Trade-led Growth in Times of Crisis Asia-Pacific Trade Economists' Conference 2-3 November 2009, Bangkok

Session 1: Trade-Led recovery and production networks

Resiliency of Production Networks in Asia: Evidence from the Asian Crisis

Ayako Obashi Faculty of Economics, Keio University

Key issue in this paper

The unprecedented development of international production networks in Asia, particularly in machinery industries

- The stability of such networks
- The resilience of the networks amid the Asian crisis in 1997-98

Recent global financial crisis and Asia

- The impact on Asian countries primarily through trade channel, despite its financial origins
- Concern about Asia's overdependence on external demand
- Adverse effects of the crisis spread through production networks across Asia...?

Trade relationships within production networks appear to be rather lasting and resistant to the shocks

Transactions of intermediate goods within networks

- Difference from transactions of finished products made entirely in one country as well as goods sold on the open market
 - The need for coordination between production processes
 - Network setup cots (sunk costs of investing in newly fragmented production block)
- The network-forming firms would put priority not only on lowering production costs but on the stability of trade relationships

Due to such relation-specific nature...

Once a trade relationship is established, the transaction of intermediate goods within production networks appears to be more stable and resilient to a short-term shock compared to other transactions

Objective

To verify the stability of trade relationships within international production networks

▶ To shed light on its resilience amid the Asian crisis

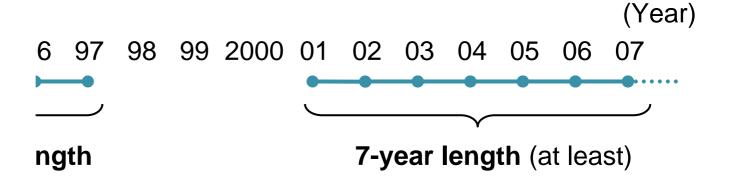
Method and data

- Survival analysis using the country-product level trade data
 - HS 6-digit level
 - ▶ 4013 product lines for all manufacturing industries (HS28-92)
 - ▶ 1124 product lines for machineries (HS84-92)
 - Intra-Asian trade during 1993-2007
 - ASEAN 10, China, Hong Kong, Japan, and Rep. of Korea
 - ▶ The probability of continuance once a trade relationship is established; the probability of recovering from a disruption
- Intra-Asian trade of machinery parts & components is compared with that of finished products

nships of exporter-importer-product pair

e a certain product is continuously traded untries

ot a once-and-forever phenomenonells are treated as independent





This exporter-importer-product pair experiences **two spells**