



Regional Cooperation and Integration Policy Open Dialogue (RCI-POD)
Webinar Series #39

Shaping the Future of Services Trade in Asia: Insights from the RCEP Commitments Database and the Way Forward

10 April 2025 (Thursday), 15:00–16:00 (Manila time, GMT+8)
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Trade in services has been on a steady increase over the past decade. However, trade liberalization in services has been lagging compared to trade in goods. A persistent challenge in the liberalization of trade in services has been the methodological challenges in measuring services output and the process of liberalizing them. The [RCEP Services Commitment Database](#) provides an in-depth, quantifiable analysis of the liberalization measures under the RCEP agreement across all four modes of supply, highlighting national treatment and market access. It builds on earlier work by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and provides a baseline for comparison with the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), enabling policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders to assess the progress and impact of RCEP on regional economic integration. The webinar aims to share the findings from the database and facilitate discussion on the measurement and liberalization of services trade.

AGENDA

15:00 — 15:05 **Introduction**

15:05 — 15:20 **Presentation:** *Demonstration of the RCEP Services Commitment Database*
Sajid Ghani, Consultant, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

15:20 — 15:45 **Panel Discussion:** *Insights from the RCEP Commitments Database and the Way Forward*

Moderator

Pramila Crivelli, Economist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division,
Economic Research and Development Impact Department, ADB

Panelists

- **Dionisius A. Narjoko**, Senior Economist, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia
- **Sumanta Chaudhuri**, Retired civil servant; Principal Advisor, International Trade Policy Division, Confederation of Indian Industry
- **Martin Roy**, Counsellor, World Trade Organization

15:45 — 16:00 **Q&A**

The RCI-POD Webinar Series aims to provide a venue for casual and open policy dialogue on regional cooperation and integration issues.