

Supporting Equitable Development in ASEAN: Impact of Regional Integration on CLMV Countries

Facilitating Trade to Narrow Development Gaps in ASEAN

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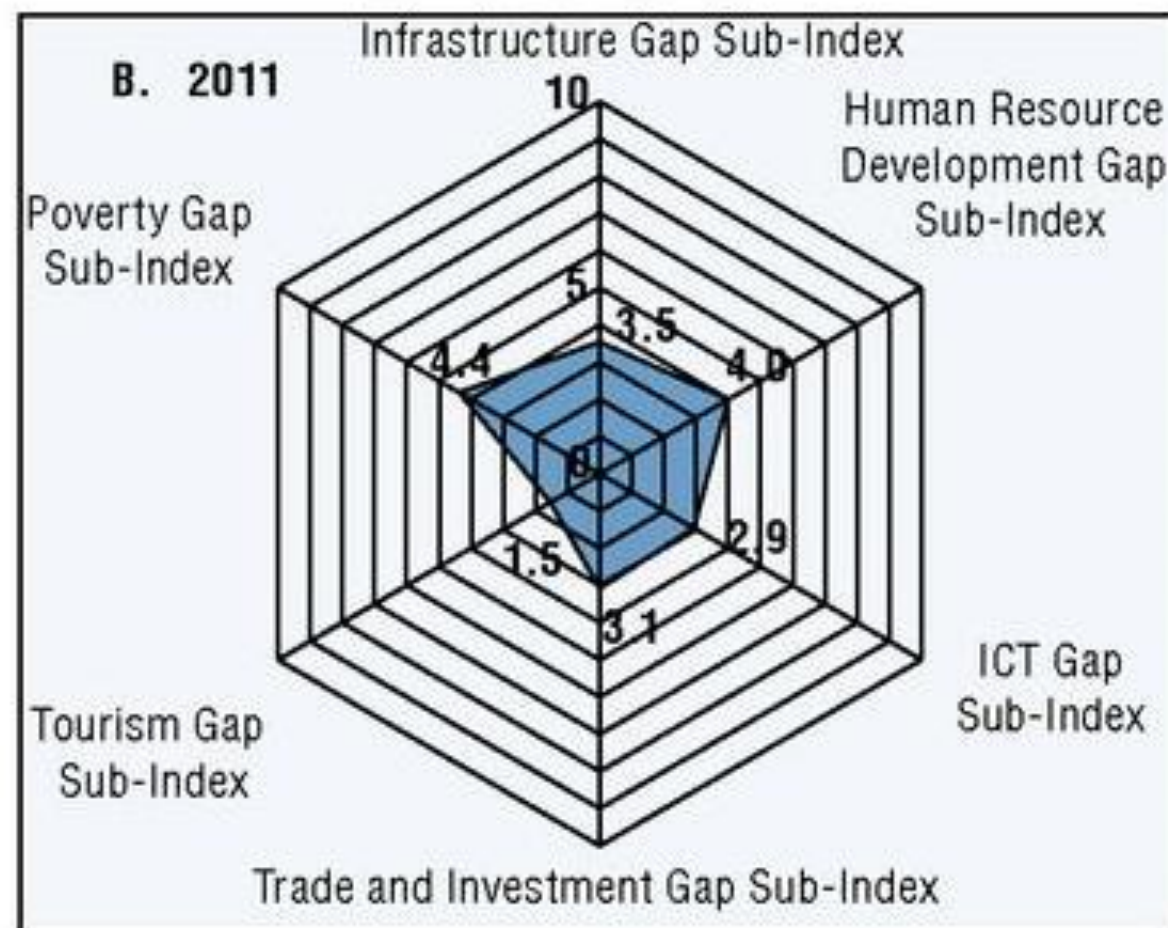
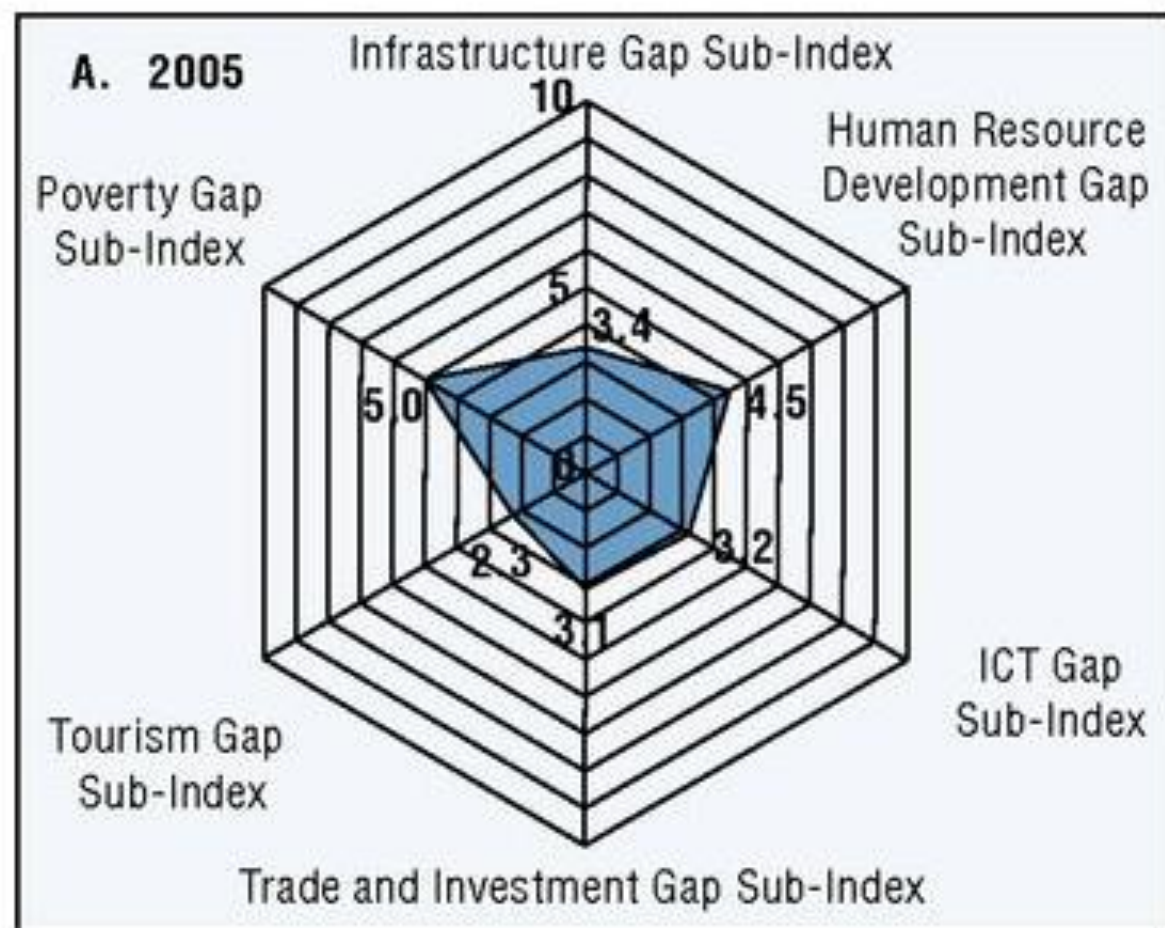
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ASEAN Development Gaps

