

Nested Incentives and Public Goods

The Dynamics of Cooperation
in the Greater Mekong Subregion

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ABSTRACT

Since the 1990s, the rapid regional economic integration and economic globalization have been developing in parallel. With the promotion of regional economic integration wave, regional economic cooperation worldwide is booming, and it has become the "booster" and "accelerator" of economic globalization. In the wave of regional economic cooperation and development, due to the many dynamic emerging economies to join, the Asia-Pacific region has become the "bright spots" of regional cooperation and the focus of world attention. In many emerging economies in the Asia-Pacific region, China is undoubtedly the most dazzling "pearl". Active participation in the economic division and cooperation at the global and regional level is one of the motives to promote Chinese economy to achieve sustainable, rapid and healthy development. With regard to the regional level, China's participation in regional and subregional economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region has provided a lot of experience worth learning for China's participation in economic competition and cooperation at the global level, accelerating the pace of China's integration into economic globalization.

As a frame of reference to the geographical scope of the case, China's participation in subregional cooperation is mostly concentrated in China and its neighboring countries and neighboring borders. For instance, in Northeast Asia, Tumen Subregional economic cooperation joined by China, Russia and Korea, in Northwest of China, five Central Asian countries and China depending on Shanghai Cooperation Organization to conduct economic cooperation, in Southwest area, China's Yunnan Province, Guangxi Zhuang minority Autonomous Region and five countries of Indochina Peninsula to participate in Great Mekong Sub-region Economic Cooperation. Above regional economic cooperation has obtained different levels of achievements. Due to concerns about geo-politic, national interests and other factors involved, relevant member countries' enthusiasm, motives and policy orientations to participate in the regional cooperation vary widely, leading to the development speed and achievements of subregional cooperation are not the same. In the subregional economic cooperation involved China, the development of Great Mekong River Subregional Economic Cooperation initiated by Asian Development Bank in 1992 is the most smoothly and its accomplishments are the most significant. The uniqueness and significant achievements of GMS Cooperation are related to the relevant actor's active participation, policy coordination and close cooperation. However, the supply of regional public goods is an undeniable reason. So far, the supply of regional public goods in the Great Mekong Subregional cooperation has been covering the economic, political, security and other fields, providing effective support for the subregional cooperation's development. But on the whole, the supply of regional public goods in the Greater Mekong Subregional is still at a relatively low level. Therefore, it is the only way

to build coordinatively operated, flexible and comprehensive regional public goods supply mode to promote GMS cooperation's smooth development.

The following is main conclusions of the thesis: Regional member's domestic policy, the regional consciousness and domain relations between countries are the main factors that affect the regional cooperation in the supply of public goods; The defect of the regional public goods supply in the Greater Mekong subregional cooperation is that the main body status and authority of Yunnan and Guangxi Provinces doesn't match, new regionalism has not been formed, and the lack of an authoritative leader in the Greater subregional. Above defects cause insufficient spillover of regional public goods, the supply shortage and its legitimacy depends mainly on the actual performance, which is difficult to obtain the consensus of all countries in the sub-region. It is an effective way to Construct nested incentive mode regarding Chinese as main body to eliminate the regional public goods supply defects in the Greater Mekong River sub-region.

The thesis consists in six chapters.

The first chapter is introduction. The introduction mainly describes the research situation in domestic and abroad, the problem needed to be solved, at the same time, the study method, significance and innovation are elaborated.

The second chapter is core concept definition, including the definition of regional public goods, classification and characteristic. Meanwhile, the second chapter analyses European Union, North American Free Trade Area and ASEAN's regional public goods supply, regarding the regional public goods supply of EU and NAFTA is dominated by strong powers, while that of ASEAN with consultation and cooperation colors.

The third chapter argues the factors affecting regional public goods supply, proposing regional awareness, inter-state relationship and member countries policy towards regional cooperation are the main factors affecting the supply of regional public goods. This chapter puts forward the supply mode of regional public goods in Great Mekong sub-region: nesting excitation mode regarding China as the main is the best mode, analyzing the implications and the conditions for its carrying out.

The fourth chapter elaborates GMS cooperation motive, development process, reviewed the current supply of regional public goods in Great Mekong Sub-region.

The fifth chapter discusses the defects and causes of GMS cooperation regional public goods supply, taking the shortage of power of Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang minority autonomous region, lack of an authoritative leaders, backward economic development level in the sub-region and weak new regionalism as the main causes.

