

Participating in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), Opportunities and Challenges for Vietnam in the Context of Joining Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

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ASEAN as a regional cooperated organization is formed by small and medium-sized countries is considered successful in the South East Asian area. The mission of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is to create a single market and production base on uniform, a competitive area, uneven development and integration of the global economy. Vietnam's agreement negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) with major economies like the U.S. and Japan is expected to be completed the end of this year. The greatest impact is foreign competition below TPP organisation and Vietnam in the open market. This is an opportunity for these businesses can work well but take operational inefficiencies that are big challenges. Besides, Vietnam has the biggest opportunity that the AEC will provide access to non-ASEAN markets, as well as the markets of ASEAN FTA partners.

Keywords: ASEAN, AEC, Trans-Pacific Partnership, the open market, FTA partners.

1. Introduction

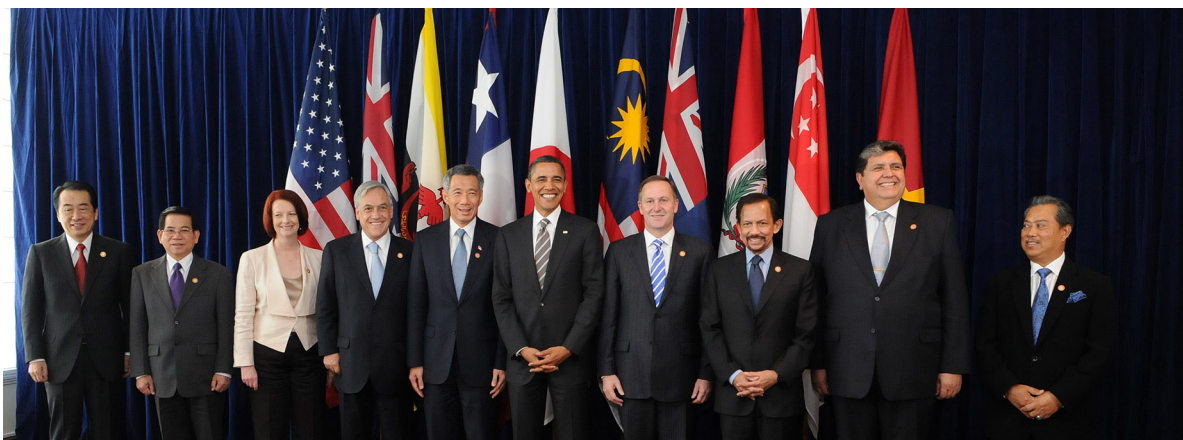
ASEAN is a regional cooperation organization considered successful small and medium-sized developing countries. The decision to build the ASEAN Community leaders is adopted at the ASEAN Summit-9 (Bali, Indonesia, October, 2003) with three pillars: ASEAN Security Community (ASC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Society Cultural Community (ASCC). A year later, at the ASEAN Summit-10 (Vientiane, Laos, November, 2004), ASEAN adopted the Action Plan for building the three pillars of the ASEAN Community, along with Vientiane Action Programme

(VAP) including specific actions to realize the organization's goals.

The mission of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is to create a common market and uniform production base, a competitive area, uneven development and integration of the global economy. To give ASEAN a single market and production base unified, AEC focuses on measures to facilitate the free flow of goods and trade, investment, services, skilled labor, and the free movement of capital flows more. However, the AEC has no plans to build a monetary union using the Euro as the European Union (EU).

Joining AEC will help Vietnam's economy restructure, institutions

adjust accordingly the development of Vietnam's economy with other economies in ASEAN. On the other hand, workers in Vietnam will be protected by the legitimate rights of their legal, Vietnam legal system is gradually adapted towards ensuring the rights of workers, increasing the workers' voice in the management place and running the country with the spirit of "the people know, people discuss, people do and people check" and building the rule of law, the state of the people, by the people and for the people. Of course, in principle, Vietnam has the advantages, disadvantages, challenges and opportunities as joining AEC. It is important for Vietnam to take the advantages



and overcome the disadvantages of economics, but above all, the interests of workers are protected, the voice of workers is concerned though that the required level is still lower than the requirements and demands of the Trans - Pacific Partnership - TPP.

