Production Networks, Trade Liberalization, and Industrial Adjustment in the Philippines

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Editors
Ponciano S. Intal, Jr.
Gerardo L. Largoza
Rizalino N. Malabed
Paulo Jose M. Mutuc
Contents

Foreword
P.S. Intal, Jr.

Foreword
E.C. Due

Competitiveness in the Philippine Steel Industry
M.C. Garcia and S.C. Vicente

Upgrading the Global Apparel Value Chain: 
The Case of Leader Garments
R.B. Habaradas and J.O. Tolentino

The Impact of Liberalization 
on an Industrial District in the Philippines: 
The Case of the Marikina Footwear Industry
J.Q. Tanchuco

Local Cooperation and Upgrading 
in Response to Globalization: 
The Case of the Cebu Furniture Industry
V.H. Zosa

Global Production Networks and Local Support 
Structures in the Philippine Electronics Industry
M.S. Austria

East Asian Production Networks and the Philippine 
Automotive Industry: Deepening Participation and 
Adjusting to the Challenge of China
R.B. Raymundo

Issues in Philippine Information and 
Communications Technology Competitiveness
G.L. Sipin, J.L.D. Espiritu, and O.A. Malabanan

Whither the Philippine Manufacturing Sector: 
Looking Back, the Way Forward
P.S. Intal, Jr. and E.C. See
Foreword

It is with pleasure that the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies of De La Salle University took the plunge in undertaking the research project on Production Networks, Industrial Adjustment, Institutions and Policies, and Regional Cooperation. The International Development Research Centre of Canada has been a wonderful partner and generous donor to this initiative of the Institute.

This project is a three-volume compilation of country papers for China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam plus a few regional oriented papers, as well as studies focusing on Philippine industries, policies, and institutions.

There is no doubt that production networks have been central to the remarkable face of intraregional trade and economic integration in East Asia during the past two decades, facilitated by a substantial reduction in trade and investment barriers in the region during the period. This liberalization and integration process has been successful for East Asian countries on the whole even if it has not been smooth in some countries. As a result, ASEAN countries and other East Asian countries have been engaging in serious discussions and negotiations on bilateral and regional free trade agreements within the region. Thus, we can expect the probable deepening and widening of production networks in East Asia in the years to come.

We hope you will find the papers in the volume useful and insightful.

Ponciano S. Intal, Jr., Ph.D.
Executive Director
DLSU-Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies