

# The Economy-wide Impact of a Uniform Carbon Tax in ASEAN

Ditya A. Nurdianto and Budy P. Resosudarmo

*The main goal of this study is to analyse the benefits and losses associated with cooperation among ASEAN members in mitigating their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, particularly by implementing a uniform carbon tax across ASEAN. To achieve this goal, this paper uses a multi-country computable general equilibrium model for ASEAN, known as the Inter-Regional System of Analysis for ASEAN model. This study finds that the implementation of a carbon tax scenario is an effective means of reducing carbon emissions in the region. However, this environmental gain could come at a cost in terms of GDP contraction and reduction in social welfare, i.e. household income. Nevertheless, Indonesia and Malaysia can potentially gain from the implementation of a carbon tax as it counteracts price distortions due to the existence of heavy energy subsidies in these two countries.*

**Keywords:** ASEAN, carbon tax, climate change, computable general equilibrium model.

## 1. Introduction

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was founded on 8 August 1967. The Declaration forming this association was signed by the foreign ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The aim and purpose were to foster cooperation in economic, social, cultural, technical, educational and other fields, as well as the promotion of regional peace

and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law as well as adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter (Khomeini 1992). Over time, due to the relative success of this association in achieving its goals, ASEAN membership has expanded to also include Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

To enhance the benefits of collaboration among members, in 2003, the idea of creating an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 was proposed

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(Morada 2008; Simon 2008). The main goal was to create a single market and production base by allowing the free movement of goods, services, investments and skilled labour. Establishing deeper cooperation among members in response to global issues was another objective.

As the world needs to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) it emits (Stern 2006), one issue that emerged globally in the early 2000s is climate change. ASEAN countries' GHG emissions are not insignificant (ADB 2009; ASEAN 2009). Hence, leaders of ASEAN see the need to act together in response to this issue and plan to do so. At the Third East Asia Summit (EAS) on 21 November 2007, leaders reaffirmed the need to tackle climate change based on the principles set out by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) through the Singapore Declaration on Climate Change, Energy, and Environment. The declaration aims, among other things, to deepen understanding of the region's vulnerability to climate change and to implement appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures. These include intensifying ongoing operations to improve energy efficiency and the use of cleaner energy, promoting cooperation in afforestation and reforestation, as well as continuing support and initiatives under the UNFCCC (ASEAN 2007; ASEAN 2009). Among concrete measures, the Forty-first ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in July 2008 delegated the responsibility of mainstreaming climate change actions into ASEAN programmes to the ASEAN sectoral bodies on energy efficiency, transportation, and forestry (ADB 2009).

One option under consideration is to put a price on carbon emissions (Letchumanan 2010; Jotzo and Mazouz 2010; ASEAN+3 Research Group 2011). Carbon pricing takes advantage of the market mechanism in deciding where emissions should be reduced. It raises the price of goods that have associated carbon emissions in their production. Goods and services that embody high emissions will see greater increases in price than those that embody low emissions. The economic reaction to the price signal automatically implements the lower cost abatement options (Pearce 1991; Goulder

1995; Bovenberg 1999; Glomm, Kawaguchi and Sepulveda 2008; Indonesian Ministry of Finance 2009; World Bank 2010).

Left unaddressed by ASEAN members so far has been a deep understanding as to how the implementation of uniform carbon pricing policies across ASEAN countries would affect their economies. Would these policies represent a serious threat to growth? Which household groups — rural versus urban or rich versus poor households — in their countries would have to shoulder the greatest burden of these policies? In other words, would this policy be regressive or progressive towards income distribution? The main objective of this paper, hence, is to analyse the socio-environmental-economic impact of a carbon pricing policy in ASEAN. A case study of a carbon tax, or a levy on carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions,<sup>1</sup> is chosen since this policy will affect all members of ASEAN.<sup>2</sup>

Works analysing the impact of carbon tax on individual ASEAN country are available, such as the ones by: Corong (2008) on the Philippines; Coxhead, Wattanakuljarus and Chan (2013) on Vietnam; and Yusuf and Resosudarmo (2015) on Indonesia. However, none of these works take into account the impact of a policy implemented in an ASEAN country on other ASEAN countries. This paper builds a multi-country computable general equilibrium (CGE) model called the Inter-Regional System of Analysis for ASEAN (IRSA-ASEAN) to look at the impact of implementing such a tax in terms of environmental improvement, economic growth, and income distribution in ASEAN countries. Due to data availability, analysis will be focused on Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.<sup>3</sup> Thus far, this is the first paper to analyse the impact of a uniform carbon tax policy on ASEAN economies.

The next section of this paper provides the literature review regarding the assessment of the impact of a carbon tax on the economy. After that, this paper provides a brief overview of the methodology used in this study, namely the IRSA-ASEAN model, sources of data and simulation scenarios conducted. This is followed by a presentation of the results and analysis

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arising from the use of the IRSA-ASEAN model to simulate several policy scenarios related to the implementation of a carbon tax in the region. The last part of this paper concludes and discusses policy implication.

## 2. Carbon Tax

Environmental tax policies have become increasingly frequent in recent years. One reason for this is an increasing concern about the quality of the natural environment; environmental taxes are generally an efficient instrument for environment protection. The second reason involves the revenues from environmental taxes. These revenues can be used to cut other distortionary taxes. In this way, the government may reap a “double-dividend”, i.e. not only a cleaner environment but also a less distortionary tax system (Pearce 1991; Goulder 1995; Bovenberg 1999; Glomm, Kawaguchi and Sepulveda 2008).

Nevertheless, several studies, including the one by Schob (2005), theoretically argue that an environmental tax may have a multitude of possible effects which are sensitive to the underlying institutional framework. The double-dividend theory in which a revenue-neutral tax shift may yield environmental gains at virtually no cost does not always hold up. While there are significant environmental benefits associated with a tax shift, these gains are not generally costless.

Despite debate on the cost of an environmental tax to control the quality of the environment, recent studies argued that revenue-raising environmental policies are more efficient than non-revenue-raising ones because of the revenue-recycling effect (Morgenstern 1995). However, the tax type, “recycling policy”, and economic model significantly influence the chance a double-dividend effect can be obtained (Lai 2009).

The term recycling policy refers to revenue recycling, that is, using new revenues from environment-related taxes to decrease pre-existing distortionary taxes. Other forms of financial recycling are also possible, such as lump-sum transfers to households or industries, consisting of recycling revenues to households or to industries in

the form of one-off payments (Patuella, Nijkamp and Pelsb 2005). There is increasing evidence that the way in which tax revenues are recycled is a key factor in meeting a country’s economic and environmental objectives (Welsch 1996; Corong 2008; Yusuf and Resosudarmo 2015).

A carbon tax is one type of environmental tax. The early works on the impact of a carbon tax on the economy include Poterba (1991), Pearson and Smith (1991) and Hamilton and Cameron (1994); while some of the more recent ones are those of Ojha (2009), Grainger and Kolstad (2009) and Cororaton and Corong (2009). According to these works, there are some caveats associated with the implementation of a carbon tax.

One such caveat is the regressive nature of a carbon tax in as much as it imposes the heaviest burden on the lower income groups (Grainger and Kolstad 2009). Most of the studies on this issue, however, concern developed countries (Baranzini, Goldemberg and Speck 2000). Among others are those by Brännlund and Nordstrom (2004), Oladosu and Rose (2007), Leach (2009), and Callan et al. (2009), which all confirm that a carbon tax or energy tax in developed countries is regressive.

For developing countries, among the few are the works by Shah and Larsen (1992), Brenner, Riddle and Boyce (2007), Corong (2008), Ojha (2009), Coxhead, Wattanakuljarus and Chan (2013), and Yusuf and Resosudarmo (2015). The papers show such regressivity is less pronounced with respect to household expenditure. Literature on this issue hence concludes that the regressivity of carbon taxes should be less of a concern in developing than in developed countries.

