

Stakeholder Analysis of Indonesia's Trade the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Actor Non-ASEAN

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ABSTRACT

This study examines Indonesia's trade relations with non-ASEAN member countries under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). The RCEP, signed in 2020, presents Indonesia with significant opportunities to expand market access, particularly with key partners like China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. However, challenges persist, particularly in terms of trade imbalances and competitive pressures. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data from trade flow statistics and tariff reductions with qualitative insights from interviews and focus group discussions with key stakeholders. The Importance Performance Analysis (IPA) method was applied to assess the effectiveness of RCEP provisions. Results show that while Indonesia benefits from improved market access, significant trade deficits remain, especially with China and Australia. Stakeholders, including government agencies and private sector exporters, play pivotal roles in mitigating these challenges by addressing non-tariff barriers and enhancing trade facilitation. In conclusion, Indonesia must strategically leverage the RCEP framework to address trade imbalances and improve export competitiveness. Policy recommendations include enhancing stakeholder collaboration, improving infrastructure, and increasing awareness among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to fully utilize RCEP benefits. These efforts will ensure Indonesia remains competitive in global trade.

Keyword: Stakeholder Analysis; RCEP; Non-ASEAN Countries

INTRODUCTION

The issue examined in this study is Indonesia's trade relations with non-ASEAN members under the framework of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Signed in 2020, RCEP is one of the largest trade agreements globally, covering nearly 30% of the world's population and GDP (Bobowski, 2017). For Indonesia, the RCEP presents both opportunities and challenges, especially in its dealings with key non-ASEAN countries such as China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. While the agreement is poised to enhance Indonesia's market access and strengthen its trade competitiveness, significant trade imbalances persist, particularly with China and Australia. This paper focuses on addressing these imbalances and maximizing the benefits of RCEP by examining Indonesia's trade strategies with these non-ASEAN members (Gao, 2022; Raghavan et al., 2023). Prior studies on RCEP, such as those have provided a macroeconomic perspective on the agreement's potential. However, fewer studies have focused on Indonesia's specific engagement with non-ASEAN members, particularly in the context of stakeholder analysis, making this paper a unique contribution to the field.

The urgency of addressing Indonesia's trade imbalance with non-ASEAN RCEP countries stems from its growing deficits in recent years. Data from 2020 shows significant trade deficits with China, South Korea, and Australia, which, if not addressed, could undermine Indonesia's economic gains under RCEP (Adila et al., 2023; Campbell, 2023). Moreover, the competitive pressures posed by other RCEP members, such as Vietnam and Thailand, make it essential for Indonesia to adopt strategies that improve its export competitiveness and market positioning. The rise of regional value chains, especially centered around China, adds further urgency, as Indonesia risks being marginalized in these value chains unless it actively engages in targeted trade and investment strategies. This study responds to these challenges by analyzing how Indonesia can strategically position itself to benefit from RCEP and reduce its trade imbalances (Chakraborty & Chaisse, 2021; Zreik, 2024).

Previous research has explored the broader economic implications of RCEP for ASEAN and its member states, focusing largely on the agreement's potential to boost GDP growth, foreign direct investment (FDI), and trade flows. For instance, Wardani and Cooray (2019) examined the role of ASEAN in facilitating RCEP negotiations and its geopolitical implications. (Lando, 2022; Wu, 2020) provided insights into the technical complexities of RCEP, particularly its trade liberalization measures. While these studies offer valuable insights, they lack a focused analysis on Indonesia's trade performance non-ASEAN partners within the RCEP framework. This paper aims to fill that gap by offering a comprehensive review of Indonesia's trade dynamics with these key partners, identifying the specific challenges faced by Indonesian exporters, and offering policy recommendations tailored to enhancing Indonesia's competitive position under RCEP.

