

Cross-Pacific Trade Arrangements within APEC and their role in the Emerging World System

Neantro Saavedra-Rivano
University of Tsubaca, Japan

New environment for RTAs

- End of dichotomy opposing multilateralism and regionalism
- First USA at end of 1980s, more recently Japan and South Korea
- Just three WTO members not involved in RTAs
- More than just trade

Conceptualization efforts: description

- Spaghetti bowl (Bhagwati)
- Hubs and spokes (Wonnacott)
- Building blocs and stumbling blocs
- Open regionalism
- Domino effects

Conceptualization efforts: process

- Dynamic character and nature of groupings
- Regionalism and systemic world changes
- Different attitudes towards change
- Nature of economic groupings

APEC: between WTO and RTAs

- Variety of interpretation of RTAs in APEC context
- APEC own stance

The search for a broader perspective

- More than trade (again)
- A geological model
- Old and new forces shaping the world structure