

Acknowledgments

The background contributions to this book have been supported by Asian Development Bank (ADB) technical assistance. Special mention is well deserved for the authors of the background contributions. Charoen Danuvasin's team contributed significantly to the content of Chapter 3 (Danuvasin et al., 2015). Chapter 2 combines considerable elements from the background reports of Emily Wise and Christian Ketels (including the related extensive Appendix 2) (Wise and Ketels, 2015), Paul Torrens (Torrens, 2014) and Cheng Fu (Fu, 2015). One section in Chapter 1, on value-added trade, is from David Roland-Holst (2015). Cheng Fu was able to get a pilot observatory for Greater Mekong Subregion up and running (Fu, 2015), and Chapter 4 takes this experience into account in the action-oriented, forward-looking conclusions of this book.

The author expresses extreme gratitude to those who organized meetings in ADB member countries and who collected data, undertook analysis and provided vital inputs into the background contributions: Zhunning Lei, Roman Vakulchuk, Tao Song and Quang Nguyen. Danuvasin Charoen's report benefited handsomely from the substantive inputs by Thunyarat Amornpetchkul and Jongsawas Chongwatpol.

The author is very grateful to all participants of the March 2014 thematic workshop in Manila: 'Awareness-Raising of Potentials, Risks, and Costs of Regional Economic Integration – Leveraging Cases and Knowledge Tools for Competitiveness and Cohesion'. There the basic ideas and recommendations for this report were planted. In particular the author thanks Hartmut Janus (GIZ) for co-sponsoring the workshop. Christian Ketels, Michael Enright and Ronald Hall were the guiding lights during the workshop. In the end, it was Kislaya Prasad who brought all the brilliant ideas of the workshop to paper in the thematic workshop summary. Thus the substance for the ADB technical assistance was born.

The author is also most grateful to the organizers of the 38th Meeting of the Asia Pacific Advanced Network in August 2014, especially Markus Buchhorn and Simon Lin. Simon's hospitality is unforgettable.

Pino Maggiore (ADB) remained the technology guru throughout the writing of this book.

Liza Cruz (ADB) helped most admirably in preparing the manuscript.

Many thanks to James Villafuerte (ADB) for his contribution from the RCI Roundtable to this book, and especially for some of the figures provided for Chapter 1.

Special thanks to my director at ADB, Arjun Goswami, who was instrumental in guiding the study to its conclusion.

As the editing author, I wrote the chapters, drawing extensively on all these inputs and background studies – adding my own insights, findings and conclusions. It is the author who remains solely responsible for the content of this book, and for any remaining errors or omissions.

ADB recognizes ‘China’ as the People’s Republic of China; ‘Hong Kong’ as Hong Kong, China; and ‘Vietnam’ as Viet Nam.