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**Trade in the Asian Century: Delivering on the Promise of
Economic Prosperity
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**Impacts of Trade liberalization on Labor
allocation in Vietnam**

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Agenda

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- Context
 - Trade liberalization
 - Labor market evolution
- Research question
- Brief theoretical arguments
- Empirical model
 - Data sources
- Estimation results
- Conclusion

A Theoretical Rationale

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Allocation and income of factors across activities are “two code issues” in international trade (Helpman et al., 2010).

Trade liberalization (1)

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Vietnam has become a very open economy

- Almost removal of non-tariff barriers.
 - Large tariff reductions in the second half of the last decade.
 - Significant open of the service sector.
- ➔ Drastic growth in trade: the total export and import value has increased by 5.2 times in ten years since 2000.

Increasing dependence of the economy on the foreign trade:
Exports increased from 55 % in 2000 to 87% of GDP in 2010.

Trade liberalization (2)

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- Concentration in both directions and products
- Considerably involving in outsourced activities from other countries

Values of exports is not significantly higher than that of imports of the same products within each section of the Harmonized System → limitations in skill requirements.

Features of the labor market (1)

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- Movements of laborers out of the agricultural sector: the share of laborers in the sector to total laborers has decreased from 65.3% to 48.4% in 2000-2010 period (ILSSA, 2011; MOLISA and ILO, 2011). To low technology manufacturing and services.
- An enlargement in waged/salaried works: from 18.4% in 2000 to 33.7% in 2010 (ILSSA, 2011; MOLISA and ILO, 2011).

Features of the labor market (2)

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- The informal sector is predicted to be larger in the future (Nguyen et al., 2011).
- Gaps between wages of laborers in household business and their counterparts in formal sectors have increased in 1998-2006 period (ILLSA, 2011).

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