

Editor in Chief

AMB Otto F von Feigenblatt, MA, EdD, PhD, FRAI

Academician, Royal Academy of Doctors of Spain (Madrid, Spain)
Professor, Marconi International University (Miami, Florida)

Editors:

Oscar A Gómez S, M.S., Ph.D.

Tohoku University (Sendai, Japan)

Om Prakash Dwivedi, Ph.D.

Senior Lecturer, Lovely Professional University, Punjab (India)

Editorial Board:

Chakrapani Ghanta, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Social Empowerment Department of Sociology
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University (Andhra Pradesh, India)
Senior Fellow, JAPSS

Giles Ji Ungpakorn, M.A.

Former Associate Professor, Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, Thailand)

Steven Shirley, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Keimyung University (Korea)

Yin C. Chuang, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Taiwan Normal University, (Taipei, Taiwan),

Wichian SITTIPRAPAPORN, Ph.D.

Lecturer of Music Therapy Division, College of Music, Mahidol University, Salaya, Nakhonpathom, Thailand

Abdulazeez Yusuf, Ph.D.,

Universiti Sains Malaysia (Penang, Malaysia),

About the Journal:

The Journal of Asia Pacific Studies aims to serve as an outlet for research dealing with the interdisciplinary field of Asia Pacific Studies. As one of the most dynamic regions in the world, the Asia Pacific is of interest to a vast array of scholars and practitioners from many fields. Interest in the region is no longer limited to a few elite centers in the Global North but rather has spread to Latin America and other regions of the developing world. Moreover, Central America has started to look East as a way to diversify its traditional reliance on the Atlantic and North America. Due to the previously mentioned increased interest in the Pacific and Asia as its hub, the International

Academy of Social Sciences (IASS) and the Catholic University of New Spain with the cooperation of the American Society of Diplomacy and Political Science, publish the Journal of Asia Pacific Studies.

Members of the Advisory Board of the Catholic University of New Spain (Miami, Florida)

His Eminence Cardinal Angelo Comastri, Archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica, Vicar General for the Vatican City State, and President of the Fabric of Saint Peter

Mons. Jean Marie Gervais, Member of the Capitolo Vaticano and Official at the Penitenziaria Apostolica

Mons. Héctor Cubillos Peña, Bishop of Zipaquirá, Colombia

H.E. Juan Guaido, President of the Republic of Venezuela

H.E. Fabiana Rosales, First Lady of the Republic of Venezuela

H.E. Elizabeth Cabezas, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Ecuador

H.E. Dr. Alfredo Palacio, 44th President of the Republic of Ecuador, Knight Grand Collar of the Order of San Lorenzo

H.E. General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Former Prime Minister of Thailand

H.E. Dr. Alfonso Ceballos-Escalera y Gila, Marquis of la Floresta, Viscount of Ayala, Cronista de Castilla-Leon, historian and distinguished author.

H.E. Ambassador Zef Bushati, Knight Grand Cross of Order of Pian Order bestowed by His Holiness the Pope, former Ambassador to the Holy See of the Republic of Albania, former Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Albania, and President of the Papa Klemeti Foundation (Albania).

The Honorable Councilwoman Marjorie Murillo, Miami-Dade, Florida, USA.

The Honorable Dallyana Passailaigue Manosalva, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Ecuador

The Honorable Councilman Michael Fridovich, City of Gulfport, Florida, USA

H.E. Senator Donal John Lydon, Former Senator of the Republic of Ireland, Knight of the Sovereign Order of Malta, and Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology. (Ireland)

H.E. Marcelo Varela-Erasheva, Former Ambassador of the Republic of Costa Rica to Turkey, former Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United Nations, recognized international consultant (Costa Rica)

His Lordship Jose Miguel Carillo de Albornoz, Viscount of Torre Hidalgo, historian and published author of several books (Spain).

H.E. Francisco Lopez de Becerra y Sole, Duke of Maqueda and Marquis of Astorga, Grande of Spain and Legal Scholar

Coronel Dr. Gonzalo de Federico y Perez, President of the Real Asociacion de Caballeros del Monasterio de Yuste (Spain)

Dr. David Caldevilla Dominguez, Professor, Universidad Complutense, author of more than one hundred peer-reviewed articles in the fields of education and communication.