Another note of caution deals with the so-called “rebound effect”, i.e. a situation in which the implementation of carbon tax, instead of reducing, actually induces a higher level of carbon emissions. The first channel of a possible rebound effect is as follows. A high energy price due to a carbon tax, besides being expected to reduce energy usage, also increases the efficiency of energy use. The rebound effect occurs when the increase in energy efficiency increases energy consumption in such that this increased consumption offsets the

energy savings that might otherwise be achieved (Sorrell and Dimitropoulos 2008; Sorrell 2009). The second channel occurs when the recycling of revenue from a carbon tax results in increased consumption of energy, offsetting the expected energy savings due to a carbon tax. Indeed, various empirical studies and simulations have indicated that the rebound effect occurs in many countries. Among them are Brännlund, Ghalwash and Nordström (2007) in the case of Sweden, Barker, Ekins and Foxon (2007) in the case of the United Kingdom, Mizobuchi in the case of Japan (2008), and Holm and Englund (2009) in the cases of United States of America and Western Europe. This paper aims to observe whether the implementation of a uniform carbon tax in ASEAN induces a situation of double-dividend, is regressive and/or creates a rebound effect.

### 3. Methods

#### 3.1 Inter-Regional System of Analysis for ASEAN (IRSA-ASEAN) Model

The IRSA-ASEAN model is a multi-country CGE model that stems from other developments in CGE modelling over the last twenty years; some of these sources of inspiration are direct and easily identified, including one of the first CGE models for Indonesia by Lewis (1991), the GTAP model (Hertel 1997), the Globe model (McDonald, Thierfelder and Robinson 2007) and IRSA-Indonesia<sup>5</sup> (Resosudarmo et al. 2008; Resosudarmo et al. 2011). The IRSA-ASEAN model is a unique model in its own right, both structure-wise and purpose-wise. The IRSA-ASEAN model itself is a multi-country model that solves at the country level, meaning that optimizations are performed at this level. This approach allows for variation in price as well as in quantity for each country to be observed using this model. This approach enables observation of the impact of a shock specific to one country compared with other countries, the whole ASEAN economy, and within the country itself.

The IRSA-ASEAN model includes six ASEAN member countries, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

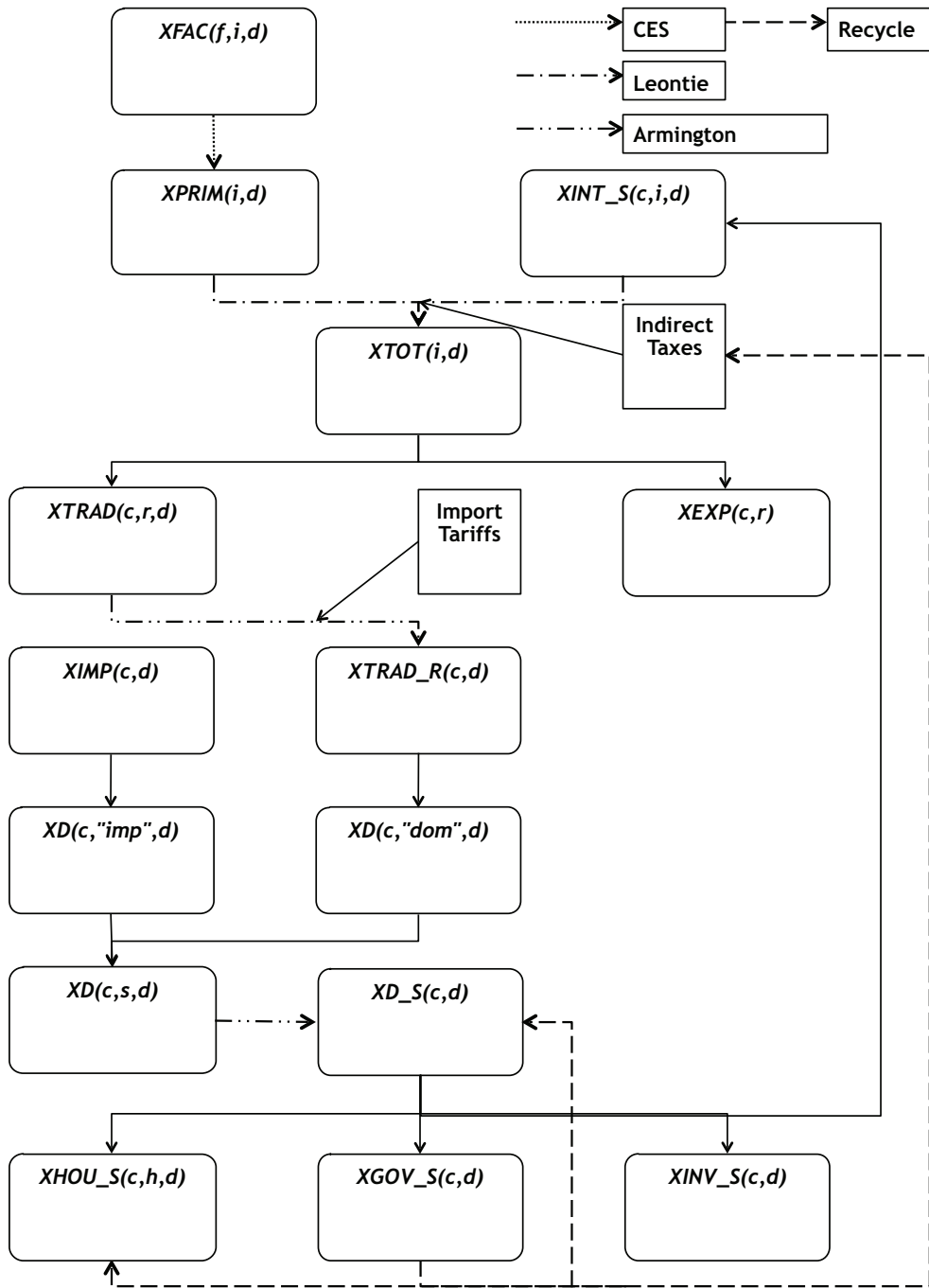
As optimization is performed at the country level, and taking into account the “sovereignty” element of each country, the model uses neither a bottom-up nor a top-down approach.<sup>4</sup> Each country is instead connected through commodity flows, i.e. trade of goods and services, as well as transfer flows, i.e. remittances and savings-investments. The model also allows direct transfer of primary factors of production, e.g. fragmentation. However, due to data scarcity, this last feature is not included in the empirical study. As a consequence of the sovereignty element in the IRSA-ASEAN model, each country has its own balance of payments as well as savings and investment accounts. Each country deals directly with other countries in terms of trading and is allowed its own set of tariff barriers. For example, in the IRSA-ASEAN model, each country can export/import goods and services directly to/from the rest of the world (ROW).

Another important highlight of the IRSA-ASEAN model deals with the issue of double-dividends. The model internalizes the double-dividend hypothesis by explicitly incorporating various recycling mechanisms. In this regard, aside from the government increasing its expenditure, the carbon tax revenue can either be recycled directly to households, e.g. by a direct one-time lump-sum cash transfer to low-income households, or recycled back to industry, e.g. by indirect tax reduction, so that it creates a less distortionary tax system, or supposedly so.

Figure 1 shows the basic flow of commodities and production structures in each country.  $XTOT(i,d)$  is output,  $XINT_S(c,i,d)$  is the intermediate good, and  $XPRIM(i,d)$  is the primary input. Meanwhile,  $XTRAD_R(c,r,d)$  is the domestic<sup>5</sup> demand, which becomes  $XTRAD_R(c,d)$  as the domestic demand composite,  $XD_S(c,d)$  is the domestic and import<sup>6</sup> demand composite, and  $XFAC(f,i,d)$  is the demand for a factor of production. The following defines the subscript notations:

- $c$  commodity;
- $d$  destination of commodity in domestic country;
- $f$  factors of production, labour, and capital;
- $h$  households;

FIGURE 1  
Production Structure of the IRSA-ASEAN Model



- $i$  industry;
- $r$  source of commodity in domestic country; and
- $s$  source of commodity, composite between domestic country and import.