2. Vietnam joined the AEC, there is nothing other than joining the TPP or not?

ASEAN Community that will contribute to greater awareness of the relationship of regional history and cultural heritage, socio- more intertwined by destiny and common regional identity is enhanced, and shared different society. AEC aims to ensure that people's basic interests, promote cooperation, links and connections for dynamic economic development and uneven across countries in ASEAN, putting ASEAN which becomes a single market, a common manufacturing space, where trade in goods services and investment liberalization, capital flows and skilled workers are more freedom... Relationships between AEC's members of the law are based on values, common standards; and are responsible for ensuring comprehensive security platform to create a sustainable environment for the cohesion and

resilience region, where the member states living in peace, stability, peaceful settlement, no threat or use of force... At the same time, AEC's strengthen cooperation will be to cope more effectively with the challenges of emerging security, promote and enhance ASEAN's central role in regional architecture with the process of expanding and deepening cooperation from external partners in a world where increasingly linked and interdependent. Towards building the ASEAN Community is the most important decision of ASEAN since its inception. ASEAN is scheduled for completion by 2020 target, but finally agreed to strive to accelerate implementation milestones by the end of 2015 to strengthen regional linkage and connectivity, improve the efficiency of cooperation. ASEAN puts into a regional organizations more closely linked with the role and important position in the region and around the world, contributing to maintaining peace, stability, social economic development, dynamics of each country members and the entire region, AEC opening time will be done at the end of the year, on December 31, 2015.

AEC will blend economies of 10 member states into a mass

production, trade and investment, creation of a common market area where has a population of 600 million people and total output (GDP) annually 2.000 billion U.S. dollars. To form a common market, a manufacturing facility and general distribution, the AEC will conduct free flow of basic factors: capital, goods, services, investment and skilled labor. When the AEC was formed, import tax of products and services from member countries decreasing to 0%. All economic sectors are open to investment and business in a member state being to do business from the AEC's other countries where will be treated equally with local businesses.

In parallel with efforts to complete the integration of the regional economy in 2015, ASEAN is actively negotiating Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership - RCEP consisting of ten countries ASEAN members and six partner countries having a free trade agreement with ASEAN, including Australia, New Zealand, China, India, Japan and South Korea. The negotiation of the RCEP is also expected to be completed by 2015. "In that time, will emerge as the core of ASEAN as a center of regional economic integration in Asia - Pacific".

In addition to the AEC and RCEP, some ASEAN members such as Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei and Vietnam also participated in negotiating the Agreement Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) with major economies like the U.S. and Japan. The Agreement is expected to be completed end of this year. TPP consists of 12 member countries: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, United States and Vietnam. With the participation of the largest economies in the world (such as the United States, Japan, Australia...), TPP becomes economic region more 790 million, contributing 40% of GDP and accounts for 1/3 of global trade. When the United States formally expressed their intention to participate in negotiations in order to expand the agreement, especially in the financial service sectors, and urged other countries to participate in negotiations to expand. New negotiations begin to receive the special attention of many parties, including the country realize the potential benefits of participating countries which negotiate and sensed the threat from this future agreement. The countries that come to negotiate the TPP are not new agreement signed previously. The participation of the largest economies in the world, the United States, in an area of trade growth as well as the most trade liberalization of the world (Asia - Pacific) is a major cause change of the members' attitude. Another factor that is also important to make a change in the meaning of the TPP is the ambition of the United States in TPP determination to

become a "trade agreement of the 21st century". In the sense, this is a agreement that has a high degree of freedom, in all fields of important commercial and non-commercial sectors. Scope of the broad TPP, a comprehensive agreement covering all major aspects of a free trade agreement, includes the exchange of goods, rules of goods origin, technical barriers, exchange services, intellectual property issues, the government's policy on environmental issues, labor, anti-corruption...

The greatest impact is from the open market for the TPP countries of foreign competition for Vietnam is increasing. This is an opportunity for these businesses to work well but take the opposite such as operational inefficiencies. This is a big challenge. In addition, enterprises can be obtained from the open market of other countries in the Asia Pacific region and opportunities to open TPP market bring the better conditions for the business activity increasing in overseas. Together, the TPP can be expected to impact the overall business environment of Vietnam through the Vietnam commitment that will take place in the TPP agreement. At this point, it is not finished negotiating agreements that should not identify any specific areas in the country changed. However, TPP will certainly have a strong reform towards more transparency, more favorable work towards reform of state-owned enterprises that will have varying degrees of state intervention than the reforms of business. It is very important orientations that are sure that TPP agreement would require all countries to implement

and Vietnam as well as such. It is considered as agents to stimulate self-realization process of restructuring the economy towards more efficient and powerful than the AEC.

3. Opportunities and challenges of Vietnam joining the AEC?

The objective of the ASEAN Economic Community is primarily built into a single market and a unified production space. This will bring opportunities and challenges for people and now Vietnam. We can see links and economic integration in the region and international, and particularly in the framework of ASEAN has become one of the key policies of Vietnam. The ASEAN economies as well as the partners of ASEAN signed FTA that is an important trade partner of Vietnam and the motivation contributing to help Vietnam's economy maintain growth and export for many years. From 2003 to 2013, trade turnover between Vietnam and ASEAN has increased nearly four-fold, from about \$9 billion to nearly \$40 billion in 2013.

For Vietnam's businesses and local, AEC will bring many benefits and opportunities, but also accompanied by many challenges. The greatest opportunity brought by AEC is not just the ability to access ASEAN markets, but also the markets of ASEAN's FTA partners, namely:

Access to the wider ASEAN market with 600 million people. After December 31, 2015, most of the imported goods within ASEAN will be entitled to preferential tariff of 0%. The tariffs and non-tariff removal will facilitate businesses to help cut the cost of imports, lower production costs, increase

competitiveness and boost exports... AEC, is assigned focus interfering of many bilateral trade agreements and multilateral ASEAN, is implementing or participating in negotiations. Therefore, businesses will have the opportunity to reach a large market and other development as China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia, India through the FTA between ASEAN and these countries. The product ratio of intra about 40 % is considered the ASEAN region and products will be exported to preferential markets that ASEAN has signed FTA.

In addition to these opportunities, AEC will also bring challenges, particularly pressure from imported goods and competition of services and investment being larger and will come from big business and experience more about the cost and quality in the region. Firms producing electronic Vietnam faces a high risk of competing with imports from Thailand and Singapore, for example.

To cope with this competition requires businesses to constantly improve their competitiveness through clearly defined goods and services which they have a competitive advantage over, improving business capacity, and quality of products and services, actively promoting and branding,... Specifically, Vietnam enterprises should focus on improving: innovation in business management - financial management innovation to use capital effectively; innovation and technology equipment; market development, business networking, relationship with the consumer; applying international standards in

product management; and improve the management and human resources training.

To time of import duty applied is only 0 % is not much, to be able to make good use of limited opportunities and challenges, in addition to the policy of government support, proactive and positive businesses play a decisive role.

For a long time, ASEAN has stepped up efforts to prepare for the AEC through the removal of tariff barriers, liberalization of the services sector and easing regulations on foreign investment. According to the 2012-2013 annual report just published by Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN, the end of March, 2013, ASEAN has completed 80% of the suggested solutions in the AEC plan on all field. "Now, a comprehensive investment agreements ASEAN has been fully implemented, ASEAN agreements on human migration (ASEAN Agreement on Movement of Natural Persons - MNP) has been signed; piloting the program "ASEAN Single Window", to improve the favorable conditions for regional trade is being promoted.

4. Which problem for Vietnam's joining TPP than AEC?

Approaching to labor issues of the TPP countries, the developing countries more qualified Vietnam, is very different and very new to Vietnam. This problem is not new to other countries in the TPP because they had previously signed a range then, including with developing countries like Peru, the country has an FTA with the United States should not issue new with them. The main gap, the difference between the partners

with Vietnam in TPP compared with AEC is the first challenge, but wants international integration must accept the general rules of the game, what other Vietnamese are trying to replace change, so they have to learn something new, to get used to it gradually becomes normal and then implemented.