The key aspect of this study is its focus on Indonesia's engagement with five non-ASEAN RCEP countries, which are pivotal to Indonesia's trade strategy. China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand represent crucial markets for Indonesian exports, but they also pose significant challenges due to their established trade networks and advanced industries. Understanding the specific dynamics of trade with these countries is essential for Indonesia to effectively leverage the RCEP framework (Dosch & Kliem, 2023; Wardani, 2022). This study places particular emphasis on non-tariff barriers, rules of origin, and the role of regional value chains, as these factors have a significant impact on Indonesia's trade performance. By focusing on these areas, the paper seeks to provide a detailed analysis of the structural and policy-related factors that influence Indonesia's trade outcomes under RCEP (Estrades et al., 2023; Mahadevan & Nugroho, 2019).

One of the original contributions of this study is its use of both quantitative and qualitative data to assess the effectiveness of RCEP provisions in enhancing Indonesia's trade. By incorporating primary data from stakeholders, including government officials, trade experts, and industry representatives, this research goes beyond the typical macroeconomic analysis found in previous studies (Pitakdumrongkit, 2023; Wardani & Cooray, 2019). It provides a stakeholder-driven approach to understanding the real-world challenges faced by Indonesia in its RCEP implementation. Additionally, this study applies the Importance Performance Analysis (IPA) method, which has not been widely used in RCEP-related research, to evaluate the performance of key trade-related chapters of RCEP in Indonesia's trade with non-ASEAN countries. This methodological approach adds a unique dimension to the study and contributes to its originality.

The objectives of this paper are twofold. First, it aims to identify the specific provisions of RCEP that Indonesia can utilize to enhance its trade performance with non-ASEAN partners. This includes an analysis of market access, rules of origin, and trade facilitation measures. Second, the study seeks to assess the trade practices and commitments of Indonesia's non-ASEAN RCEP partners to determine areas where Indonesia can improve its market positioning and export competitiveness. By addressing these objectives, the paper provides actionable

insights for policymakers and trade negotiators, offering recommendations that can help Indonesia optimize its RCEP engagement.

This study contributes to the broader discourse on regional trade agreements by providing a focused analysis of Indonesia's trade strategies within the RCEP framework. It underscores the importance of addressing trade imbalances with non-ASEAN members and offers practical solutions for enhancing Indonesia's competitive edge. By combining stakeholder analysis (Agwu, 2019; Varvasovszky & Brugha, 2000) with a detailed review of RCEP provisions, this study provides a nuanced understanding of how Indonesia can navigate the complexities of this mega trade agreement to achieve more balanced and sustainable trade outcomes. The findings of this research are intended to inform both policymakers and businesses, helping them to make more informed decisions regarding Indonesia's participation in the global trade landscape shaped by RCEP.

METHODOLOGY

This research utilizes a mixed-methods approach (Sale et al., 2002), combining both quantitative and qualitative techniques to examine Indonesia's trade relations under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). The mixed-methods design allows for a comprehensive understanding of trade dynamics by triangulating data from multiple sources. Quantitative data, including trade flows, tariff reductions, and economic indicators, were analyzed to identify trends in Indonesia's trade performance with non-ASEAN RCEP members (Creswell & Creswell, 2018; Neuman, 2007). Simultaneously, qualitative insights were gathered through expert interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs), and surveys involving key stakeholders such as government officials, trade associations, and private sector representatives.

For the quantitative analysis, trade data from Indonesia and its five key non-ASEAN partners—China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand—were collected from reputable sources such as the Indonesian Ministry of Trade and international databases. These data sets covered a period of five years (2019–2024) to capture pre- and post-RCEP trends. Various economic models, including the Gravity Model of Trade, were used to assess the impact of RCEP provisions on trade flows. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze trade deficits, export and import volumes, and changes in tariff structures between Indonesia and its non-ASEAN partners.