Note that  $XEXP(c,r)$  represents exports to the rest of the world, while the term  $XIMP(c,d)$  refers to imports from the rest of the world. Meanwhile,  $XHOU\_S(c,h,d)$  represents household demand,  $XGOV\_S(c,d)$  represents government demand, and  $XINV\_S(c,d)$  represents investment demand. Also note that indirect taxes affect production output while import taxes affect composite demand.<sup>7</sup>

At the first stage, with only five factors of production, a constant elasticity of substitution (CES) function can be used to determine the demand for primary factors. At the second stage, a firm's objective is to maximize profit with a Leontief production function. The Leontief production function determines the relationship between all the inputs, a composite of primary factors and intermediate goods, to outputs. Admittedly, one notable limitation to this setup is that endogenous substitution between intermediate inputs is not allowed.

Final users of commodity  $c$  consist of households, governments, and investors. Households maximize a Cobb-Douglas utility function subject to a budget constraint. Governments and investor choose their combination of commodities based on a constant budget share. Lastly, the following closures are incorporated into the IRSA-ASEAN model to guarantee that the system is solvable:

- All factor supplies are exogenous;
- Unskilled and skilled labour are mobile;
- Land, natural resources, capital are immobile;
- All household and corporate saving rates are exogenous;
- All shares of inter-institutional transfer rates are exogenous;
- World import prices are exogenous;
- Indirect tax and import tariff rates are exogenous; and
- Output price index is set as a *numeraire*.

Since land, natural resources and capital are set to be immobile across sectors and a Leontief production function is utilized in the IRSA-ASEAN model, the model produces short-run impacts of a policy simulation.

The CO<sub>2</sub> emission model is upheld as a separate model; yet it is also integrated into the CGE model. Emissions basically come from households and industrial sectors due to fossil fuel consumption; in this model, namely only the consumption of coal, petroleum products, and manufactured gas.<sup>8</sup> Once the value of the respective fossil fuel consumption is determined, it is possible to determine the volume and estimate the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

In reality, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as well as other greenhouse gases, also depend on combustion technology, operating conditions, control technology, as well as on maintenance and age of the equipment implemented (Lee 2008). However, as noted by IPCC, OECD and EIA (1997), few countries have such data. Likewise, the IRSA-ASEAN model ignores these refinements and calculates carbon emissions solely from fossil fuel combustion of coal, petroleum products, and manufactured gas.

The amount of carbon tax in the IRSA-ASEAN model is transformed into a sales tax for the consumption and use of fossil fuels — namely only the consumption of coal, petroleum products, and manufactured gas — borne by households and industries (Adams, Horridge and Parmenter 2000; Yusuf and Resosudarmo 2015). Revenue from these taxes is collected by the government.

Another distinctive feature of the IRSA-ASEAN model is its connection to a microsimulation model to disaggregate the four household groups, namely Rural-Low, Urban-Low, Rural-High, and Urban-High.<sup>9</sup> Once a solution has been found for a particular simulation, through the microsimulation model, household groups are disaggregated further into 100 groups based on population percentile groups in both rural and urban areas. The microsimulation basically disaggregates household expenditure for each commodity using an expenditure share coefficient for each percentile household group.<sup>10</sup>

### 3.2 Data Sources

For empirical results, the IRSA-ASEAN model uses the Social Accounting Matrix for ASEAN (ASEAN-SAM) which has been calibrated from the input-output (I-O)-based Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) Version 7 Data Base with parameter values, e.g. value-added and Armington elasticities, also obtained from this source. The database uses a common reference year of 2004 and a common currency of US dollars (US\$ million) for all six countries in the region. The database has been heavily modified using various country-specific datasets, e.g. social accounting matrices and household income/expenditure surveys, so as to provide greater insight and flexibility for policy analysis.

The additional datasets required to build the so-called ASEAN-SAM are as follows. For Indonesia, the additional data needed are the (1) 2005 Social Accounting Matrix, and (2) 2005 Inter-Regional Social Accounting Matrix (Resosudarmo et al. 2008); for Malaysia, the (1) 2004/2005 Household Expenditure Survey, (2) 2004 Distribution and Use of Income Accounts and Capital Accounts, (3) 2000 Population and Housing Census, and (4) 1970 Social Accounting Matrix (Pyatt, Round and Denes 1984); for the Philippines, the (1) 2006 Family Income Expenditure Survey, (2) 2000 Social Accounting Matrix (Cororaton and Corong 2009), and (3) 1997 Family Income Expenditure Survey; for Singapore, the (1) 2008 Yearbook of Statistics, and (2) 2002/2003 Report on the Household Expenditure Survey; for Thailand, the (1) 2008 Key Statistics, (2) 2002 Household Socio-Economic Survey, and (3) 1998 Social Accounting Matrix (Li 2002); and for Vietnam, the (1) 2004 Living Standard Survey, and (2) 1997 Social Accounting Matrix (Nielsen 2002). Other datasets needed are the 2010 World Development Indicators, 2008 ASEAN Statistical Yearbook, 2005 ASEAN Statistical Yearbook, 2005 Bilateral Remittance Estimates (Ratha and Shaw 2007), 2005 International Energy Prices (Metschies 2005), and 2004 Combustion-Based CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Data for GTAP Version 7 (Lee 2008).

Procedures in constructing the ASEAN-SAM for modelling purposes are divided into three

phases. The first phase involves the preparation of the GTAP Version 7 Data Base and transforming it into SAMs for the six individual countries à la McDonald, Thierfelder and Robinson (2007). Phase 2 is a set of steps required to transform each individual SAM à la McDonald, Thierfelder and Robinson (2007) into a standard SAM form by completing international and domestic transfers. Phase 3 is when all individual SAMs are combined to form the ASEAN-SAM. Some adjustments are needed to combine these individual SAMs. Table 1 provides a detailed list of sets of the ASEAN-SAM, while Table 2 provides selected economic indicators from the ASEAN-SAM.

### 3.3 Policy Simulations: Carbon Tax Implementation

With regards to policy simulations, as mentioned before, this study focuses on the economic impact of carbon tax policies. Even using only this single instrument, i.e. the carbon tax, there are many ways in which this policy can be implemented and modelled. The simulations of the model presented in this paper focus on the implementation of symmetric policies, which simply means that the chosen policy is implemented across the board in all six countries. A relatively modest uniform carbon tax policy, i.e. a US\$10 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, is chosen in this paper, as this also follows previous work of the Indonesian Ministry of Finance (2009).

The analyses are divided into three different scenarios to simulate three possible recycling mechanisms that may be implemented. These mechanisms deal with the revenue generated from the carbon tax policy implemented by the respective government as explained previously. The first recycling mechanism (SIM1) assumes that the government retains all the revenue generated and thereby increases its consumption proportionally where the total increase equals the carbon tax revenue.

The second mechanism (SIM2) assumes that the government redistributes 50 per cent of the revenue back to households in the form of a direct

TABLE 1  
List of Sets

<i>Production Sectors</i>		<i>Regions</i>
Agriculture	Trade	Indonesia
Farming	Transportation	Malaysia
Forestry	Communication	Philippines
Fishing	Financial services	Singapore
Coal	Public administration, defence, health, and education	Thailand
Oil		Vietnam
Gas	Dwellings and other services	Rest of the World
Minerals <i>nec</i>		
Food and beverages	<i>Factors</i>	<i>Institutions</i>
Textile and leather products		
Wood and paper products	Unskilled labour	Rural-Low Household
Petroleum and coal products	Skilled labour	Rural-High Household
Chemical, rubber, and plastic products	Land	Urban-Low Household
Mineral products <i>nec</i>	Natural resources	Urban-High Household
Metal products	Capital	Corporate
Manufacturing		Government
Electricity	<i>Other Accounts</i>	
Gas manufacture distribution	Indirect Tax	
Water	Import Tax	
Construction	Saving-Investment	

cash transfer to improve social welfare. In this variant, in order to conform to the real world, the government only redistributes cash to poor households in both rural and urban areas.<sup>11</sup> Hence, transfer shares between rural-low and urban-low income households are weighted based on the poverty incidence, i.e. the percentage of population below the national poverty line. Effectively, with greater poverty incidence in rural areas, low-income households in these areas receive a greater

share of the cash transfer compared to low-income households in urban areas. Logically, of course, high-income households in both rural and urban areas do not receive these cash transfers.