Dr. Beatriz Pena Acuna, Professor, University of Huelva, author of more than ten books about education and journalism. (Spain)

Cav. Antonio Desiderio, is a member of the UNESCO Dance Council, he has organized dance and musical galas in most European Capitals, and he is recognized as an expert in legal reform of lyrical institutions. (Italy)

ISSN: 1948-0105 (Electronic)

ISSN: 1948-0091 (Print)

Indexing and Cataloguing:

- Directory of Open Access Journals
- EBSCOhost
- the online Bibliography of Asian Studies of the Association of Asian Studies
- OpenJGate

Contact Information:

info@ucne.org

Drs. von Feigenblatt & Associates

Suite 205 Albany Towers, 235 W. Roosevelt, Albany, GA 31701

<http://www.japss.org/JournalAsiaPacificStudies.html>

www.ucne.org

ACADEMICIANS

Numbered Academicians:

This is the highest rank of academician and this category is limited to 50 numbered medals.

Medal #1: H.E. Alfredo Palacio, 44th President of the Republic of Ecuador and Grand Collar of the Order of San Lazaro (Public Health and Governance)

Medal #2: H.E. General Chavalit Yonchaiyudh, Former Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand (Governance and Military Science)

Medal #3: H.E. Dr. Otto F. von Feigenblatt, Knight of the Royal Order of Isabella the Catholic (International Relations)

Medal #4: Dede Baba Hajji Mondi, World Leader of the Bektashi Order (Theology)

Medal #5: H.E. Valeria Fedeli, Former Minister of Education, Universities and Research of the Republic of Italy (Education)

Medal #6: The Honorable Lubby Navarro, School Board Member, Miami-Dade County School District, Florida, USA (Education)

Medal #7: The Honorable Prof. Haruaki Deguchi, President of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Beppu, Japan) (Education)

Medal #8: The Honorable Professor Dr. Malcolm Cooper, Professor Emeritus and former Vice President of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Beppu, Japan) (Education and Public Policy)

Medal #9: Dr. John Linstroth, Faculty Member, Catholic University of New Spain (Anthropology)

Medal #10: Dr. Eduardo Diaz Ocampo, Rector of the University of Quevedo, Ecuador (Education)

Medal #11: Her Excellency Elizabeth Cabezas, Former President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Ecuador (Political Science)

Medal #12: H.E. Ambassador Zef Bushati, Former Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to the Holy See (Diplomacy and Theology)

Medal #13: H.E. Prof. Angel Enrique Rodriguez, Rector of the Universidad de la Cuenca del Plata (Argentina) (Education)

Medal #14: H.E. Eduardo Hoyos, President Emeritus of the Universidad Autonoma de Bogota (Colombia) (Business Administration and Education)

Medal #15: Dr. Greivin Arrieta, Rector of the Universidad Isaac Newton (San Carlos, Costa Rica) (Law and Education)

Medal #16: Prof. Alejandro Monge Salazar, Secretary of the American Society of Diplomacy and Political Science (Psychology and Education)

Medal #17: The Honorable Daisy Raisler, Mayor of Lake Helen, Florida, USA (Political Science)

Medal #18: The Honorable Sam Henderson, Mayor of Gulport Florida, USA (Political Science)

Medal #19: The Honorable L. West, Mayor of Haines City, Florida, USA (Political Science)

Medal #20: The Honorable Dr. Helen Glasser, Mayor of Atlantic City, Florida, USA (Public Policy)

Medal #21: H.E. Arben Taravari, Former Minister of Health of the Republic of Macedonia (Public Health)

Medal #22: The Honorable Dr. Lauren Müller de Pacheco, Rector of the Universidad Privada de Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) (Education)

Medal #23: The Honorable Miguel Angel Rodriguez, Former Consul General of the Dominican Republic for the State of Florida, USA (Diplomacy)

Medal #24: The Honorable Francis Suarez, Mayor of the City of Miami, Florida (Political Science)

