

< Towards Asia Union - How to realize AU? >

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I. Introduction

The integration of Asian countries has been discussed since the increase of regionalism and successful launch of European Union. However, the establishment of an "Asian Union" faces much difficulty even in its initial discussion due to underlying distrust and the long-and-ongoing historical, geographical, and political conflicts in the region. It can be said that a common "**Asian value**" does not exist in Asia; the region does not see itself as one group as "Asians" and therefore lacks motives to integrate amongst itself.

Establishing a common value certainly cannot be achieved overnight; a value is something that one establishes over time as a result of one's thoughts and experiences. To establish a common "Asian value", then, one needs to start at an earlier age: the young generation of today has the best potential in realizing this future for several reasons:

- a. More open to new ideas
- b. Adapt quickly to changes
- c. More willing to face challenges for a better future
- d. Will be developed into future global leaders

II. CC System (Concurrent Circular System)

One of the most serious problems that countries such as South Korea and Japan are facing is the limited number of jobs available in the market. Though there have been continuous governmental efforts to resolve this issue, the competitiveness is extremely high; in South Korea, for instance, it is common to see over 100 to 1 competition rate per job openings in major businesses such as Hyundai-Kia Motors, SK Group, and KT (Ho & Cho, 2013). In contrast, economically developing countries such as Russia and China have much potential; the Russian economy is expected to show 3.1 percent growth in 2014 despite the recent the slowdown in the first half of 2013, and China still stands as the second largest economy in the world though facing numbers of internal challenges due to drastically transformed economy (World Bank). This shows that in recent years there is much prospective future in countries outside the developed countries such as South Korea and Japan, where majority of job markets are crowded.

As mentioned before, the Asian continent suffers from lack of trust; as an effective way of overcoming that difficulty and at the same time resolve unemployment problem, a special program that links the young of various countries and background should be linked to encourage entrepreneurship. This Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YE Program) will require qualified young individuals from various participating Asian nationalities to form a group and together find ways to launch their own product in a targeting Asian market. By bringing young individuals together to partner together, they may explore ideas and share experiences, information, and expertise from their home countries and together may develop suitable business strategy unique for the Asian market.

Since limited job market for young generation is a common problem, it would be beneficial for Asian countries to cooperate to resolve this problem. By devising a new economic program invests in the younger generation's potential, maximizes the potential of the growing economies, and thus the Concurrent Circular System (CC System) should naturally activate which can ultimately realize Asian Union, integrating the region. When social exchanges are encouraged under an economical motif, cultural exchanges will increase due to the fact that no business may succeed in a certain country without understanding the culture, and when the businesses run and ultimately become successful, they affect politics. For instance, when the YE Program launches, a certain group decides to launch a product in country A; with help from a group member from country A, the group have a sense of understanding of the market and succeeds in market entrance; they then branch off to target country B with member B providing pivotal information about one's home country; so on and so forth. Due to continuous economic exchanges, countries may experience policy changes so that trade and business can run

smoothly and nations will be reluctant to pose hostile attitude toward each other.



<Figure 1. CC System>

The idea of CC System lies behind the thought that if countries concentrate on issues that are of common interest, there are more possibilities of cooperation.

III. Expected Effectiveness

Economic	Cultural	Political
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Job market openings increase •Relieve unemployment of the younger generation •Economies of Scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Human Exchanges •Cultural Understanding •Establishment of “Asian Value” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Policy changes •Friendly relations

<Figure 1-1. Expected Effectiveness of CC System>

The CC System (Concurrent Circular system) which can be achieved through the new economic program for the young Asian generation will have a visible effectiveness on the realization of Asia Union. Contemporary issue of Asia nowadays is limited “job market” for the young people and rapid expansion of growing economies; investment for the young people in the region will have a positive effect in not only economic sphere, but also tie the region and enforce the nations to maintain good relations with each other, overlooking the visible and apparent differences. By devising a new job market program in Asia region, *positive economic, cultural and political effects will follow.*

1. Economic perspective:

- a. Instituting economic program devised by young generation throughout Asian countries will increase the job market openings. Not confined to one region, young

generation can cross the borders with a new economic program.

b. This will create bigger job market in the Asia countries and thus it will relieve unemployment of young generation in Asian countries.

c. Conclusively, Economies of Scale (Mankiew, 2009) will be achieved and synergy effect will occur according to the new economic program.

2. Cultural perspective:

a. Human exchanges will arise among young Asian generation by initiating the new economic program. Young people regardless of their nationalities, they can gather together for the new job market openings.

b. Cultural understanding will take place while human exchanges occur. Old generations have bias based upon long-and-ongoing historical, geographical, and political conflicts. However, younger generation has more flexibility and they will understand the cultural differences while cooperating through the new economic program.

c. As a result of cultural understanding attained by continuous personal exchanges, younger Asian generation can aware of their identity as Asian and finally achieve the concept of "Asian Value".

3. Political perspective:

a. Policy changes among the Asian countries will follow to flourish the economic program. Every country associated with new economic program for young generation will lower the trade barrier and related customs.

b. This policy changes will produce friendly and amicable relationships among Asian countries. Asian countries also empathize with necessity of cooperation through the new economic program.

The CC System (Concurrent Circular system) will carry out economic, cultural, and political approach at the same time. Not confined to one dimension, the three crucial fields of system circulate symbiotically. This system naturally assimilates one another and therefore will create vibrant model for realizing AU.

IV. Feasibility of program

In spite of long-and-ongoing historical, geographical, and political conflicts, the economic and the CC System are highly feasible because of **geographical and cultural proximity**. Close regional location is economically favorable for Asian countries to institute the new economic program. Along with it, by embracing regionalism among Asian countries, Asian countries can cooperate for mutual profit.

At the same time, cultural proximity will help Asian countries to work together. Like EU countries, majority of Asian countries share similar traditions and customs such as Confucianism. By understanding and tolerating complex issues which can be achieved by cultivation of Asian Value, the economic program can be put into practice.

V. Conclusion

There is no doubt that there are numbers of obstacles to overcome, such as territorial and historical disputes, challenges for implementation will have to be faced, and inarguably will take a significant amount of time to be properly executed in the region. However, this program is worth carrying out, knowing the positive outcomes overweigh the negatives; at one point the region will have to overcome the disputes and move on for the better. The economic motivation will encourage nations to associate on good terms and also ensure that interest do not vapor quickly. The more individuals have personal exchanges, and if those exchanges produce economic benefits for the nation, inherently politics will adjust itself to meet the demand. This friendly environment will then establish a less-than-hostile environment for nations to be able to discuss integration on national terms for AU to be realized.

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