Meanwhile, the third variant (SIM3) assumes that the government uses 50 per cent of the carbon tax revenue to reduce other distortionary taxes in order to achieve a double dividend. In the IRSA-ASEAN model, the respective government proportionally redistributes the revenue obtained



TABLE 2  
Selected Economic Indicators from the 2005 ASEAN-SAM

	<i>IDN</i>	<i>MYS</i>	<i>PHL</i>	<i>SGP</i>	<i>THA</i>	<i>VNM</i>
<i>Macroeconomic Indicators</i>						
(in US\$ million)						
Private Consumption	174,751	37,373	58,936	55,286	86,874	29,139
Government Consumption	20,035	11,641	8,754	13,911	16,129	2,798
Fixed Investment	49,317	17,316	14,118	31,396	40,344	15,073
Export	89,212	154,873	51,491	169,961	121,174	32,660
Import	88,496	107,987	48,969	161,818	108,691	36,666
Gross Domestic Product	244,819	113,214	84,330	108,737	155,831	43,003
<i>Sectoral Disaggregation</i>						
(in US\$ million)						
Agriculture	33,917	6,299	10,004	304	13,590	6,405
Manufacture	96,033	72,203	31,414	29,220	68,253	22,935
Service	124,752	36,397	43,059	77,289	79,855	13,687
<i>Average Expenditure per Capita</i>						
(in US\$)						
Rural-Low	388	844	193		602	207
Rural-High	1,522	1,601	1,205		1,429	539
Urban-Low	540	939	194	7,966	1,093	165
Urban-High	1,682	3,325	2,104	21,222	4,696	1,328
<i>Population</i>						
(in thousand)						
Rural	114,975	8,438	32,004		44,350	60,720
Urban	101,469	16,736	51,908	4,167	20,928	21,312
<i>Poverty Incidence (using national poverty lines)</i>						
(in percentage)						
Rural	21.1	13.2	41.4		12.6	45.0
Urban	14.4	3.8	15.0		4.0	9.0
<i>CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions (from fossil fuel combustion only)</i>						
Total CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions (in kiloton)	357,387	145,012	76,641	40,838	216,977	86,708
CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions per Capita (in ton)	1.65	5.76	0.91	9.80	3.32	1.05
CO <sub>2</sub> Emission Intensity	1.46	1.28	0.91	0.38	1.39	2.02
(in kiloton/USD million)						

back to industries through a negative indirect tax. This scheme is intended to achieve a less distortionary tax system.

#### 4. Results and Discussions

Table 3 shows the short-run impacts on emissions, macroeconomic indicators, and household expenditure, when implementing a carbon tax of US\$10 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on all countries.<sup>12</sup> It is important to note that all changes are calculated at the original price level, meaning that their changes are real changes.

In order to understand why and how changes occur when a carbon tax is implemented, particularly when performing a welfare analysis, a more detailed examination must be conducted at the sectoral level. Table 4 shows selected sectoral prices. It is important to note that Table 4 also implicitly shows changes from the original prices. This implies, for example, that a coal price of 1.29 in Indonesia means that the price of coal has increased by 29 per cent in Indonesia after a carbon tax of US\$10 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> has been implemented in the form of a sales tax to industries and households.

Following the changes in commodity prices, production activities change as well. Table 5 shows the real sectoral value-added changes in per cent. Note that this table does not show real output changes because it is more important at this stage to look at the industrial changes while avoiding changes that arise from the export and import of commodities. The distinction is important, as value-added changes will affect households more than output changes. Also, the changes are in per cent. Lastly, from top to bottom, the first four sectors are categorized as agriculture, followed by twelve sectors categorized as manufacturing, and ten sectors as services.

The overall impact on households can be seen from Table 3. However, to see the progressive or regressive nature of the carbon tax, it is necessary to disaggregate households further into 100 categories based on population percentile for both rural and urban areas. The percentile grouping goes from the poorest to richest based on their

respective initial total expenditure. Figure 2 illustrates the percentage change in real household consumption by percentile group.

To further understand the impact of a carbon tax policy on low income households, this paper also observes the impact of simulated poverty policies (percentage of those living below each country's poverty line). The results can be seen in Table 6, which shows the poverty rate before and after each simulation.

##### 4.1 Environmental and Macroeconomic Impacts

From Table 3, it can be seen that implementing a carbon tax with any recycling variants reduces carbon emissions, i.e. there is no indication of a rebound effect, at least in the short run. However, this gain for the environment may come at a cost in terms of contraction in the GDP as well as real household expenditure. Redistributing revenue generated to low-income households appears to alleviate the cost associated with the rising price of energy; but this comes at a cost in terms of greater GDP reduction in some cases. Furthermore, this type of recycling mechanism diminishes carbon emissions reduction. This is as expected due to the fact that redistributing revenue to low-income households increases their expenditure. Bearing in mind that households also produce carbon emissions through the consumption of fossil fuels, an increase in their expenditure thus entails an increase in their carbon emissions. This creates some level of "local" rebound, although not enough to affect the net effect.<sup>13</sup>

Of more interest is how a carbon tax affects each country differently. Determining which countries stand to gain the most from a carbon tax scheme is actually as one would expect, regardless of how the revenue generated might be redistributed. For Indonesia and Malaysia, a carbon tax has a positive effect on the overall economy. However, some sectors will more likely be adversely affected than others, namely the manufacturing sector followed by the agricultural sector; whereas the service sector will actually benefit from the implementation of a carbon tax — assuming that the government retains all the revenue generated

TABLE 3  
Macroeconomic Results

	CO <sub>2</sub> %	Real GDP %	Real Sectoral Change (%)			Real Household Expenditure Change (%)			
			Agri.	Manuf.	Serv.	Rural-Low	Urban-Low	Rural-High	Urban-High
<i>Government (SIM1)</i>									
Indonesia	-3.7	0.25	-0.14	-0.32	0.75	-1.1	-1.27	-1.2	-0.18
Malaysia	-4.06	0.04	0.01	-0.18	0.46	-1.36	-1.54	-1.13	-1.35
Philippines	-2.99	-0.04	-0.08	-0.43	0.25	-0.77	-0.71	-0.77	-0.73
Singapore	-0.95	-0.01	0.02	-0.35	0.12	-0.32	-0.32	-0.34	-0.34
Thailand	-2.38	-0.14	-0.18	-0.74	0.32	-0.91	-0.64	-1.14	-1.06
Vietnam	-6.29	-0.33	-0.06	-1.12	0.87	-1.84	-1.83	-1.77	-1.55
<i>Household (SIM2)</i>									
Indonesia	-3.4	0.27	0.01	0.07	0.47	2.18	0.12	-1.32	-0.9
Malaysia	-3.74	0.06	0.17	0.07	0.02	7.16	-0.76	-1.36	-1.56
Philippines	-2.82	-0.03	0.05	-0.18	0.07	5.85	0.43	-0.88	-0.9
Singapore	-0.88	-0.01	0.04	-0.26	0.09	0.45	0.45	-0.37	-0.37
Thailand	-2.08	-0.08	0.01	-0.38	0.14	3.69	0.39	-1.32	-1.53
Vietnam	-5.77	-0.22	0.14	-0.65	0.32	2.44	0.26	-1.81	-1.81
<i>Industry (SIM3)</i>									
Indonesia	-3.34	0.26	-0.02	0.55	0.12	-1.61	-1.66	-1.35	-0.32
Malaysia	-4.03	0.04	*	0.24	-0.33	-2.76	-2.61	-0.78	-0.99
Philippines	-3.35	-0.05	-0.09	-0.28	0.12	-1	-0.63	-1.02	-0.6
Singapore	-0.94	-0.01	0.05	-0.1	0.02	-0.51	-0.51	-0.22	-0.22
Thailand	-2.49	-0.14	-0.12	-0.38	0.04	-2.59	-1.35	-2.25	-0.77
Vietnam	-3.67	-0.22	0.24	0.24	-1.19	-1.9	-2.62	-1.85	-2.65

