

Panel Discussion: Changing Global Situation and the Roles of ASEAN and Japan
RCEP and ASEAN-Japan Cooperation

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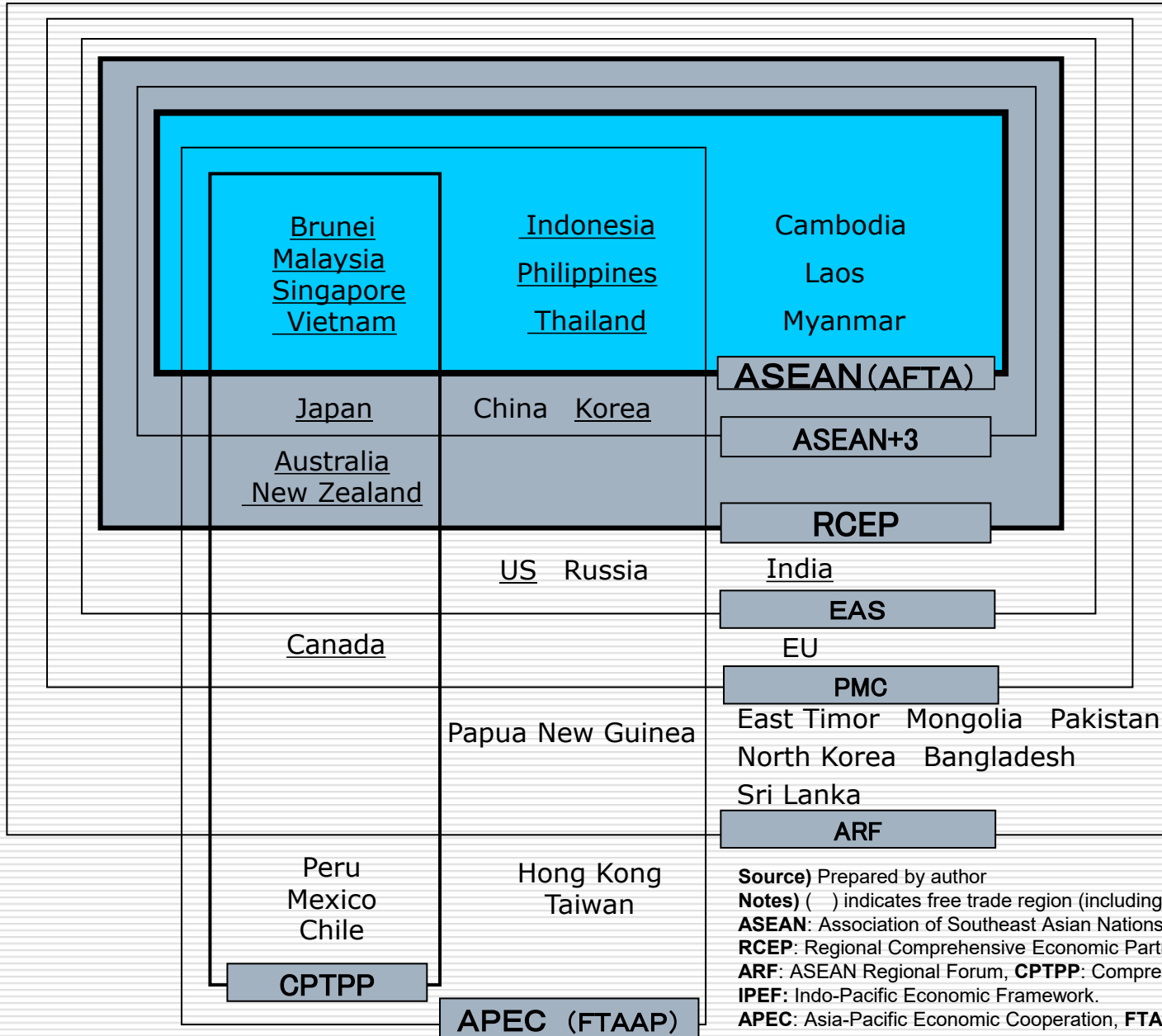
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Kazushi Shimizu (Kyushu University)

- **Economic integration including AEC and RCEP has great significance in the current tough East Asian and the World economy.**
 - In East Asia, ASEAN has been leading economic integration, and improving AEC.
 - ASEAN proposed RCEP in 2011. RCEP entered into force in 2022.
 - RCEP has great meaning for East Asian economies: RCEP is the first mega FTA in East Asia.
 - RCEP will promote trade, investment and new rulemaking and strengthen supply chains in East Asia.
- **Economic integration supporting supply chains, which are driving economic development.**
 - ASEAN policies have supported corporations' production networks.
 - For example, ASEAN policies including BBC, AFTA, AEC have supported Toyota's car and car parts complementation in ASEAN.
 - RCEP will further strengthen East Asian supply chains.
- **ASEAN has been the most important key player in RCEP.**
 - ASEAN proposed RCEP and led the negotiations.
 - ASEAN's centrality and initiative are inevitable in RCEP. East Asian economic integration is balanced with ASEAN at the center.
- **ASEAN and Japan must cooperate to maintain the ASEAN Centrality in RCEP and advance RCEP.**
- **RCEP is vitally important for East Asian economy and the World economy.**

Framework of East Asian Regional Cooperation Centering on ASEAN



Source) Prepared by author

Notes) () indicates free trade region (including conception) . Underlined are IPEF participating countries.

ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations, **AFTA**: ASEAN Free Trade Area,

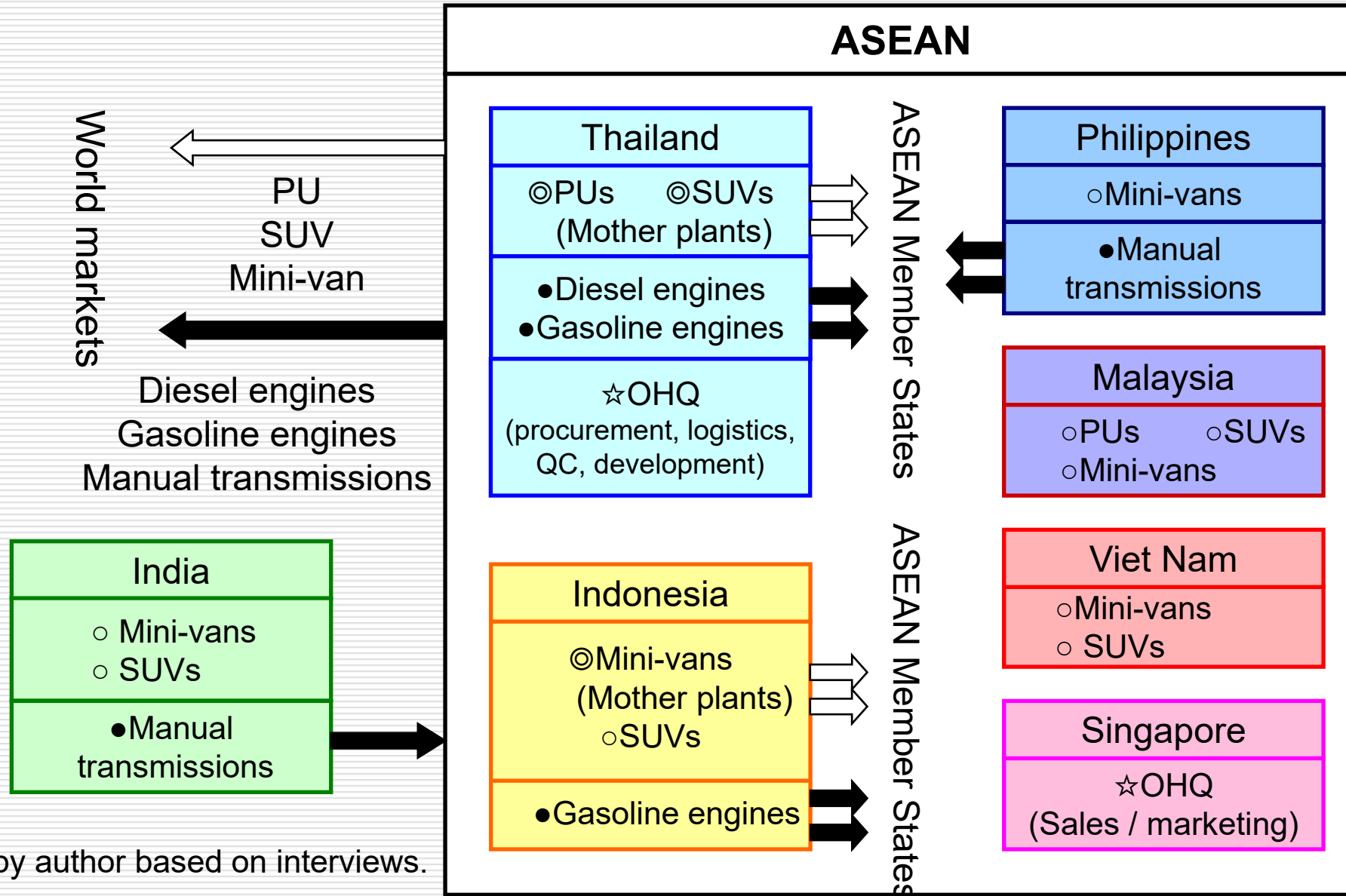
RCEP: Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, **PMC**: ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference,

ARF: ASEAN Regional Forum, **CPTPP**: Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership,

IPEF: Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

APEC: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, **FTAAP**: Free Trade Area of Asia-Pacific

Schematic of Main Car and Parts Complementation at Toyota IMV



(Source) Prepared by author based on interviews.