



## *Trade integration in Asia and the drawbacks of preferential agreements*

A Public Lecture presented by Dr Heribert Dieter  
German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin

For about a decade, Asian countries have embarked on a new strategy in trade relations. Rather than relying on the multilateral system and its rules and regulations, all Asian economies are implementing preferential trade agreements. However, these agreements are not facilitating trade as much as its proponents have been suggesting. Quite the contrary: Bilateral preferential trade agreements are administratively complex and make the development of transnational production networks more difficult. The resulting 'spaghetti bowl' of trade agreements is a mess. Given the interest of governments in the Asia-Pacific in trade liberalisation, countries should either liberalize unilaterally or create an Asia-Pacific wide customs union.

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Senate Room  
All Welcome, Free Admission

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