEAN and Korea: Emerging Issues in Trade and Investment Relations which was published by ISEAS in late 1995 and based on papers of the first conference. While the first volume dealt mainly with bilateral trade and investment relations between ASEAN countries and South Korea, the present volume deals with labour relations and special topics of interest such as the implications for Southeast Asia of South Korean trade and financial liberalization and of the rapidly developing South Korea–China economic relations; South Korean tourists in Thailand; the South Korean construction industry in Southeast Asia; Filipino workers in South Korea; and the historic links between South Korea and Southeast Asia.

Thus there is little overlap between the two volumes. Though economic issues predominate, certain socio-cultural aspects of relations have been included. In the present volume we have also incorporated, wherever possible, the comments of discussants as they add to the understanding of the subjects dealt with.

I thank the authors and discussants who have made this book possible. They are responsible for the facts and opinions expressed in their articles and comments. Their interpretations do not reflect the views of ISEAS or KASEAS.

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