The biggest impediment to Vietnam 's thinking, institutions and habits of Vietnam in labor issues so far is quite different than other countries. It can be said in the renovation process, Vietnam has a strong innovative economic thinking in many ways, but in labor issues, then maybe a shift in the mindset of Vietnam is not as strong as some policy other economic openness or trade policy. For institution, Vietnam have the good institution of labor, Vietnam's Labour Law can say is fairly radical, ILO acknowledged that the labor law of Vietnam quite advanced compared to other countries other development. Vietnam has bravely accepted to participate in a series of ILO conventions quite early, while other countries still hesitate. However, the problem is that despite provisions in the law enforcement mechanism of Vietnam is very weak, can not say that an institution is good if it is not going to be in real life. Even the unions are also thinking of the difference between those who thought the union with the workers. Everyone knows that the union is the workers, but the union workers in Vietnam in general need to regularly look back see her in reality there really is a worker or not, or is something salaried civil servants should be reasonable and should be a union independent organization? When



Vietnam to participate in TPP, clearly, the benefits of labours increased, if Vietnam really accept this commitment of TPP. In the main things are incorporated into the employee has the right of association and collective bargaining rights. If such rights are fully secured, in fact, they benefit workers. Therefore, the mechanism on the rights of workers in TPP is good, employees will benefit from that, they also make it convenient for Vietnamese workers to move freely in AEC. If Vietnam is a country of people by the people and for the people of it, had not accepted the provisions of the TPP to protect the legitimate rights of workers in Vietnam? Such requirements TPP will create more pressure on the union, the authorities must do their best, not as good as the union workers will have the right to raise the issue, including requiring corrective labor union, elected who actually represent their interests. The pressure to change for better, against inertia, is actually good and not harm the union. For the business or employers in general, is both beneficial, there is a price to pay just to participate in this

commitment. There will be more pressure on business to comply with at least as stipulate things in the Vietnam Labor Law, not to mention the above conditions. If It is full compliance, there will be additional costs for businesses. For example, to ensure good working conditions, acceptable for workers, it can not maintain the work means that the safety of low or poor environment, affecting the health of workers. Businesses will have to invest more to create a better working environment, as well as improved salary conditions, rested, on the welfare of workers. This will create additional costs for business, but if done well, will add credibility to your business. Especially now that have been doing well, about social responsibility, this would prove they are good businesses, good adherence, and their competitiveness will be improved. And more importantly, if the employers make good rules like that, it can help increase employee productivity, increase efficiency of resource use, and make businesses become competitive better. So long-term interests of the business is very clear, although the costs of

business may have immediately increasing. This is something that businesses need to consider very, very effortless to drive longer-term benefits, if you want engagement with their employees, wants to increase labor productivity, want to hand craft of workers is higher, and competitiveness, better than its reputation, should accepted overcome costly or require immediate pressure, transparency in the implementation, see a part of the process of corporate restructuring Vietnam. When this is done, Vietnam's workers and businesses now have more opportunities to compete within ASEAN while ASEAN economic community formed in late 2015.

Besides, Vietnam also encountered difficulties (ASEAN 4 including Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar) for joining AEC development gap between ASEAN countries develop 6 (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore) with ASEAN 4 pretty high - is considered the main factor hindering the economic linkages, therefore, intra-ASEAN cooperation is facing difficulties. Although intra-ASEAN trade has maintained a stable level of 25 % of the total volume of trade across the region, but if compared with the exchange of intra- EU trade (70%), it is clear that the level of integration and intra- ASEAN link is not high. Development gap within ASEAN primarily focused in four main areas (4I), including infrastructure; income; and institutional links. The gap that is shown on the following aspects:

First of all, the difference in the level of market opening. Import



duties ASEAN average at 9.53%, ranging from 0% (Singapore) to 17.92% (Vietnam). To import any goods in ASEAN should take the average time is 32 days. Different levels ranged from 3 days (Singapore) to 45 days (Cambodia) and 78 days (Laos). Average time to start business in ASEAN is 64 days, while in Singapore just 6 days, 97 days longer in Indonesia and Laos is 163 days.

