

## RIETI-ANU SYMPOSIUM

**An Asian agenda for securing the multilateral rules-based economic order**

### *Some perspectives*

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# ASEAN centrality?

## Mixed opportunities and challenges for ASEAN

- *Investment shift in the context of US-China decoupling;*
- *International reputation after successful hosting of major events in 2022-2023 (ASEAN, APEC, G20, etc.);*
- *Upgradation of some ASEAN+1 FTAs after RCEP.*

## Promoting ASEAN centrality via:

- *Making ASEAN integration more meaningful and relevant;*
  - *A better capacitated ASEAN Secretariat?*
- *Collaboration, rather than just “race to the bottom”, in attracting foreign investment*
  - *Need support of external partners from GVC/RVC perspective;*
- *Fostering an ASEAN perspective of AMSs in various arrangements (CPTPP, RCEP)*
  - *IPEF, FTAAP?*
- *Platform for dialogues and works with superpowers on concrete initiatives beyond economic issues*
  - *Economic-security nexus.*

# An adaptive approach to de-risking

- Ensuring core economic benefits for all parties.
  - *The case for regional FTA (e.g. RCEP and Australia-China?)*
  - *Engaging with foreign investors (e.g. experience from Viet Nam during COVID-19 pandemic).*
- Incubate new ideas for collaboration
  - *Structural reform as important area for collaboration?*
  - *Concrete initiatives in relatively new areas (e.g. ASEAN Framework on CE, etc.)*
- New role for think-tanks?

# THANK YOU

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