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Growing with Global Production Sharing: The Tale of Penang Export Hub, Malaysia

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- Purpose/scope
- Penang: Geography and initial conditions
- Policy reforms
- Evolution of the export hub
- Investment trends and company profile
- Outcomes
- Key findings and policy implications

Case study of Penang export hub

How does global production sharing work?

What are the policy options for developing countries to engage effectively in production networks as part of national development policy?

Global production sharing:

‘splitting of the production process (of a good or a service) into discrete tasks which can be located in countries in which factor prices are well matched to the factor intensity of the particular task’

Alternative terms:

International production fragmentation

Vertical specialization

Slicing the value chain

International outsourcing

Offshoring

Penang: geography and initial conditions



A state of Malaysia, located on the northeast coast of Malaysian Peninsula (See Map)

Area Penang Island: 293 Sq. KM

Seberang Perai: 753

Population 1.52 million. The share of ethnic Chinese (35%)
(well above that in all other states)

Resource base:

The least natural-resourced endowed state among the 13
Malaysia states,



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- A thriving entrepot trade centre during the colonial era (from 1786)
- At independence in 1957, the economic was in much better shape compared to the other Malaysian states
 - better trade-related infrastructure
 - a relatively well-developed network of small enterprises evolved around entrepot trade
 - relatively well educated population

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_7589

