

## **Would AFTA Accelerate Vietnam's Economy for Sustainable Development or Not ?**

**Tadashi KIKUCHI<sup>†</sup>**

**Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University and  
International Development Research Institute, Foundation for Advanced Studies on  
International Development**

1 – 6 – 17, Kudan – Minami, Chiyoda – ku, Tokyo, 102 – 0074, Japan  
Telephone: (+) 1 – 3 – 3784 – 2977 Facsimile: (+) 81 – 3- 5427 – 1578

### Abstract

This paper introduces aspects that are key to the Vietnamese economy's achievement of sustainable development and regional integration, and the establishment of ASEAN economic community (AEC) in 2015. The results of the analysis of statistical data reveal three main findings: 1) In order to reduce the Gini inequality, the promotion of the comparative advantage sectors in Vietnam by the government will be helpful. 2) To select the leading sectors for industrialization, the potential impacts of the ASEAN Economic Community should be considered. 3) Decreasing tariffs and accelerating the structural changes in labor from the agriculture to the manufacturing sectors are inevitable if the Vietnamese economy is to be successfully industrialized. Taking into consideration these necessary conditions for sustainable development, the author also provides some outputs of the data analysis with regard to which countries would be competitors for the Vietnamese manufacturing in the new Free Trade era—AEC—in 2015.

**Key words:** Sustainable development, Industrialization of the Vietnamese economy, Economic integration.

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