

NON-TARIFF BARRIERS AND TRADE IN ASEAN

Guest Editor
Aurora Sanchez

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PREFACE

Highlighting the problem of “the new protectionism”— the shift from tariffs to non-tariff barriers (NTBs) — the World Bank points out that “a more serious danger to developing countries’ exports is the growing use of NTBs” (*World Development Report 1985*). One may add that it is not just the increasing protectionism of developed countries, including Japan, towards the developing countries that warrant urgent attention. Protectionism amongst developing countries themselves, including those within the regional grouping of ASEAN, is also of pressing concern, especially in today’s difficult and even hostile world economic environment which forces or draws countries within ASEAN to work towards more effective economic co-operation and possibly integration.

It is hoped that the articles in this Special Focus issue will be useful in shedding new light on the at times seemingly “invisible” nature and effects of these illusive creatures called NTBs. The terrain of study covers the trade relations between ASEAN and Japan as well as amongst the ASEAN member countries themselves.

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