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### **“Free Trade Agreements in the Asia-Pacific”**

#### Abstract

Since the late 1990s, the rapid proliferation of free trade agreement (FTA) activity in the Asia-Pacific has brought about important changes to its regional political economy. FTAs remain the most substantive international economic pacts that East Asian countries have hitherto signed on a bilateral or regional basis, and their political, security and cultural dimensions can be significant. In this presentation, Christopher Dent examines the causes and consequences of the Asia-Pacific's recent FTA trend, and considers its future path and impacts on the region's international relations.