NOTE: \* — Negligible Value

TABLE 4  
Selected Sectoral Price Changes

	<i>Indonesia</i>	<i>Malaysia</i>	<i>Philippines</i>	<i>Singapore</i>	<i>Thailand</i>	<i>Vietnam</i>
<i>Government (SIM1)</i>						
Coal	1.29	1.24	1.25	1.3	1.24	1.22
Petroleum Products	1.1	1.11	1.13	1.07	1.08	1.15
Manufactured Gas	1.01	1.02	1.01	1.03	1.02	1.01
Electricity	1.03	1.03	1.03	1.02	1.02	1.01
Transportation	1.02	1.02	1.01	1	1.01	1.06
<i>Household (SIM2)</i>						
Coal	1.29	1.24	1.25	1.3	1.25	1.22
Petroleum Products	1.1	1.12	1.13	1.07	1.08	1.15
Manufactured Gas	1.01	1.02	1.01	1.03	1.01	1.01
Electricity	1.03	1.03	1.03	1.02	1.02	1
Transportation	1.02	1.02	1.01	1	1.01	1.06
<i>Industry (SIM3)</i>						
Coal	1.34	1.22	1.12	1.27	1.14	1.78
Petroleum Products	1.04	0.98	0.87	0.97	0.89	1.56
Manufactured Gas	1.06	1	0.87	0.99	0.91	1.55
Electricity	1.08	1.01	0.89	0.98	0.91	1.54
Transportation	1.06	1	0.88	0.97	0.91	1.62

and recycles it all back through its increase in expenditure.

All the other countries, on the other hand, exhibit a common pattern that is opposite to that of Indonesia and Malaysia. Although beneficial in terms of environmental improvement, it comes at the cost of a contraction to their respective economies. This is especially true in the case of Vietnam, as it will most likely suffer the most in terms of economic contraction with respect to all variants. Regarding sectoral changes, these countries also exhibit the same pattern as Indonesia and Malaysia, with the manufacturing sector most likely to be adversely affected, followed by the agricultural sector, which will most likely gain.

In terms of overall change, it is quite obvious why Indonesia and Malaysia are most likely to benefit as opposed to the other countries. In these countries, fuel is subsidized<sup>14</sup> so that introducing a carbon tax is similar to reducing subsidies

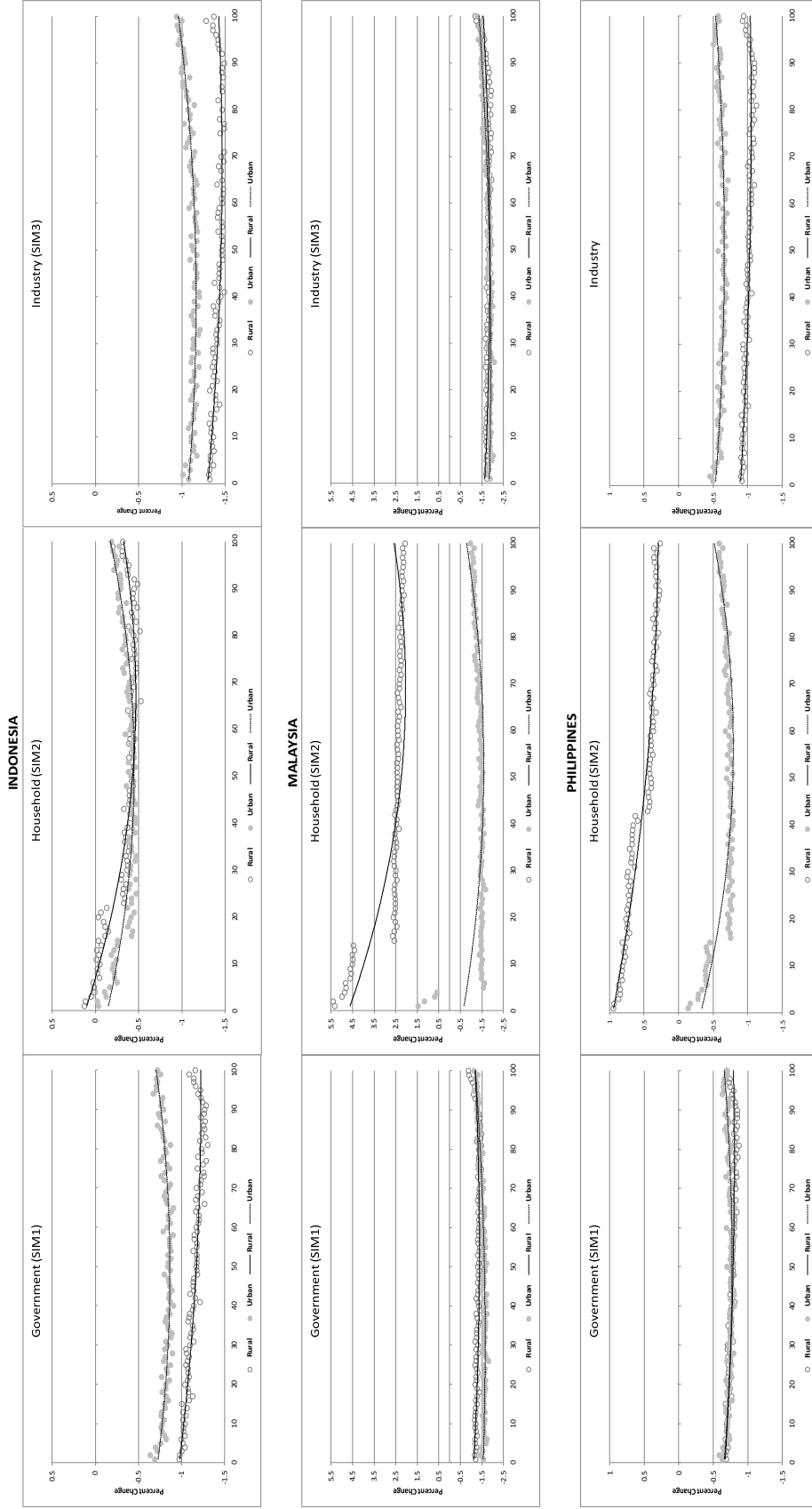
(Yusuf and Resosudarmo 2008; Ahmad, Kadir and Shafie 2011). In other words, a carbon tax actually promotes efficiency by creating a less distortionary tax system in which the double-dividend hypothesis and the no-regret option apply. This is not true in the other countries as they do not subsidize to the extent of Indonesia and Malaysia. As such, introducing a carbon tax will most likely create a more distortionary tax system, with Vietnam suffering the most, followed by Thailand, the Philippines, and Singapore. The fact that the Philippines and Singapore do not subsidize fuel at all allows a more efficient adjustment to take place in their respective economies so that they do not suffer as much as Vietnam and Thailand.