Second, differences in export trends. ASEAN 6 predominate in the export contribution to GDP (85%) compared with 31% of the ASEAN 4 (since 2004), while imports contributed 21% of GDP of the ASEAN 4 compared to 66% of GDP of ASEAN 6. the difference in trade trends lead to differences in tariffs.

Third, differences in income per capita. Specifically, the per capita income at current prices is approximately \$25,207 of Singapore, countries with per capita income highest in the region, more than 152 times that of Myanmar, \$166, the country's poorest areas ASEAN. Per capita income of Brunei, Malaysia and only 1/2 or 1/5 of Singapore. Meanwhile, the per capita income of the Philippines

only 1/4 of Malaysia.

Fourth, differences in economic structure. Not only GDP per capita between the member states that the difference in growth of the member countries also differ greatly. While Singapore is rated as the economy has high competitiveness 6th in the world, Vietnam is only ranked 81/117, Cambodia ranked 112/117. Manufacturing export growth and the contribution of the service sector in the GDP of ASEAN 6 and occupy quite high (over 40%) compared with 26% - 27% of the ASEAN 4 countries from 2003 to present.

Fifth, the rich-poor gap. According to the criteria of the international poverty line (less than 1 USD / day), Laos, and Cambodia's population is living below the poverty line highest, while Singapore is 0%; Malaysia is 0.2%; Philippines is 15.5%. At the same time, the difference in index of human resource development (HDI). Based on the parameters of life, spending for education, health, literacy rate... ASEAN is divided into 4 groups of HDI: Group 1 "high human resource development" of Singapore and Brunei; Group 2, "human resource development

medium high" includes Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand; Group 3, "human resource development" average including Indonesia and Vietnam; The last group is the "human resource development low average" of 3 remaining countries are Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

Sixth, differences in infrastructure and transportation energy. The gap between ASEAN ASEAN 6 and 4 is evident in the highway network, rail, wiring and gas pipelines.... ASEAN Group 4 also lacks infrastructure "soft" (technology information, telecommunications and ITC systems) - essential conditions for the next stage of development. Clearly, the economic disparity - social, differences in organizational capacity among ASEAN group of countries has held back progress and link regional integration. Development gap between ASEAN member countries is also reflected in differences in the development of financial markets, financial capacity..., in which the lack of financial support in areas considered the most difficult. The difference in the level of development makes it more difficult for ASEAN in the collective effort, the feasibility of the general policy is limited.

5. What Vietnam should do in the context of joining the TPP?

Vietnam should be disseminated to relevant agencies such as trade unions, business associations, the opportunity to use general workers in the industry, and various professions. This is very important and necessary, because if not understand, do not know it is very difficult to create and support are the most prepared to participate

in all relevant subjects. Vietnam should also focus more on the actual situation of the protection of legitimate rights and interests of workers, enabling workers have a real voice in the development of the country and society today.

Vietnam is to train a team of consultants to help resolve labor issues. Vietnam is often weak and lacks lawyers or experts delve into different areas, so as to meet the legal issues or knots are often confused. There are many law firms or consultants operating in Vietnam but most operate on investment, trade in general, and go deep into the subject matter as complex as labor is very rare.

To amend the laws and regulations concerned, Vietnam should be conducted in a spirit of initiative, the law is unclear and ambiguous to be replaced by specifying that no one and organization could not abused to the detriment of others.

Vietnam needs to strengthen implementation capacity, particularly implementation of the Labor Law and related regulations. To attach importance to implementation capacity, capacity monitoring and evaluation of implementation, and strengthening the voice of the employee, the employer in this area. For years, the voice of workers is relatively weak, there are very practical issues related to the rights of workers but not really effective channels to strengthen their voice. Strengthening the voice of the employee and the employer are practical ways to the important objects of labor regulations can protect their legitimate rights, including in relation to the foreign

partners.

Communications in Vietnam need to expand, to ensure understanding and capacity for the media to help spread their knowledge to society and mobilize social support, and help partners in the TPP correct understanding about the labor situation in our country. Press and media must be viewed as the fourth power to ensure justice and truth, is the voice to protect the legitimate rights of workers.