The qualitative component involved conducting in-depth interviews with stakeholders to gain insights into the challenges and opportunities presented by RCEP (Guba & Lincoln, 1994; Miles et al., 2014). Experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, industry leaders, and representatives from Indonesian trade associations participated in FGDs to discuss the practical implementation of RCEP provisions. These discussions focused on non-tariff barriers, rules of origin, and market access challenges, providing valuable qualitative data to supplement the quantitative findings. The Importance-Performance Analysis (IPA) method was applied to evaluate the effectiveness of various RCEP-related policies and their influence on Indonesia's export competitiveness. Data integration was achieved through a triangulation approach (Thurmond, 2001), where findings from the quantitative and qualitative analyses were cross-validated to ensure robustness.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

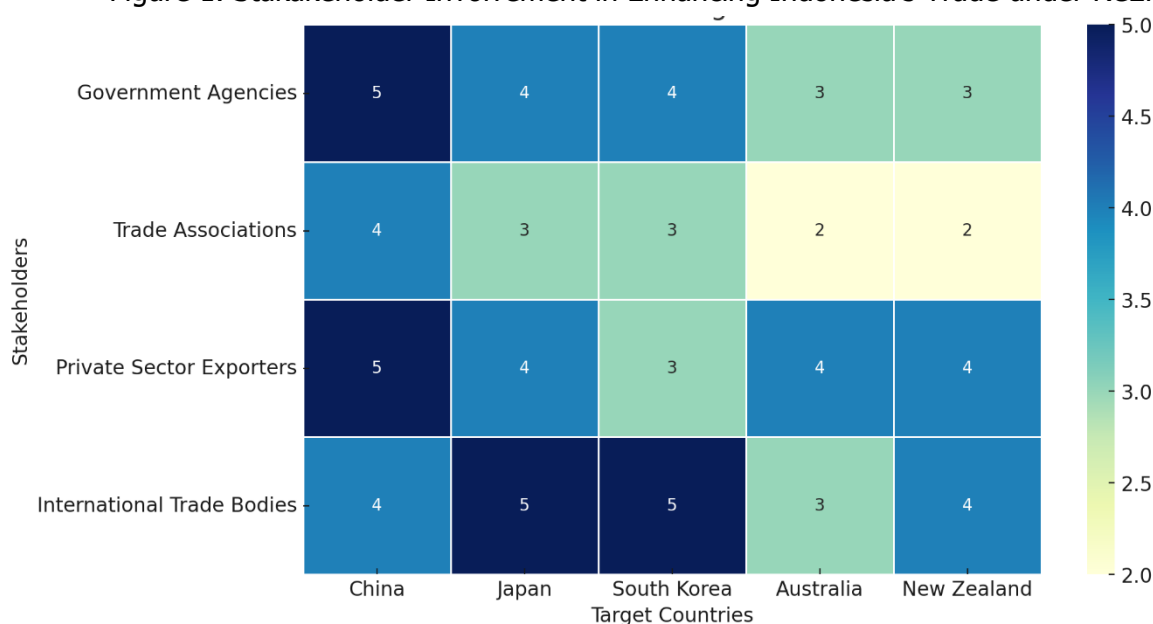
1. Roles of Stakeholders in Enhancing Indonesia's Trade under RCEP with Non-ASEAN Countries

The role of stakeholders in enhancing Indonesia's trade with five non-ASEAN countries under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is pivotal. Stakeholders involved in this process include government agencies, trade associations, private sector

exporters, and international trade bodies. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with various national institutions, plays a central role in overseeing and facilitating Indonesia's RCEP-related strategies. This government-led effort aims to optimize the benefits of the RCEP framework, targeting specific non-ASEAN members: China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. Each stakeholder has a unique role in ensuring the effective implementation of RCEP's provisions to enhance Indonesia's trade balance with these countries.

First, the Indonesian government acts as a key facilitator in driving trade policies and negotiating favorable terms for market access under RCEP. Government agencies such as the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are responsible for ensuring that RCEP commitments are honored, and that Indonesia's trade interests are protected. They are also tasked with addressing non-tariff barriers, negotiating favorable rules of origin, and ensuring smooth customs procedures. The government works closely with private sector stakeholders to ensure that RCEP provisions are fully utilized and that challenges faced by Indonesian businesses in non-ASEAN markets are mitigated.