Medal #25: The Honorable Wilfredo Gort, Commissioner of the City of Miami, Florida (Political Science)

Medal #26: Prof. Dragos Onescu, Expert Evaluator of the European Commission and Consultant for the World Bank (Romania) (International Trade and Commerce)

Medal #27: Mrs. Pilar Velez Zamparelli, President of the NGO "Mi Libro Latino", and prominent Hispanic author (Literature)

Medal #28: H.E. Dr. Donal Lydon, Former Senator of the Republic of Ireland (Psychology)

Medal #29: Dr. Juan Diaz Cano, President of the Royal Naval League of Spain (Naval History)

Medal #30: Dr. Jose Gerardo Guarisma Jr, President of Florida Global University (Education)

Medal #31: Dr. Tulio Aguilar, Fellow of the American Society of Diplomacy and Political Science (Education and Journalism)

Medal #32: H.E. Oliver Spasovski, Former Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia (Public Policy)

Medal #33: Mr. Sanjiv Kumar Thapa, Former Chairman of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Nepal (Public Health)

Medal #34: Mr. Benjamin Deyurre (Journalism and Economics)

Medal #35: Professor Dr. Tirth Raj Khaniya, Vice-Chancellor Emeritus of Tribhuvan University, Nepal (Education)

Medal #35: The Honorable Alban Zenelli, Member of Parliament of the Republic of Albania and Fellow of the American Society of Diplomacy and Political Science (Political Science)

Medal #36: Professor Dr. Yili Alushi, President of the Red Cross of Albania (Public Health and Intelligence)

Medal #37: The Honorable Marjorie Murillo, Councilwoman of Miami-Dade County, Florida, USA (Education)

Medal #38: Dr. Vannapond Catherine von Feigenblatt (Education)

Medal #39: The Honorable Michael Fridovich, Councilman of Gulfport, Florida (History)

Medal #40: Dr. Juan Pereira, Rector of the Universidad Yacambu, Venezuela and Fellow of the American Society of Diplomacy and Political Science (Education)

Medal #41: Vacant (Archeology)

Medal #42: H.E. Ambassador Marcelo Varela, Former Ambassador of the Republic of Costa Rica to Turkey and Fellow of the American Society of Diplomacy and Political Science (Diplomacy)

Medal #43: Dr. Beatriz Peña-Acuña, Associate Professor, Universidad de Huelva (Communication)

Medal #44: Vacant (Communication)

Medal #45: Dr. David Caldevilla Dominguez, Professor, Universidad Complutense (Communication)

Medal#46: Rev. Father Reynord Araya Morales, Chaplain of the Catholic University of New Spain (Theology)

Medal #47: Dr. Patricia Claudia Toro Ramirez, Vice-Rector for Extension of Uniagraria University (Sustainable Development and Education)

Medal #48: Vacant (Anthropology)

Medal #49: Dr. Gonzalo Wandosell, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Laws of the Catholic University of Murcia (Economics)

Medal #50: Dr. Daniel Alberto Cardona Gomez, Dean of the Faculty of Education of the Universidad Gran Colombia (Education)

Introduction to RCEP Special Issue

The Dynamics of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) for the Asia-Pacific Region

Regional integration seems to be the game changer in these days. As the dynamics of the multilateral trading system scenario is fizzling out, regional trade agreements are become the part of global trading system. The regional agreements are rising at a rapid rate. It is believed by the international trade analysts that the recognition of the reality that many national markets across the world alone are simply too small, for selling goods, attracting investment [FDI, FDD and DDI], stimulating innovation and remaining competitive. Beyond trade and market integration, there are a many more valid reasons for integrating economies themselves at regional level. Politically it makes sense to strengthen the ties with the neighbours as this interdependence reduces the incentives for conflict

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) has in its history the formulation and working of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) as the base of its inception. In the backdrop of ASEAN, the RCEP saw its emergence and growth in the form of the consistent negotiations that followed since May 2013 that is the year that witnessed the Round 1 of negotiations in Brunei Darussalam. With the initial members of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore, the ASEAN started off with an object of integrating these member nations on the ground of critical matters pertaining to economic well-being, socio-cultural stability, regional stability, disputes Redressal mechanism, and a greater penetration into markets etc. The portmanteau added to its list of participating nations five more countries of Southeast Asian belt; Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Myanmar. The addition of more partners to the ASEAN group further ameliorated its area in size as well as in activities.

