

## ASIA REJOINS THE GLOBALIZATION ODYSSEY

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### ABSTRACT

*Accompanied by the fast pace of technological change, globalization of production and markets is accelerating. The East Asian crisis originating in five nations – Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia – along with Japan are adopting measures and strategies to overcome the economic debacle of 1997 focusing on their commercial drive of past decades to the task of corporate and financial overhaul. The strategy of “miracle growth” for East Asian nations came as they adopted Japan’s development model of export-led growth. Korea, a country that produces many of the same products as Japan, and China fast emulating the export-led growth mantra, look for Japan’s trade and investment for an upturn of economic activity in Asia. Japan’s titan SogoShosha and Korea’s restructured Chaebols with their historic roles in the miracle of Korea Inc., are focusing on Asia for mutual benefits. As the outlook in Asia improves the US economy seems to grow at a pace defying the experts. Alongside this growth, Japan, Korea, China and Asian efforts add to US Competitiveness at home and abroad. As the Asian market recovers, US exports have increased, but the unprecedented flow of imports are a strain on the US merchandise trade deficit. Japan – the decade’s perpetual laggard – is expected to amass huge trade and current account surpluses with SogoShosha and the leading manufacturers playing major roles. Japan’s SogoShosha and Korea’s Chaebols amidst critics, are adapting to the changing conditions of a new era and have rejoined Asia in the globalization odyssey.*

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