Figure 1. Stakeholder Involvement in Enhancing Indonesia's Trade under RCEP



Source: Gephi Map, 2024

The heatmap above highlights the significant role that various stakeholders play in enhancing Indonesia's trade with five non-ASEAN countries—China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand—under the RCEP framework. Government agencies, particularly Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are shown to have the most prominent involvement, especially in relations with China, where they score the highest level of engagement. This high involvement reflects the importance of diplomatic and policy-level interventions in ensuring that trade strategies align with the RCEP provisions, facilitating smoother negotiations and bilateral agreements. The government's role in Japan and South Korea is also substantial, indicating focused efforts on strengthening economic ties in Northeast Asia.

Private sector exporters, who are crucial in translating trade agreements into tangible exports, show strong involvement across all five countries, particularly in China and Australia. This suggests that businesses in Indonesia are highly proactive in capitalizing on the trade opportunities presented by the RCEP, especially with China's large market and Australia's demand for Indonesian goods. Their engagement in New Zealand and South Korea also

reflects growing trade activities, where exporters benefit from the reduction in tariffs and barriers under the RCEP, enabling them to increase competitiveness in these markets. The participation of trade associations complements the private sector's efforts, with moderate involvement seen across most countries, highlighting their role in providing support, advocacy, and coordination for exporters.

Lastly, international trade bodies such as chambers of commerce and global trade organizations also play a key role, particularly in Japan and South Korea. Their involvement in these markets underscores the need for multilateral support to maintain and expand trade relations. These organizations often assist in navigating regulatory landscapes and providing dispute resolution mechanisms under the RCEP framework. Their moderate engagement with Australia and New Zealand indicates that while trade with these countries is important, it may not require the same level of multilateral involvement due to stronger bilateral frameworks already in place. In conclusion, the heatmap effectively illustrates how various stakeholders, led by the Indonesian government, are working in synergy to optimize the benefits of the RCEP with different levels of engagement depending on the market conditions and strategic priorities.

The private sector, particularly Indonesian exporters, is another critical stakeholder. These businesses are directly impacted by RCEP's trade facilitation measures, such as the elimination of tariffs and the simplification of rules of origin. Exporters must adapt their operations to meet the standards and technical regulations set by non-ASEAN RCEP countries. Key industries, such as electronics, textiles, and automotive components, stand to benefit significantly from reduced trade barriers, but they also face challenges related to competition and compliance with international standards. Active engagement from the private sector is essential to maximize RCEP's benefits, as businesses must capitalize on new market opportunities while addressing trade barriers specific to each partner country.

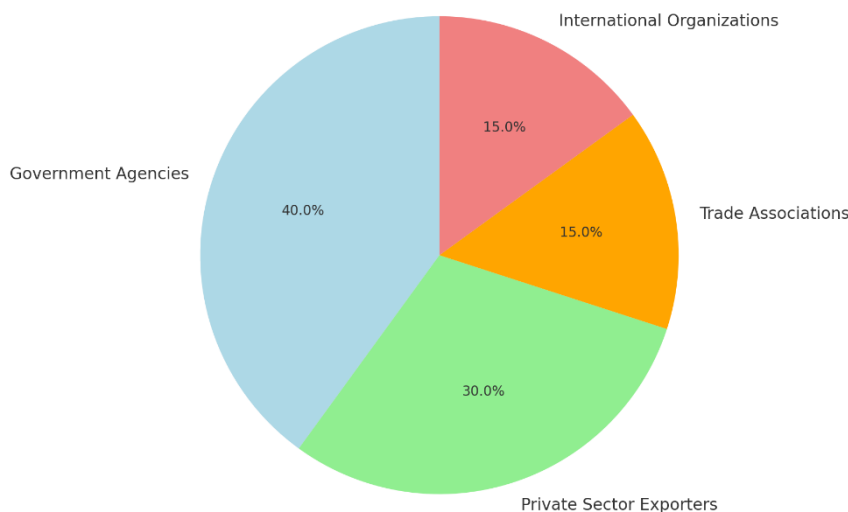
Trade associations and business chambers also play a supportive role in facilitating Indonesia's trade enhancement under RCEP. These associations help bridge the gap between the government and private sector by providing feedback on policy implementation and representing industry concerns. They also organize workshops, training sessions, and provide up-to-date information on the technical aspects of RCEP, including the utilization of preferential tariffs and the application of rules of origin. Their involvement ensures that businesses are well-informed and capable of navigating the complexities of trade regulations in non-ASEAN markets.