- Narrowing social disparities and economic development gaps between countries are key challenges facing ASEAN
- Member countries differ in their levels of development, political systems, investment environments and economic structures.
- Their domestic agendas also often take precedence over regional integration.
- The OECD examines the development differences and disparities in ASEAN, particularly between the prosperous, more highly developed group of countries (the ASEAN-6) and the more recent, less developed member countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam (CLMV).
- The Narrowing Development Gaps Indicator (NDGI) is designed by the OECD Development Centre and the ASEAN Secretariat to measure progress, or lack thereof, in closing development gaps between countries and over time.
- The NDGI encompasses six policy areas – infrastructure, human resource development, information and communication technology (ICT), trade and investment (regional economic integration), tourism and poverty.

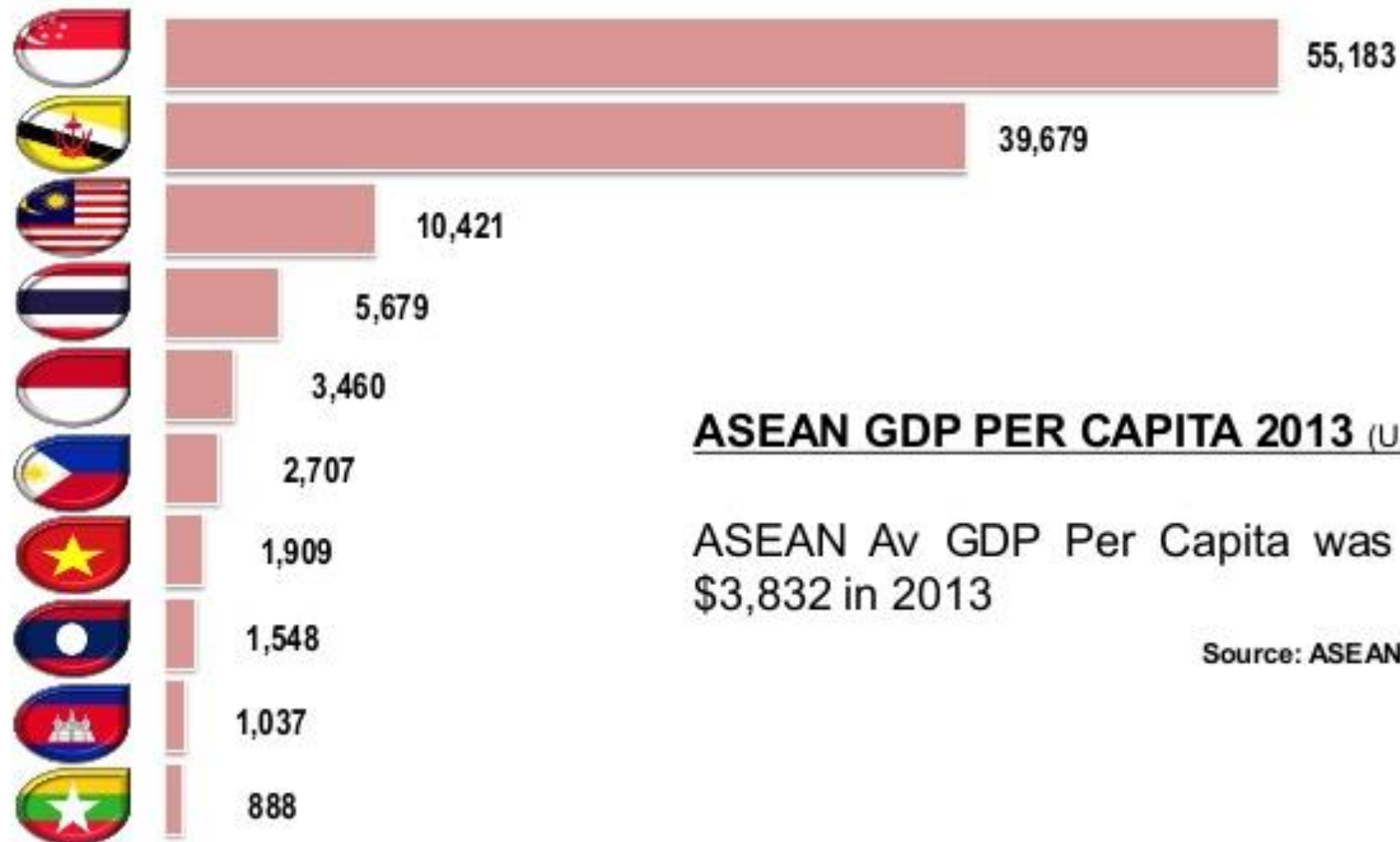
Figure 3.1. Narrowing Development Gap Indicators (NDGIs):
disparities between ASEAN-6 and CLMV



ASEAN Dual Disparities

- Vietnam has been the most successful CLMV country in both closing the gap on the wealthier ASEAN countries and reducing domestic disparities.
- Cambodia has been relatively slow in catching up with ASEAN-6 but it has been successful in reducing income inequality at home.
- Loa PDR has caught up fast but only at the cost of widening domestic income disparities.

Economies at different stages of development



ASEAN GDP PER CAPITA 2013 (US\$)

ASEAN Av GDP Per Capita was US \$3,832 in 2013

Source: ASEANStat

Trade and Development

- Trade can help boost development and reduce poverty by generating growth through increased commercial opportunities and investment, as well as broadening the productive base through private sector development
- Trade enhances competitiveness by helping developing countries reduce the cost of inputs, acquire finance through investments, increase the value added of their products and move up the global value chain.
- Trade creates employment opportunities by boosting economic sectors that create stable jobs and usually higher incomes, thus improving livelihoods.

Trade Facilitation in the AEC Blueprint

- Assess trade facilitation conditions in ASEAN;
- Develop and implement a comprehensive trade facilitation work program which aims at simplifying, harmonizing and standardizing trade and customs, processes, procedures and related information flows;
- Promote transparency and visibility of all actions and interventions by all stakeholders within international trade transactions;
- Establish a regional trade facilitation cooperation mechanism;
- Establish ASEAN Trade Facilitation Repository;
- Develop national level measures to support and ensure effective

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