The sixth chapter analyses China's path selection in the supply of regional public goods of GMS cooperation, the focal point for China to promote the supply level of regional public goods in GMS cooperation is to enhance non-traditional security cooperation, broaden soft-power and facilitate trade and investment to be more convenient, at the same time, subsequent problems to be solved discussed.

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Introduction

Since the 1980s, as one of the prominent emerging economies in the Asia-Pacific region, China has extensively participated in large-scale and influential regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region while also engaging in various forms of subregional cooperation with neighboring countries. Among the subregional cooperation initiatives carried out between China and its neighboring countries, the Greater Mekong Subregional Economic Cooperation (GMS), initiated and advocated by the Asian Development Bank in 1992 with Yunnan and Guangxi provinces, located in China's southwestern border areas, as the main participants, has achieved the most remarkable results.

This thesis, from the perspective of Regional Public Goods (RPGs), analyzes the current situation, deficiencies, and causes of these deficiencies in the supply of RPGs in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). Based on an analysis of RPG supply in the European Union (EU), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEANN), and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), it proposes the key factors influencing the supply of RPGs. Additionally, the thesis puts forward a new model for RPG supply in the GMS and analyzes China's path choices in the subregion's RPG supply.

This chapter mainly elaborates on the research background and significance of the dissertation, reviews the status quo of domestic and international studies on Greater Mekong Subregion Cooperation, analyzes the problems that need to be addressed in existing studies, and introduces the framework, research methods, and innovative points of the dissertation.

1.1 Problem Formulation and Research Significance

1.1.1. Statement of the Problem

Since the 1990s, the two waves of economic globalization and regional economic integration have advanced in parallel, complementing each other, and continuously developing in depth. As the "booster" and "accelerator" of economic globalization, regional economic integration has developed rapidly and achieved remarkable accomplishments. The European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEANN) are the "pioneers" and "pathfinders" of regional economic integration, while regional economic cooperation organizations such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the North American Free Trade Agreement

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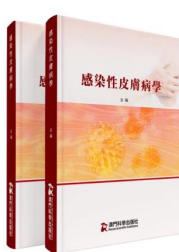


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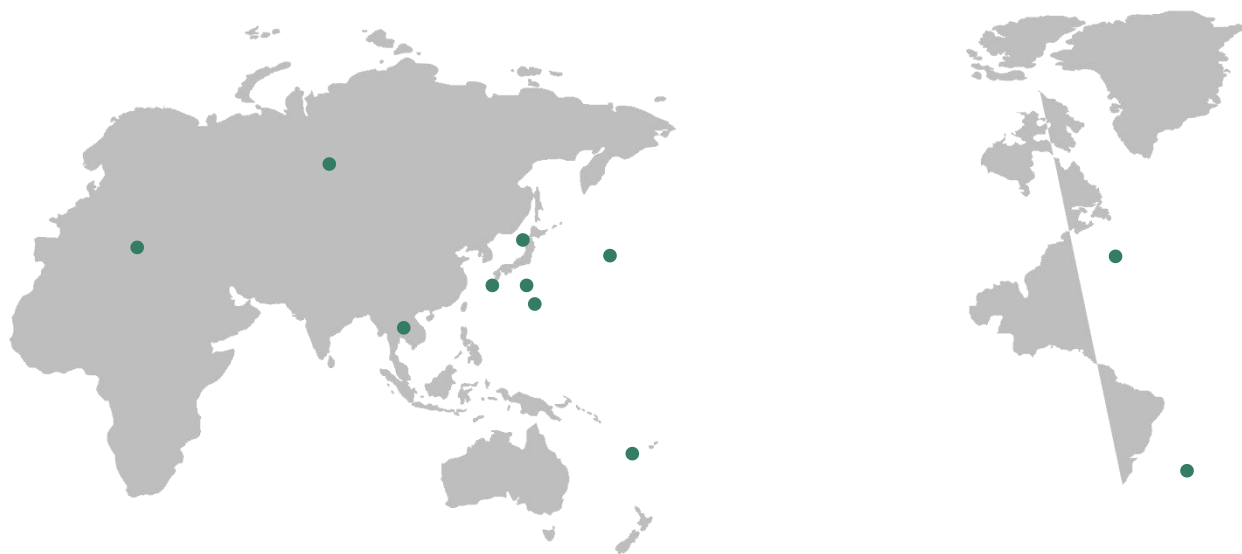
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