Additionally, international organizations, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the ASEAN Secretariat, are involved in monitoring the implementation of RCEP. These bodies provide oversight to ensure that member countries, including Indonesia, adhere to their commitments under the agreement. They also support capacity-building efforts in areas like trade facilitation, customs procedures, and intellectual property rights, which are critical for Indonesian businesses to compete effectively in global markets. Their role is crucial in promoting transparency and accountability, ensuring that all RCEP members, including non-ASEAN partners, comply with the agreed terms.

The pie chart illustrates the division of responsibilities and influence among various stakeholders in enhancing Indonesia's trade under the RCEP agreement. Government agencies, represented by 40%, play the most significant role in driving trade policies and negotiating favorable terms for Indonesia. Agencies like the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are crucial in ensuring that Indonesia's interests are protected within the RCEP framework. These government bodies are responsible for managing compliance with the agreement, addressing non-tariff barriers, and ensuring smooth customs procedures. They also collaborate closely with private sector stakeholders, ensuring that Indonesia's export

sector can fully benefit from the reduced trade barriers and streamlined trade processes under RCEP.

Figure 2. Stakeholder Roles in Enhancing Indonesia's Trade under RCEP



Source: Author, 2024

Private sector exporters, accounting for 30% of the influence in the chart, are the direct beneficiaries of RCEP's trade facilitation measures. These businesses must adapt to the elimination of tariffs and simplified rules of origin, which can greatly enhance their competitiveness in non-ASEAN markets such as China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. Exporters, especially those in industries like electronics, textiles, and automotive components, are expected to capitalize on new market opportunities. However, they also face challenges such as increased competition and the need to comply with international standards. Active participation from the private sector is essential to ensuring that the full potential of RCEP is realized, as these businesses must navigate both the opportunities and complexities brought about by the agreement.

Lastly, trade associations and international organizations each hold a 15% share of involvement. Trade associations serve as a bridge between the government and the private sector, providing feedback on policy implementation and helping businesses understand and utilize RCEP provisions. They organize workshops, provide training, and ensure that Indonesian exporters are well-equipped to navigate international trade regulations. Meanwhile, international organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and ASEAN Secretariat play a critical oversight role. These bodies ensure that all RCEP member countries, including Indonesia, adhere to their commitments and facilitate capacity-building in areas such as trade facilitation, intellectual property rights, and customs procedures. Their involvement promotes transparency and accountability, enabling smoother trade operations between Indonesia and its non-ASEAN RCEP partners.

2. Internal and External Stakeholders in RCEP for Indonesia's Trade Enhancement with Five Non-ASEAN Countries

The analysis of stakeholders involved in Indonesia's utilization of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) reveals the distinct roles of both internal and external actors in optimizing trade with China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. Internal stakeholders include government agencies, business associations, and private sector entities within Indonesia, while external stakeholders primarily consist of trade