Towards the goal of building the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), ASEAN member countries, of which Vietnam has focused on implementing the following three measures:

First, complete the legal mechanism for AEC, measures have been finalized with the signing of three key agreements, including the Agreement on ASEAN trade in goods (ATIGA); Agreement on the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment (ACIA) and the 7th Package commitment to service within the Framework Agreement on ASEAN Services (AFAS).

Second, strengthen the monitoring mechanism, implementation of economic agreements achieved through expression evaluation AEC (AEC Scorecard). Basically, this measure has actually promote efficiency, have 87/124 legal documents were signed involving AEC has accounted for more than 70% effective.

Third, to raise awareness of the AEC community through ASEAN media programs. This measure was also some ASEAN members apply creative and effective, namely the dissemination of information,

knowledge update on the AEC, set more frequent exchange channel between government agencies, ASEAN businesses. Vietnam agreed advocated building communications program AEC reference how the ASEAN countries.

6. Results and discussions

In short, to succeed in joining the AEC, in joining the TPP context, first of all, necessary Vietnamese institution reforms in line with the trend of development of civil society, ensuring social construction methods rights, enhance the role of the state's population, by the people and for the people, implementation mechanisms separation of powers, the media is the fourth power contributes to social supervision then the rights of workers activities will be ensured, labor productivity will increase, competitiveness of enterprises and improvement of national competitiveness will be improved step by step, have thus escaped from Vietnam showing the average trap through faster wage increases labor productivity, economy showing signs of stagnation, specifically, high capital ratios reflected rising ICOR (coefficient of capital, high ICOR means of capital away a large but highly effective) and the contribution of TFP (Measures of productivity and the "labor" and "capital" for the economy) to reduce growth, while investment increased high and it is "clear signs of growth based on investment with low capital efficiency". From the year 2009-2012, labor productivity grew at an average annual rate of 3.2 % for the whole economy, and 5.1 % for the manufacturing sector. Meanwhile, nominal wages

grew at an average rate of 25.9% in the whole economy, and 23.5 % for the manufacturing sector. Competitiveness of charges lost with 22.7 % annual rate for the whole economy, and 18.3% for the manufacturing sector. Moreover, the devaluation of the Vietnam dong against the U.S. dollar during this period at a rate of 5.5% per year is too small to compensate for speed loss of competitiveness of the economy each year is 22.7%. According to Professor Ohno, Japanese experts, concluded: “After a few years of achieving low average income, middle-income trap is no longer a remote risk, which became reality in Vietnam”●

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Giáo dục-đào tạo...

(Tiếp theo trang 88)

Với mục tiêu phát triển đất nước thành nước CNHD, Chính phủ Hàn Quốc đề ra chủ trương thu hút nhân tài và ngăn chặn tình trạng chảy máu chất xám như là một phần của kế hoạch phát triển quốc gia. Hàn Quốc được biết đến là quốc gia sản xuất nhiều hàng hóa có hàm lượng chất xám cao và đẩy mạnh xuất khẩu công nghệ. Thành công này nhờ quyết tâm thành lập Viện công nghệ Hàn Quốc (KITS) và Chiến lược phát triển tận dụng nhân tài và hạn chế tình trạng chảy máu chất xám và hồi hương chất xám bằng nhiều chính sách ưu đãi cả về vật chất lẫn tinh thần.

Lực lượng các nhà khoa học, kỹ thuật ở nước ngoài của VN rất đông đảo và đa dạng. Nhà nước cần có chính sách ưu đãi để thu hút họ về làm việc cho đất nước, tận dụng tối đa nhân lực chất xám này trong công tác R&D, truyền dạy liên quan đến R&D.

Vấn đề cũng đáng quan tâm là chảy máu chất xám của VN, một trong những biểu hiện là nhiều du học sinh VN không muốn về nước để làm việc và cống hiến ... VN cần học tập Hàn Quốc đề ra các chính sách ưu đãi hấp dẫn để hồi hương

nhân lực khoa học – công nghệ và thu hút các chuyên gia nước ngoài vào làm việc ●

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