Meanwhile, although recycling mechanisms do not affect the overall results in terms of emission reduction and economic contraction, they significantly affect sectoral changes and household expenditure. When part of the carbon

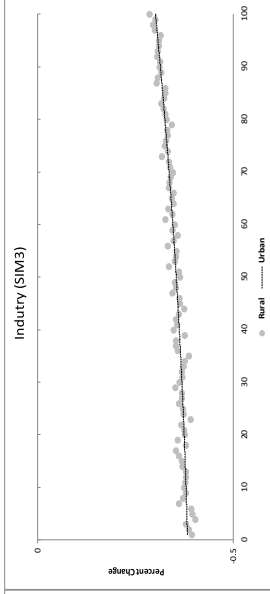
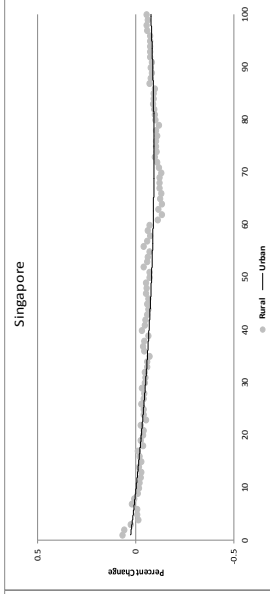
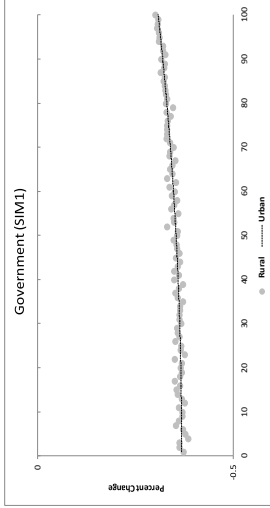
TABLE 5  
Real Sectoral Value-Added Changes in Per Cent

	Indonesia			Malaysia			Philippines			Singapore			Thailand			Vietnam		
	GOV (SIM1)	HOU (SIM2)	IND (SIM3)	GOV (SIM1)	HOU (SIM2)	IND (SIM3)	GOV (SIM1)	HOU (SIM2)	IND (SIM3)	GOV (SIM1)	HOU (SIM2)	IND (SIM3)	GOV (SIM1)	HOU (SIM2)	IND (SIM3)	GOV (SIM1)	HOU (SIM2)	IND (SIM3)
Agriculture	-0.12	0.04	0.00	0.05	0.15	0.03	-0.06	0.07	-0.03	0.02	0.05	0.06	-0.13	0.02	-0.06	0.08	0.21	0.32
Farming	-0.12	0.07	-0.02	-0.02	0.26	-0.07	-0.16	0.04	-0.25	0.02	0.05	0.08	-0.27	-0.03	-0.14	-0.06	0.21	0.00
Forestry	-0.38	-0.20	0.07	0.06	0.12	0.10	-0.08	-0.02	-0.08	0.01	0.01	0.02	-0.11	-0.01	-0.07	-0.28	-0.07	0.51
Fishing	-0.14	-0.04	-0.12	0.02	0.14	-0.03	-0.03	0.03	-0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	-0.18	-0.11	-0.19	-0.29	-0.04	0.06
Coal	-0.02	-0.01	0.00	-0.04	0.01	-0.02	-0.79	-0.77	-0.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.29	-0.19	-0.26	-0.16	-0.06	0.16
Oil	-0.05	-0.04	-0.03	-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	-0.17	-0.16	-0.13	-0.04	-0.04	-0.03	-0.04	-0.02	-0.02	0.01	0.06	0.14
Gas	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.96	-0.83	-1.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.07	-0.01	-0.02	-2.96	-2.70	-1.43
Minerals <i>nec</i>	-0.42	-0.27	-0.10	-0.90	-0.78	-0.65	-0.13	-0.09	-0.14	-0.49	-0.38	-0.29	-0.13	-0.07	-0.10	-1.40	-1.20	-0.30
Food and beverages	-0.57	-0.06	-0.01	-0.25	-0.02	0.04	-0.26	0.06	-0.06	0.00	0.15	0.15	-0.43	-0.14	-0.08	-0.50	0.10	0.90
Textile and leather products	-1.53	-0.91	0.28	-0.61	-0.31	0.21	-0.43	-0.19	-0.18	-0.03	0.11	0.34	-0.54	-0.03	0.03	-0.50	0.14	2.66
Wood and paper products	-0.64	-0.35	0.34	-0.37	-0.15	0.07	-0.56	-0.43	-0.43	0.07	0.15	0.21	-0.58	-0.25	-0.14	-0.87	-0.50	0.95
Petroleum and coal products	-7.65	-7.41	-6.96	-5.35	-5.08	-5.17	-4.63	-4.43	-4.99	-3.02	-2.90	-2.62	-5.03	-4.75	-5.14	-6.00	-5.45	-2.50
Chemical, rubber, and plastic products	-2.31	-1.68	-0.58	-0.64	-0.40	-0.17	-0.61	-0.40	-0.43	-0.86	-0.79	-0.69	-1.18	-0.81	-0.49	-2.47	-1.83	0.52
Mineral products <i>nec</i>	-2.89	-2.39	-1.82	-2.00	-1.74	-1.75	-2.46	-2.22	-3.05	-0.11	-0.03	0.03	-2.14	-1.83	-2.13	-2.14	-1.69	-1.16
Metal products	-1.65	-1.14	-0.11	-0.99	-0.70	-0.28	-0.43	-0.25	-0.28	-0.26	-0.15	0.14	-1.06	-0.68	-0.40	-3.25	-2.54	0.03
Manufacturing	-1.45	-0.88	0.15	-0.04	0.28	0.57	-0.32	-0.08	-0.13	0.03	0.12	0.34	-0.46	-0.10	0.13	-1.36	-0.75	0.38
Electricity	-2.01	-1.74	-1.78	-0.50	-0.32	-0.62	-0.96	-0.83	-1.04	-0.43	-0.41	-0.49	-0.59	-0.34	-0.62	-1.93	-1.23	-0.72
Gas manufacture distribution	-0.98	-0.76	-0.43	-0.36	-0.18	-0.30	-0.95	-0.83	-1.03	-13.39	-13.37	-13.62	-0.64	-0.31	-0.49	-2.07	-1.37	-0.73
Water	-1.83	-1.26	-1.45	0.02	0.04	0.01	-0.25	0.00	-0.20	-0.07	0.02	-0.04	-0.05	0.08	-0.06	-0.72	0.03	0.15
Construction	-0.99	-0.43	0.01	-1.24	-1.06	-1.39	-0.69	-0.43	-2.98	-0.26	-0.14	-0.12	-1.40	-1.00	-2.35	-1.33	-1.09	-5.06
Trade	-0.37	0.10	-0.22	-0.38	0.09	-0.07	-0.30	0.01	-0.25	-0.06	0.08	0.06	-0.34	0.01	-0.33	-1.54	-0.91	0.54
Transportation	-2.53	-2.19	-2.00	-7.68	-7.48	-7.32	-2.69	-2.52	-2.99	-0.47	-0.40	-0.32	-3.75	-3.41	-3.76	-17.64	-17.27	-10.39
Communication	-0.52	-0.16	-0.08	-0.01	0.18	0.01	-0.49	-0.20	-0.46	0.00	0.05	0.02	-0.37	-0.05	-0.28	-0.16	0.39	1.17
Financial services	-0.66	-0.25	-0.05	1.01	0.68	0.48	-0.53	-0.17	-0.52	0.09	0.15	0.23	-0.38	-0.01	-0.17	-0.59	0.15	1.02
Public administration, defence, health, and education	10.30	5.56	3.12	8.51	4.46	2.87	3.97	2.03	4.18	1.44	0.78	0.16	8.47	4.52	6.32	9.49	5.36	-0.32
Dwellings and other services	-0.21	0.03	-0.12	0.16	0.26	0.17	-0.27	-0.10	-0.26	-0.01	0.06	0.02	-0.15	0.08	-0.17	-1.01	-0.64	-0.19