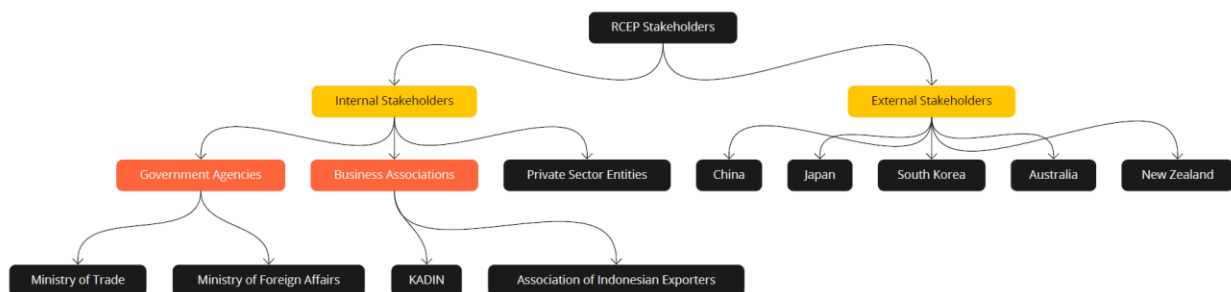
partners from the five non-ASEAN RCEP countries. Each group plays a pivotal role in shaping trade strategies, negotiating terms, and ensuring compliance with RCEP provisions. This discussion covers their roles, interests, and influence on trade practices under the RCEP framework.

Internally, the Indonesian Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs serve as the primary governmental stakeholders, driving Indonesia's trade negotiations and policy implementation. These ministries collaborate closely with the private sector, particularly through business associations such as the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN) and the Association of Indonesian Exporters. Their collective objective is to maximize Indonesia's access to RCEP's trade benefits, especially in reducing trade barriers and enhancing export competitiveness in the non-ASEAN RCEP markets. The government's role is to facilitate smoother trade procedures, promote Indonesian exports, and address non-tariff barriers that inhibit market access, particularly in sectors such as electronics, agriculture, and textiles.

External stakeholders include key trade and investment partners from China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. These countries have established trade relations with Indonesia, with China and Japan leading as major trade and investment sources. However, challenges such as Indonesia's trade deficit with China and South Korea persist, making external stakeholder engagement critical. Each partner country has its own set of trade practices, regulatory frameworks, and market demands, influencing Indonesia's ability to fully leverage RCEP's benefits. For example, Japan's focus on technological investments and South Korea's emphasis on electronic components necessitate targeted trade strategies by Indonesia.

In terms of trade practices, Indonesia's internal stakeholders must adapt to the varying requirements of external stakeholders, particularly in complying with rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS), and technical regulations. External actors, such as China, impose strict standards and regulatory frameworks that Indonesian exporters must navigate to penetrate these markets. External stakeholders, especially from Australia and New Zealand, demand higher quality and safety standards for agricultural exports, necessitating Indonesian domestic stakeholders to enhance their compliance capabilities.

Figure 3. Stakeholders in Indonesia's RCEP Utilization



Source: Author, 2024

Indonesia's strategy for increasing its competitive edge in these five non-ASEAN countries also hinges on effective collaboration with both internal and external stakeholders to foster regional value chain integration. China and South Korea, in particular, are pivotal in the regional value chains for electronics and automotive sectors. Internal stakeholders in Indonesia must therefore focus on aligning their production and export practices to fit within these value chains. Moreover, Australia and New Zealand offer significant opportunities for

agricultural exports, requiring Indonesia to optimize its agricultural trade policies and improve its export readiness in sectors such as palm oil, rubber, and coffee.

Focus group discussions (FGDs) and surveys conducted among Indonesian business leaders and trade officials highlighted key internal challenges, such as limited awareness of RCEP's provisions among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and inadequate infrastructure to support export growth. These internal weaknesses must be addressed through better stakeholder engagement and capacity-building programs. Government agencies must play a more proactive role in educating local businesses about the opportunities and challenges within RCEP, ensuring that Indonesian products meet international standards and can compete effectively in these external markets.

External actors, particularly government trade representatives from the five countries, also play a significant role in shaping the trade landscape through bilateral negotiations and trade facilitation measures. For instance, Japan and Australia have actively sought to deepen economic cooperation with Indonesia through the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPA) and other bilateral trade accords, further complementing the RCEP framework. These external actors are essential in shaping Indonesia's export potential, as they provide the necessary market access and investment opportunities.