At the heart of the birth of RCEP, there stands the undeniable performance of ASEAN and its FTAs with countries of the non-Southeast Asian region. ASEAN has numerous Free Trade Agreements with other countries namely-China, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia, and India. The growing Free Trade negotiations among ASEAN and aforementioned countries explain the evolution of RCEP. RCEP is being created with the specific purpose of the trade liberalization and economic integration among proposed nations. The living example of ASEANS growth in its operations with China, Korea, New Zealand, Australia etc. by Free Trade Agreements. All the matters taken into deep consideration in multiple rounds of negotiations of RCEP have been carved out from the Guiding Principles and Objectives of Regional Comprehensive Partnership Act. The principles which lay the basis of activities undertaken at different rounds of negotiation majorly confines to trade and investment operations that could foster and deepen economic integration among participating countries. Apart from tariff easing in trade-related activities, rules of law like the Intellectual Property Rights also hands the great amount of relevance to the activities taken up. A more significant object of RCEP is to address the conflicts among the participating nations in a humane and peaceful

manner. Unifying the pre-existing bilateral agreements between the 10-member ASEAN and five of its major trade partners, the RCEP was signed on 15 November 2020 at a virtual ASEAN Summit hosted by Vietnam.

I came across a paper in a German journal long time back when I was DAAD Visiting Fellow at Kiel Institute of World Economics; Kiel, [Germany]. The title of the paper was “BRIC is a Group of un-equals”. But it has succeeded. The same notion was said for European Union [EU]. This also emerged out as the single largest global market. Similarly, RCEP is also sailing in the same boat and same notion is being said for it. The coming times will tell how will it work as the RCEP will be operational in 2022.

Why a Special Issue on RCEP?

RCEP is promising as per the claims and can be a milestone in the economic history of Asia-Pacific Region. The member countries will get a boost in the post pandemic world due to RCEP. It is firmly believed that RCEP is a light and fruit bearing, which will give a new shape to global economic and trading systems. In the light of the developments, it was imperative to deliberate on the dynamics of RCEP. The special is an attempt in this direction. The contributors have touched upon the critical issues that are directly and indirectly related to RCEP.

I am sure, the special issue will give an interesting reading and worth carrying matter for further research in coming times, and may prove to be an asset for researchers. Transforming from myth [proposal] to a reality [special issue], I am thankful to Journal of Asia Pacific Studies [JAPS] in general and Dr. Otto F. von Feigenblatt; the editor of the journal in particular. Without his help and cooperation the special issue would not have seen of the light of the day.

Prof. Dr. Badar Alam Iqbal
Guest Editor, Special Issue
Adjunct Professor
Monarch Business School
Switzerland
dr.badar@umorach-email.ch

Journal of Asia Pacific Studies

ISSN: 1948-0105 (Electronic)

ISSN: 1948-0091 (Print)

Volume 6, Issue 3, October 2021

Table of Content

Why India forwent RCEP? Analyzing Trade Diversion Effects of Indian FTAs Madhuri Kumari Ayesha Fatma Nalin Bharti	301
India's Trade Prospects with RCEP Countries: Evidence from Trade Indices Mandeep Bhardwaj Pushp Kumar Dr. Tnima Dutta Mayank Rawat	317
The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and Its Impact on the US-China Trade War Mohamad Zreik	339
The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and its Effect on China's Trade Wu Junyi Mohamed Aslam	349
The RCEP and the European Union's commercial strategy in Asia Dr. Sebastien Goulard	369
RCEP- Understanding India's Decision: Challenges and Prospects on the Textiles and Agricultural Sectors Dr. M. Karthik Raja Emani	377
Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) <i>A Trade Agreement among Equals?</i> Pankhuri Gaur	403

