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JAPAN IN EAST ASIA

Trading and Investment Strategies

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**JAPAN
IN
EAST ASIA
Trading and
Investment Strategies**

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*Dedicated to the memory of
Professor K.S. Sandhu
Director of ISEAS, 1972–1992*

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The economic dynamism of East Asia is one of the great transforming features of the post-Cold War world. Spontaneous and often unilateral reductions of barriers to both trade and investment by governments in the region have been important determinants of this dynamism, along with inflows since the mid-1980s, of large amounts of Japanese investment relative to the sizes of the host economies.

This study examines the growth of Japanese trade with and investment in the region in the light of particular concerns voiced by some North Americans. They recognize the economic potential of the transformation and wish to contribute to, and benefit from, the opportunities afforded by rapid economic growth. But concerns abound about potential implications of differences in business systems and the role of governments in economic development. The purpose of this study is to cast light on, rather than add heat to, these concerns.

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