3. Challenges of Global Supply Chain Integration under Globalization

In the future, the influence of globalization will present several significant challenges for Indonesia, particularly in the context of trade relations with non-ASEAN countries under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). One of the key challenges will be adapting to the increasing complexity of global supply chains. As multinational corporations continue to fragment production processes across different countries, Indonesia will need to ensure its industries remain competitive and integrated into these global value chains. This will require the country to not only upgrade its infrastructure but also improve its industrial capabilities to meet the evolving demands of international trade, particularly in the high-tech sectors dominated by countries like Japan and South Korea.

Another challenge stemming from globalization is the increasing pressure to comply with international trade standards and regulations. Countries such as China, Australia, and New Zealand have stringent non-tariff measures (NTMs), including sanitary and phytosanitary standards and technical barriers to trade. For Indonesia, aligning its domestic production standards with these international regulations will be crucial to avoiding trade barriers that could limit its export potential. Additionally, as environmental and labor standards become more integrated into trade agreements, Indonesia may face heightened scrutiny from trade partners, particularly in areas related to sustainable development and fair labor practices.

Globalization also intensifies competition among emerging economies, especially in Southeast Asia. Countries like Vietnam and Thailand are rapidly enhancing their export competitiveness and increasing their market share in key sectors, such as electronics and automotive parts. Indonesia will need to implement strategies to boost its own competitiveness, particularly by investing in education, technology, and innovation. The challenge lies in ensuring that Indonesia does not fall behind in the race for foreign direct investment (FDI) and remains an attractive destination for multinational corporations looking to establish regional headquarters or production hubs.

Finally, the geopolitical implications of globalization pose a challenge for Indonesia as it navigates its trade relationships within the RCEP framework. As the trade war between the United States and China continues to evolve, Indonesia may find itself needing to balance its economic interests between its trade dependence on China and its strategic partnerships with other global powers. The RCEP has provided Indonesia with opportunities to strengthen its

ties with non-ASEAN countries, but this also means that the country will need to carefully manage its geopolitical positioning to avoid being overly reliant on any single trade partner.

CONCLUSION

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) represents a significant opportunity for Indonesia to enhance its trade relationships with non-ASEAN countries, particularly China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. The involvement of various stakeholders—government agencies, private sector exporters, trade associations, and international organizations—is crucial in maximizing the benefits of this framework. The Indonesian government plays a central role in negotiating favorable terms and facilitating compliance with RCEP provisions, while the private sector is essential in translating these agreements into actual trade flows. The synergy among these stakeholders highlights the importance of coordinated efforts to overcome trade barriers and optimize market access.

The analysis of internal and external stakeholders underscores the complexity of trade dynamics under RCEP. Internally, government ministries like the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are pivotal in shaping trade policies and promoting Indonesian exports. Externally, the varying regulatory environments and market demands of partner countries necessitate targeted strategies for Indonesia to fully leverage RCEP's benefits. The engagement of trade associations and international bodies further enhances Indonesia's capacity to navigate these complexities, ensuring that domestic stakeholders are equipped to meet the standards expected by foreign markets.

Despite the promising opportunities presented by RCEP, Indonesia faces significant challenges in adapting to the evolving landscape of global trade. The increasing complexity of global supply chains requires Indonesia to enhance its industrial capabilities and infrastructure to remain competitive. Additionally, compliance with stringent international trade standards and regulations, particularly in sectors like agriculture and electronics, poses further hurdles. As Indonesia strives to integrate into these global value chains, it must prioritize capacity building and awareness among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to ensure they can compete effectively.

In conclusion, the path forward for Indonesia under the RCEP framework involves not only leveraging the strengths of its stakeholders but also addressing the internal and external challenges that may impede its trade ambitions. A proactive approach in stakeholder engagement, coupled with investments in technology, education, and infrastructure, will be essential for Indonesia to enhance its competitiveness in the global marketplace. As geopolitical dynamics shift, maintaining a balanced approach to trade relationships will be crucial for Indonesia to navigate its position in the region and beyond effectively.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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