East Asia accounts for
- 50% of world’s population
- 33% of world’s national income
- 25% of world’s exports

And more importantly, it is the future growth area of world economy
East Asian countries have entered into almost 81 RTAs in total that are at different stages of negotiation / implementation.

Of which, RTAs amongst East Asian countries are 40 at different stages of negotiation/implementation.

Apart from RTAs, many stand-alone Investment Protection Agreements, Double-Taxation Avoidance Agreements, Customs Cooperation Agreements, etc between East Asia countries aimed at enhancing regional economic cooperation.

The 16 EAS countries have been integrating de facto (the production networks) and these RTAs are making them de jure!
India has signed EHS with Thailand; FTA/CECA with ASEAN, S. Korea, Singapore; negotiating with Thailand for FTA and JAPAN for CEPA; studying the feasibility for CECA/FTA with New Zealand, Australia.

India floated the concept of a Pan-Asian FTA in 2005 - PM’s speech - *Arc of Advantage*

India part of the East Asia Summit since inception.
Track II Study launched in 2\textsuperscript{nd} EAS, 2007
Study Report, submitted in 2 Phases, recommends immediate discussions to realise CEPEA
EAS Economic Ministers mandate consideration of recommendations in EFTA/CEPEA Study Reports together by Senior Officials
Informal (and 1\textsuperscript{st}) Meeting of EAS SEOM on 16\textsuperscript{th} September 2009
The Future

- Early finalisation of existing RTAs amongst EAS countries - to pave way for CEPEA
- Wider scope of economic integration - including Services, Investment, Infrastructure Financing, etc
- Higher involvement of Track I - institutionalising of dialogue process
- Increasing of Track I involvement in ERIA & enhancing the scope of ERIA’s work