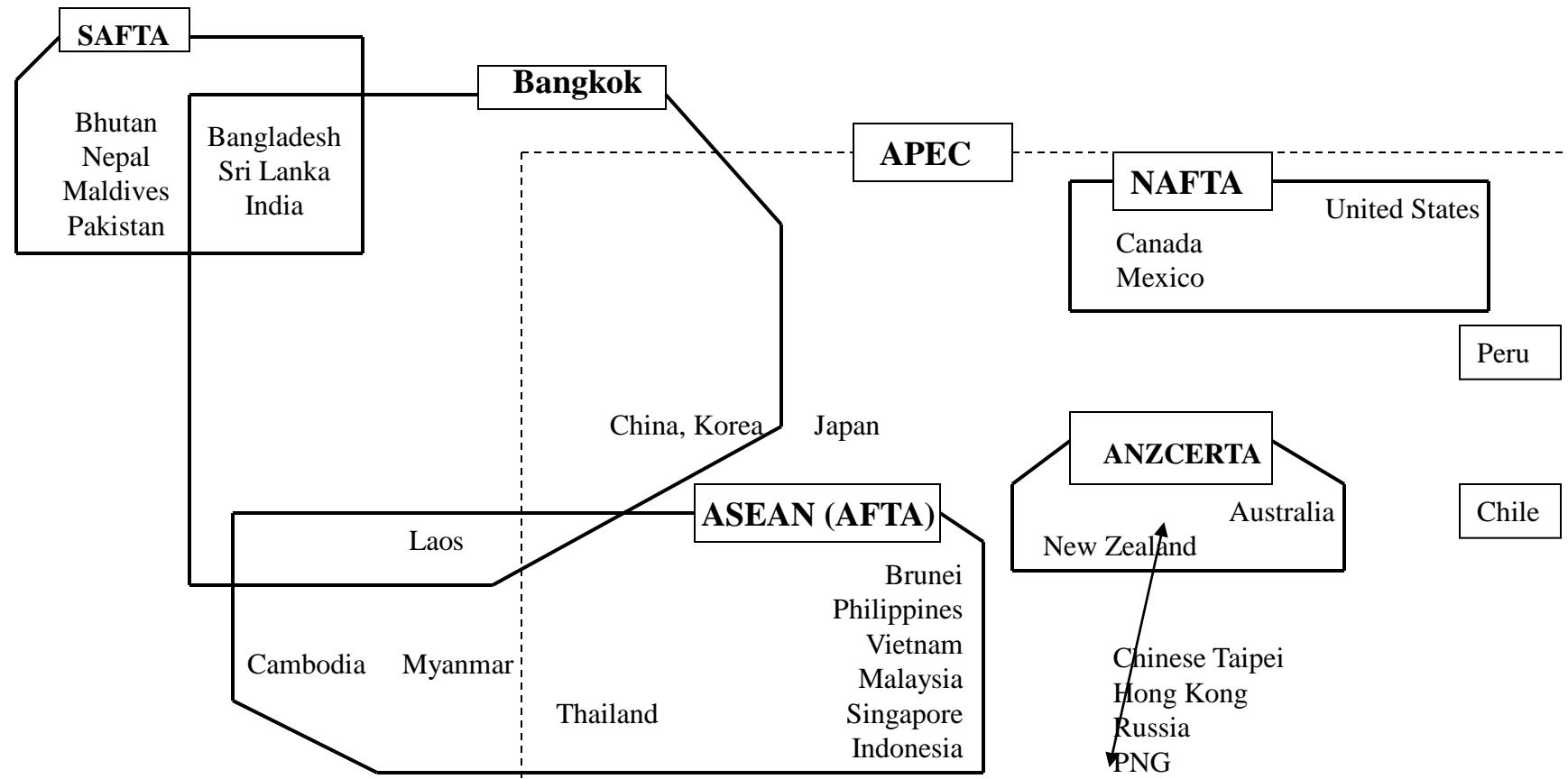


The Contribution of FTAs to Regional Economic Integration

Robert Scollay
APEC Study Centre
University of Auckland

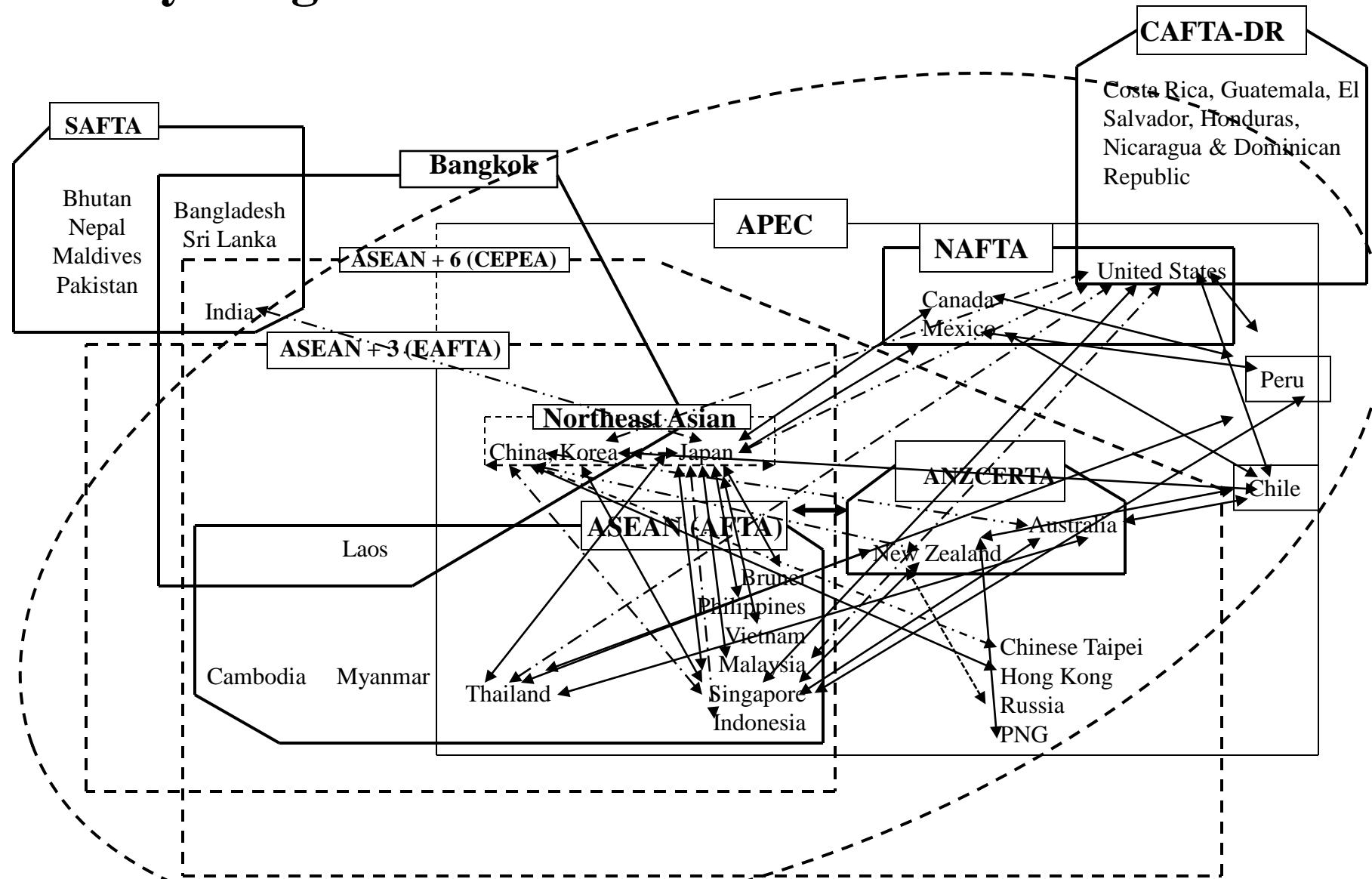
Evolution of the Regional Trade Architecture

From APEC and Plurilateralism in the 1990s...



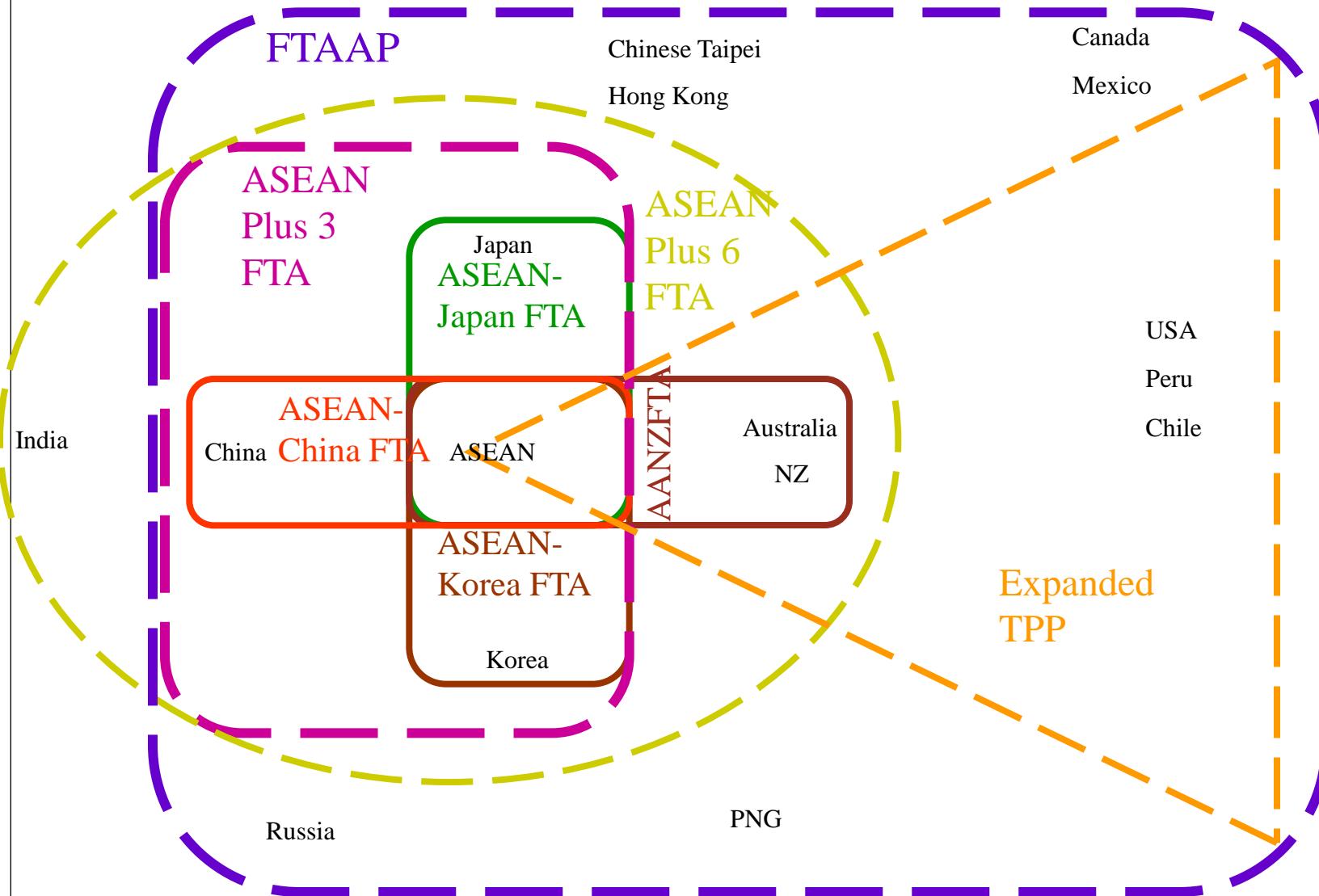
Source: Inter-American Development Bank

To today's regional “noodle bowl”



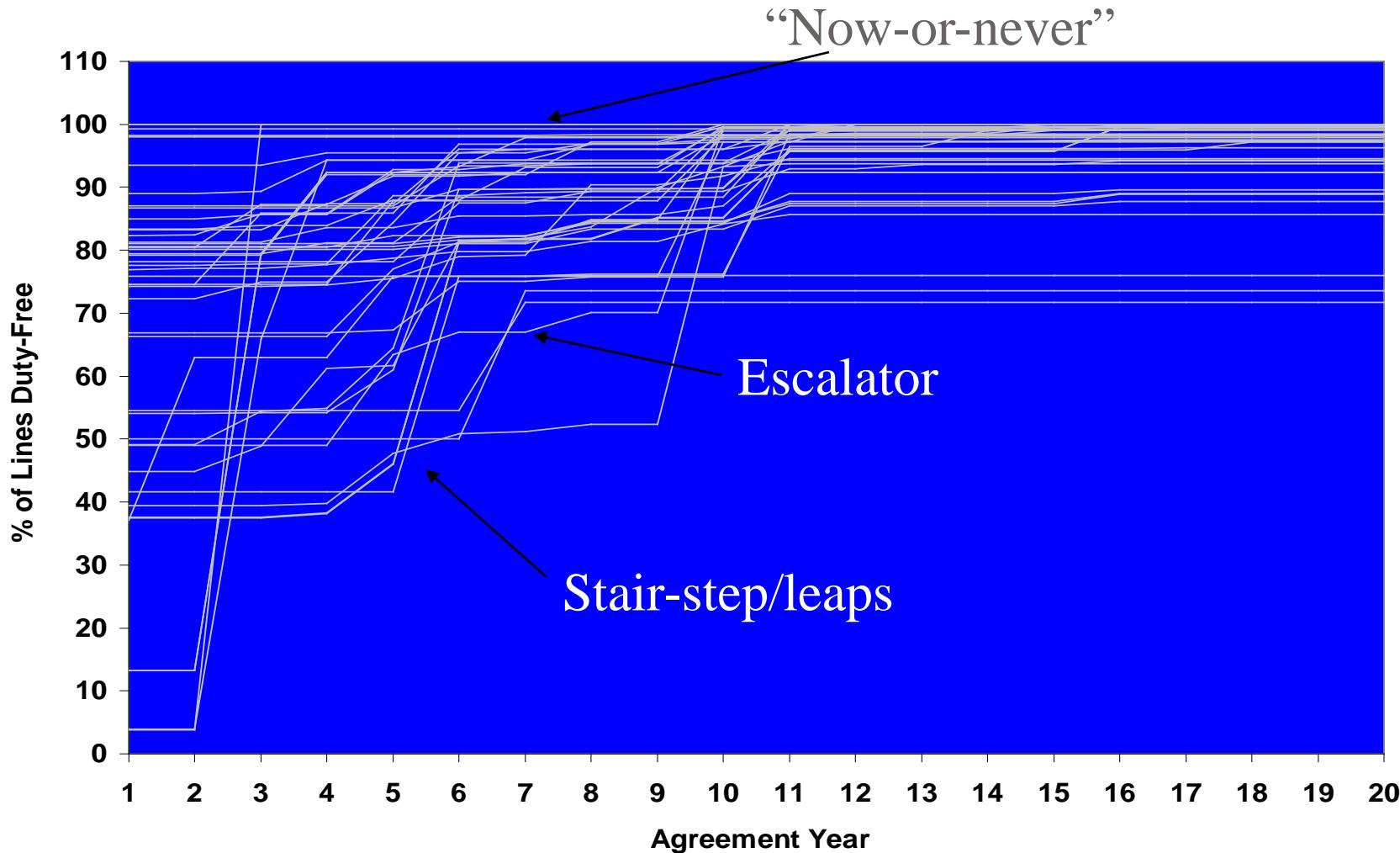
Source: Inter-American Development Bank

Potential Building Blocs for Region-wide Integration



Trade in Goods: What is Being Achieved

Implementation of tariff elimination in 30 Asia-Pacific RTAs

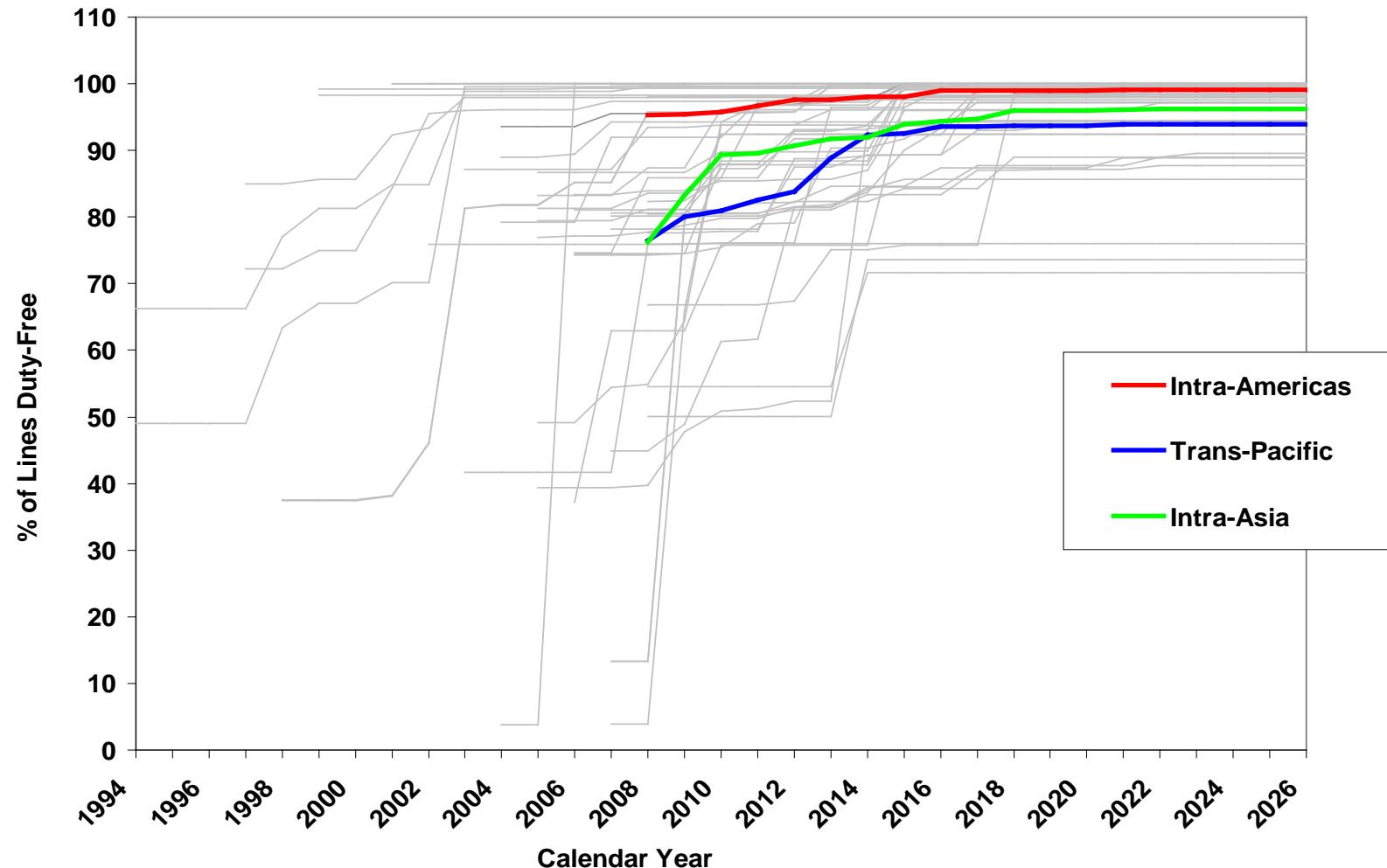


Source: InterAmerican Development Bank

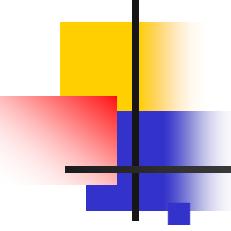
What is being achieved:

> 90% lines freed by 2013; > 95% by 2017

% of Lines Liberalized in APEC RTAs, by Region



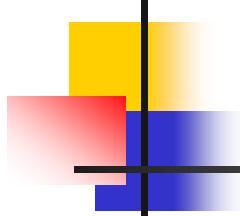
Source: InterAmerican Development Bank



Progress Toward Free Trade in Goods

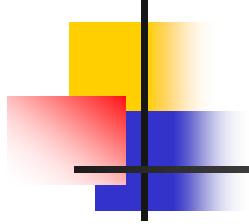
What is being achieved in existing FTAs:

- Very substantial progress over 10 year period
 - Elimination of applied tariffs
 - Utilisation patchy but increasing
- What is missing:
 - Coverage of trade flows between major economies
 - Intra-Northeast Asia (CJK) WTO Doha Round (and after)
 - Trans-Pacific (except Korea-US, Japan-Mexico)
 - Participation of Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei (except with China)
 - Major sources of future gains in economic welfare:
 - For ASEAN: CEPEA (relatively minor), FTAAP
 - For Northeast Asia: CJK FTA, then CEPEA, FTAAP
 - For Australia and NZ: CEPEA, FTAAP (especially for NZ)
 - For USA and Americas: FTAAP



Missing Dimensions of Regional Economic Integration

- **Trade in goods**
 - Regulatory convergence
 - Rules of origin, product standards
 - More complete trade facilitation
- **Trade in services**
 - Shift from modest to comprehensive liberalisation
 - Facilitating policy and regulatory environments
- **Deeper commitments on competition policy, investment, government procurement**
- Shift in emphasis to “behind the border” aspects of integration
- **Shift to region-wide focus**
 - EAFTA, CEPEA, FTAAP



Thank-you!!