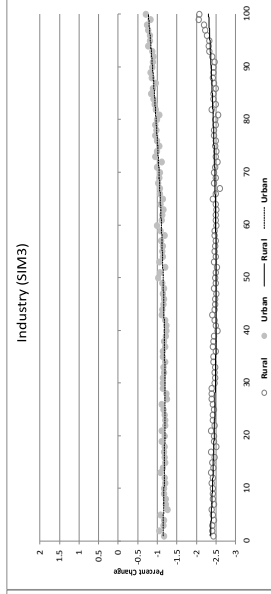
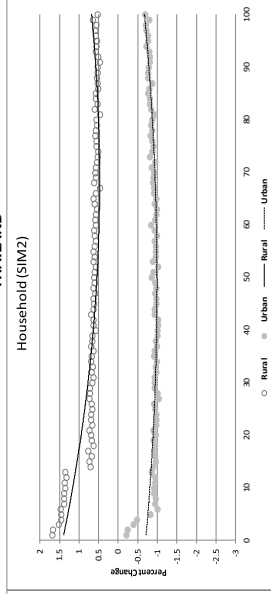
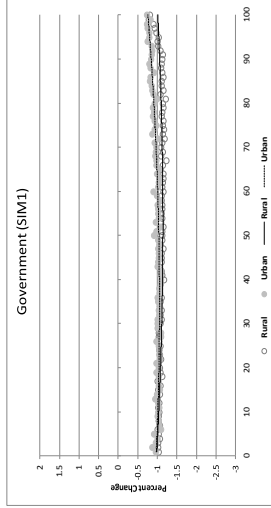
FIGURE 2  
Real Household Expenditure Changes in Per Cent



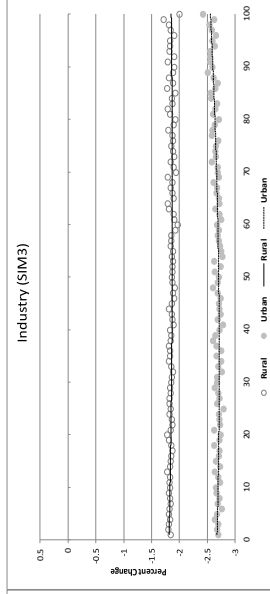
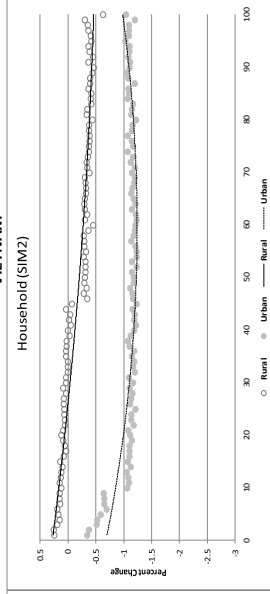
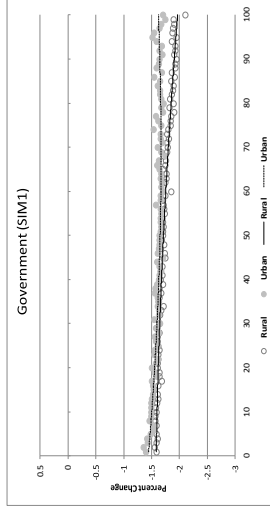
**SINGAPORE**



**THAILAND**



**VIETNAM**



**NOTE:** When the y-axis is positive, upward sloping means that the richer the household is, the more the increase in their real expenditures, as a proxy of their real incomes, is due to the implementation of a carbon tax; i.e. the rich benefit more. When the y-axis is negative, upward sloping means that the richer the household is, the less the decline in their real expenditures, as a proxy of their real incomes, is due to the implementation of a carbon tax; i.e. the rich are less adversely affected. Hence upward sloping indicates that the impact of carbon tax is regressive. Downward sloping, on the other hand, indicates that the impact of carbon tax is progressive.

TABLE 6  
Poverty Rate in Per Cent

		<i>Initial</i>	<i>Government (SIM1)</i>	<i>Household (SIM2)</i>	<i>Industry (SIM3)</i>
Indonesia	Rural	21.1	21.52	21.13	21.65
	Urban	14.4	14.67	14.50	14.78
Malaysia	Rural	13.2	13.84	9.38	16.71
	Urban	3.8	4.08	3.72	4.53
Philippines	Rural	41.4	42.50	40.65	41.33
	Urban	15.0	15.27	15.19	15.23
Thailand	Rural	12.6	13.04	12.07	14.78
	Urban	4.0	5.31	5.28	5.37
Vietnam	Rural	45.0	49.11	45.64	49.16
	Urban	9.0	9.32	9.15	9.58

NOTE: Singapore is not included in the table and subsequent analysis as it does not have an existing poverty incidence.

tax revenue is recycled back to low-income households in both rural and urban areas (SIM2), the first thing to note is that these two household groups are no longer as adversely affected as before. Those in the lower income bracket are somewhat compensated by the changes as they are given a lump sum cash transfer by their respective governments. As household expenditure patterns are different from government expenditure patterns, this in turn changes the sectoral output as the household consumption share is higher for manufacturing and agricultural goods than for services, compared to the government consumption share pattern. As such, these two sectors are somewhat compensated by increased consumption as opposed to the previous recycling mechanism.

As for the third recycling mechanism (SIM3) where the government reduces indirect taxes, the first obvious thing to note is that households are no longer compensated, so that their expenditure consumption pattern changes are closer to the first recycling mechanism. However, changes in sectoral output are more erratic as a few things are happening at the same time, e.g. carbon sales tax, indirect taxes and price changes.

One final important thing to note is that the recycling mechanisms do not have much impact on the overall results, in terms of carbon emission reduction and real GDP change, which is logical. As such, in terms of overall achievement, recycling mechanisms do not matter, although for practical policy purposes, they become very important in terms of feasibility and acceptability.

#### 4.2 Price and Industrial Impacts

Table 4 shows that once a carbon tax is implemented, the price of coal, petroleum products, and manufactured gas immediately increases. The price of coal increases the most followed by petroleum products and manufactured gas, as coal is the “dirtiest” in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> content compared to the others. Changes in these commodity prices have a secondary effect, with the electricity and transportation sectors affected the most as these two sectors are the largest energy users. The logic is quite straightforward with regard to the first two recycling mechanisms but not with the third (SIM3).<sup>15</sup>

When the third recycling mechanism is implemented, other changes occur simultaneously



that affect prices. Indirect tax reductions directly affect production activities, meaning that prices change in a different way to the other two recycling mechanisms. As indirect taxes differ greatly between countries, e.g. the existence of fuel subsidies in Indonesia and Malaysia, the third recycling mechanism affects the same sectors differently across countries.

Table 5 shows that the manufacturing sectors undergo a general contraction. Meanwhile, the agricultural sectors are not affected as much, whereas service sectors generally contract, with the exception of government-related sectors. This implies that households that rely on income from the manufacturing sector are likely to suffer the most from an income reduction, which in turn reduces their ability to consume. Meanwhile, those in the agricultural sector will most likely be unaffected income-wise, although price changes may still affect their consumption level. Those who are most likely to gain are households in the service sector, particularly government-related sectors such as defense, health, and education.

#### 4.3 Distributional Impacts

Bear in mind, a carbon tax is generally regressive in developed countries and less so in developing countries (Shah and Larsen 1992; Brenner, Riddle and Boyce 2007; Yusuf and Resosudarmo 2015). Although most ASEAN countries would fall under the developing country category, with the exception of Singapore, a quick glance at Figure 2 may not provide such a straightforward answer. Singapore, understandably the most developed country in the region, shows clearly the regressive nature of the carbon tax. Moving to the right on the horizontal axis, the trend shows an upward sloping line that indicates how the richer the household is, the less adversely affected it is by the implementation of a carbon tax.

Vietnam, on the other hand, clearly shows the opposite, so that the richer the household is, the more adversely affected it is by the implementation of a carbon tax. This is, of course, in accordance with the fact that Vietnam is the least developed country in the region in economic terms.

For Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, the results are not as clear, exhibiting a U-shape pattern. Although seemingly contradictory, the results are to be expected. These four countries fall neither under the high-income or developed country category such as Singapore nor under the low-income or developing category such as Vietnam. They are transitional economies, right in between those two categories.

The U-shape actually shows that those who are relatively poorer in their respective countries exhibit the same pattern as Vietnam does in representing a developing country in which a carbon tax is progressive; thus a downward sloping trend line. However, the few at the right end of the horizontal axis, i.e. the rich and richest, actually exhibit the same pattern as Singapore does in representing a developed country in which a carbon tax is regressive; thus an upward sloping trend line. Hence, this U-shape might demonstrate the typical impact of a carbon tax in middle-income and upper low-income countries.

Furthermore, for Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, those living in rural areas are more adversely affected than those living in urban areas. The reverse is true for Malaysia. This difference arises from the population composition, with Malaysia being more urbanized than the others so that the overall adverse effect is greater in urban than in rural areas. Nevertheless, the U-shape pattern holds and the turning point in Malaysia occurs sooner for those in urban areas compared to the other three countries.

Moreover, Figure 2 also shows the results when the second recycling mechanism (SIM2) is implemented. It shows that households are better off as they are less adversely affected by the carbon tax than in the previous scenario (SIM1). This is because in the second recycling policy, low-income households are given a one-time, lump-sum cash transfer. In Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, rural households are much better off than urban households in Indonesia. This difference can easily be explained as low-income rural households receive a much greater share than low-income urban households as the share transfer is based on the poverty incidence ratio. In these

countries, rural households receive at least twice the cash transfer in total of urban households. As for Indonesia, although more transfers are made in rural areas, the amount is less than twice that of urban households.

As for the third recycling mechanism (SIM3), Figure 2 shows that it is somewhat harder to find a similar pattern in this case because it does not directly affect households. Changes to households are the result of changes in the industrial sector. As such, it is much harder to predict the impact on households. However, the U-shape pattern holds for Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand although they are all affected in different ways; with Vietnam beginning to show the same U-shape pattern. Meanwhile, Singapore exhibits the same pattern as in the first recycling mechanism.

From Table 6, it is clear that without any direct compensation to households, as in SIM1 and SIM3, the poverty incidence in all countries increases, both in rural and urban areas. On the other hand, in some cases, the government can reduce the poverty rate if poor households are compensated through a direct fund transfer scheme (SIM2). Even in cases where the poverty incidence increases, the adverse effect is still less when compared to other recycling mechanisms.

## 5. Conclusions and Policy Implications

The main goal of this study is to understand the impact of coordinated and non-coordinated carbon tax policies on the economy and environmental performance of each country within ASEAN. This question is a relevant one, since, first, though progress has been slow, the ASEAN community will most likely soon have to synchronize various policies; and second, some ASEAN member countries are among the top polluters in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, so much so that they will have to react soon to control their emissions.

In order to answer the above question, a multi-country CGE model for ASEAN, known as the IRSA-ASEAN, has been constructed. An ASEAN-SAM was also constructed previously as the main dataset for the CGE. This ASEAN-SAM is one of

the first comprehensive data systems available for ASEAN, and hence the IRSA-ASEAN becomes one of the more comprehensive economic models for the region. Through the IRSA-ASEAN, a few conclusions can be reached with regard to the implementation of a carbon tax in ASEAN. First, in general and at least in the short-run period, a carbon tax is an effective way of reducing carbon emissions. For most ASEAN countries, even if the revenue from this tax is recycled back to the economy, it does not seem to induce a rebound effect, i.e. more use of energy and so more emissions.

Second, it is not obvious that ASEAN countries can always expect a double-dividend phenomenon to occur when they implement a combination of a carbon tax and a recycling policy. It is quite likely that implementing a carbon tax will lead to economic contraction in these countries. Recycling the carbon tax revenue, although of utmost importance in terms of softening the impact of this policy on economic growth and household incomes, does not always induce a double-dividend phenomenon. This implies that the phenomenon must be taken into consideration not only in absolute but also in relative terms, if ASEAN countries are to find the first best solution among the different policy options.

Third, as each country responds differently to the implementation of a carbon tax, particularly with regards to revenue re-distribution, an across the board implementation will create “winners” and “losers”. Indonesia and Malaysia are the potential winners as during the period of this paper’s analysis they subsidize their respective energy sectors, meaning that a carbon tax actually acts as a compensatory mechanism that will promote efficiency and a less distortionary tax system, or in this case one arising from an energy sector subsidy.<sup>16</sup> Vietnam is the likely loser as the implementation of a carbon tax creates an additional distortionary tax with the only possible gain in terms of environmental improvement, which comes at a great cost in terms of a relatively large economic reduction. The Philippines, Singapore and Thailand can still gain from the implementation, depending on what

their respective governments do with the revenue. Although an economic reduction is unavoidable, the cost is not that great, and also comes with great benefits in terms environmental improvement and social equity.

Fourth, in terms of distributional impact, a carbon tax is strictly progressive in Vietnam and strictly regressive in Singapore. For Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand a carbon tax is progressive for those in up to the 70 to 90 percentile income group and regressive for those at the right-end tail, or higher, income group.

Fifth, in terms of poverty, without direct compensation to households, a carbon tax will increase the poverty incidence in all countries. Although a carbon tax may still adversely affect households, even with direct compensation to poor households, the impact will be mitigated. In fact, in some cases, such a transfer would actually decrease the existing poverty incidence in a country. As such, of all the possible recycling mechanisms, direct compensation to poor households may be the most feasible and acceptable option in political, economic, and social terms.

The policy recommendations are as follows. First, ASEAN countries are encouraged to implement a carbon tax policy, as it is an effective

mechanism to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, at least in the short run. However, for cases such as the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, this gain for the environment comes at a price in terms of economic contraction. As such, a carbon tax may be effective to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but could be politically difficult to implement.

Second, ASEAN countries might want to recycle revenues from a carbon tax back to low income households and those adversely affected in their countries — complicated as this might be — as the implementation of a carbon tax does induce losses in some sectors, as well as adversely affecting certain segments of society.

### Acknowledgement

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### NOTES

1. In this paper, the definition of a carbon tax is limited to a levy on the emission of carbon dioxide only; and thus, the term “carbon tax” refers to a CO<sub>2</sub> tax and is used interchangeably.
2. Also note that a policy to reduce deforestation is also an important climate change policy for ASEAN. However, this will be important mostly for Indonesia and Malaysia.
3. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar are not included due to the severe lack of data.
4. This is in line with real world evidence in which unlike the EU, ASEAN is not a supranational organization.
5. Note that the word “domestic” composite here refers to goods from within the country and within ASEAN.
6. The word “import” refers to extra-ASEAN imports.
7. The model does not specifically deal with non-tariff barriers, or assumes the levels of non-tariff barrier in each country in the model do not change throughout the policy simulation scenarios.
8. Note that the model does not take into account CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from land use change and deforestation since in this paper, carbon tax paper is expected to only be applied to coal, petroleum products and manufactured gas.
9. The terms “rural” and “urban” are quite straightforward, while the terms “low” and “high” refer neither to the poverty line nor half of the population. The terms instead refer to those below and above the average income per capita or (whenever possible) the average income per household respectively.
10. Complete equations of the CGE Model can be seen in Nurdianto and Resosudarmo (2014), which is available at <<http://lp3e.fe.unpad.ac.id/wopeds/201411.pdf>>.
11. Since the number of poor households in Singapore is trivial, in this case only the cash transfer is distributed to all low-income households.

12. Typically between one to four years.
13. The different reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emission among the three scenarios (SIM1, SIM2 and SIM3) is due to the differing consumption patterns of government, households and industry. Industry's consumption pattern is the most energy intensive and creates the highest "local" rebound. Government's consumption pattern is the least energy intensive and so creates the least "local" rebound.
14. Malaysia and Indonesia have removed fuel subsidies in December 2014 and January 2015, respectively, and are using a managed float. Results in this paper apply when these two countries implemented subsidies on fuel.
15. This result might have something to do with the difference in the level of relative energy intensity (in terms of monetary units) and energy demand elasticity by industries in ASEAN countries in the model. For example, the higher prices in Vietnam might be due to the fact that their industries tend to spend relatively more on energy and have relatively more inelastic energy demands than other ASEAN countries.
16. Another important issue to be discussed is the impact of removal energy subsidy policy in Indonesia and Malaysia. However, discussing subsidy removals is beyond the limits of this paper.

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