

Production Networks, Trade Liberalization, and Industrial Adjustment in the Philippines

Volume I: Industry Studies

Editors

P. Intal, Jr., G. Largoza, R. Malabed and

P.J. Mutuc

De La Salle University

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Angelo King Institute
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Paulo Jose M. Mutuc**

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Foreword

It is with pleasure that the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies of De La Salle University took the plunge in undertaking the research project on *Production Networks, Industrial Adjustment, Institutions and Policies, and Regional Cooperation*. The International Development Research Centre of Canada has been a wonderful partner and generous donor to this initiative of the Institute.

This project is a three-volume compilation of country papers for China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam plus a few regional oriented papers, as well as studies focusing on Philippine industries, policies, and institutions.

There is no doubt that production networks have been central to the remarkable face of intraregional trade and economic integration in East Asia during the past two decades, facilitated by a substantial reduction in trade and investment barriers in the region during the period. This liberalization and integration process has been successful for East Asian countries on the whole even if it has not been smooth in some countries. As a result, ASEAN countries and other East Asian countries have been engaging in serious discussions and negotiations on bilateral and regional free trade agreements within the region. Thus, we can expect the probable deepening and widening of production networks in East Asia in the years to come.

We hope you will find the papers in the volume useful and insightful.

Ponciano S. Intal, Jr., Ph.D.

Executive Director

DLSU-Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies