

CHAPTER II

BANGLADESH AND ASEAN IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE AND SOME BASIC STATISTICS

2.1 Bangladesh in the Historical Backdrop

The territory today known as 'Bangladesh' was under British rule as a part of British India colony from 1757 to 1947. When the British withdrew from the Indian subcontinent, Bangladesh became a wing of Pakistan in the name of 'East Pakistan'. Bangladesh became an independent country in the world map in 1971 through a nine-month long devastating liberation war. The 190 years of British occupation and another 24 years of Pakistani rule virtually exploited the resources of the country. The British colonial masters and the Pakistani rulers did a little for economic emancipation of the people of this land. Rather during the 1971 war of liberation all infrastructures of the country were damaged. After independence, the people of this land worked hard to build the infrastructures and are trying to come out of poverty. In pursuance of rapid economic development, the country tried to consolidate its position in the international community through its diverse foreign and economic policies during different regimes of the country's administration. The first regime of Bangladesh followed a socialist mode of production through nationalizing all enterprises of the land and was tilted to the Soviet bloc during the hot period of the Cold War politics. The first democratic regime was overthrown by a section of the Bangladesh Army in August 1975. Since then the country had been under military and autocratic regimes until 1990. A massive uprising in 1990 unseated the autocratic regime of Bangladesh who came from the military. Since then democratic rule has been institutionalized in the country if not in the literal meaning of the word. Democratic institutions of the country are getting strengthened gradually. The country adopted a policy of deregulation and privatization of the state owned enterprises (SOEs) during the late 1970s and early 1980s. In the early 1990s these deregulation and privatization

processes gathered momentum following the reintroduction of democratic rules in Bangladesh. Now Bangladesh has fully opened up its market to the external world. In pursuit of free market economy it offers all possible incentives to foreign investors to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

Bangladesh, from the position of a war-ravaged country, has progressed considerably within the past 33 years of independence. The country has by this time seen many success stories. Bangladesh has overwhelmingly increased its food grain production. In last few years its food production was able to feed its nearly 140 million populations. But natural disasters often destroy its capability to attain food self-sufficiency. There has been a considerable reduction in the growth rate of population in Bangladesh. Improvements in some social sectors like healthcare and sanitation, life expectancy at birth, infant mortality rate, literacy rate, GDP growth have surpassed many developing countries. For example infant mortality rate and under-five mortality rate in every 1000 in 1980 were 129 and 205 respectively. These two rates are today 51 (in 2001) and 69 (in 2002). Life expectancy at birth in 1980 was 49 years which is today over 62 years (in 2003). Literacy rate, access to improved water source and access to improved sanitation facilities have increased considerably. There has been an average annual GDP growth of about 5% over the last 12 years in Bangladesh. Diversifying manufactured consumer goods and services overwhelmingly replacing traditional agricultural products in the export basket. The development of oral rehydration therapy that saves millions of lives across the world is a contribution of Bangladesh. Micro-credit approach in reducing poverty which is now been implemented across the world is an invention of Bangladesh.

2.2 ASEAN in the Historical Backdrop

The Southeast Asian countries share the same history of colonization as do the South Asian countries. All countries of Southeast Asia were colonized by the European powers by the 1800s except Siam. Indonesia was under the Dutch colonial rule for more than three centuries. The Japanese occupation of Southeast Asia during the Second World War ended Indonesia's colonial rule. Republican forces led by

Sukarno proclaimed independence of Indonesia on 17 August 1945. But the country formally got independence from the colonial power in December 1949. The present territory of Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore and Myanmar were parts of the British colony. The Japanese occupation of Burma during the Second World War helped Burma gain independence in 1948. As part of its colonial policy of 'divide and rule' the British administratively divided the 'Malay World' into the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, and the Unfederated Malay States and continued their rule until 1957 when Malaya became independent. Singapore left Malaysia in 1965 while Brunei retained the British protection until 1984. The Philippines had undergone as a colony of the Spaniards and the Americans until 1946. The Indo-Chinese states of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam had been under the colonial rule of the French until 1954. European and American colonial rule, the Vietnam War, and internal conflicts in Southeast Asia thwarted economic development in this region for a long time.

The internal conflicts in Southeast Asia soon were converted into cooperation. At the initial stage of their independence, the stimulus for cooperation among the Southeast Asian nations came from outside. Because of a fear from the possible effect of the domino theory, in an abortive effort the Philippines, Thailand and Malaya formed the Association of South East Asia (ASA) in 1961 to organize themselves. But this organization could not last long. In the mean time the region had become a hotly contested Cold War zone. Even before ASA was formed East-West confrontation led to the formation of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) in 1954. While the SEATO was a military organization, ASA was a political and economic cooperation organization. In addition, the SEATO was not purely a Southeast Asian organization. Some of its memberships were from beyond the territory of Southeast Asia. Continued cooperation among the Southeast Asian nations resulted into the creation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1967 with Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand as its founding members. Though the initial stimulus to associate came from the external sources, ASEAN leaders soon used their mutual cooperation as a tool for economic development. Today ASEAN has appeared as the most successful regional grouping

among the developing countries not only in the management of regional disputes but more importantly as a successful regional economic bloc. ASEAN has witnessed rapid economic development in the last decade of the last century. The ASEAN countries have achieved high GDP growth in the decade from 1990-2001 despite the East Asian financial crisis. Table 2.1 summarizes the GDP growth of the ASEAN countries from 1980 to 2001. ASEAN has increased its intra-bloc trade considerably. In 1990 intra-ASEAN exports and intra-ASEAN imports were 20.1% of the total and 16.2% of the total respectively. In 2001 they increased to 23.5% of the total and 22.8% of the total respectively. From 1990-2001 the average annual share of the ASEAN countries in the world merchandise exports was 20.1%.¹

Table-2.1: GDP growth (in %) of the ASEAN countries

	Cambodia	Indonesia	Laos	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand	Vietnam
1980-1990	...	6.1	3.7	5.3	0.6	1.0	6.7	7.6	4.6
1990-2001	5.0	3.8	6.4	6.5	7.4	3.3	7.4	3.8	7.7

Note: Statistics on Brunei is not available.

Source: World Development Indicators 2003, USA: the World Bank, 2003

2.3 Bangladesh versus Southeast Asia

With the enlargement of ASEAN, Bangladesh became a bordering nation of the organization. Bangladesh shares 288 kilometre long common border with Myanmar. Thus, Bangladesh links up the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) with the ASEAN. The bilateral relations of Bangladesh with the ASEAN countries are more cordial and friendly than that with the SAARC countries. Bangladesh has some outstanding problems with its two giant counterparts in SAARC: India and Pakistan. It has many problems with its immediate big neighbour India which are unresolved for years. Among them are: water sharing of 54 common rivers, huge trade deficit in favour of India, push-in and push-back of

¹ International Trade Statistics 2002, France: the World Trade Organization, 2002

Bengali-speaking people into and outside the territory of Bangladesh, unresolved border disputes, accusations of harbouring separatist guerrillas from both sides and many more. Bangladesh has two main unresolved problems with its former colonial master Pakistan. They are: sharing of common resources of the period prior to the 1971 liberation war, and repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh to Pakistan.

Compared to SAARC countries Bangladesh has no bilateral problems with the ASEAN countries except the Rohingya refugee problem with Myanmar. In 1991-92 some 250,000 Muslim Rohingyas minority from Burma's Arakan State fled across the border into Bangladesh because of discrimination, violence and the imposition of forced labour practices by Burmese authorities. Most of these refugees returned between 1993 and 1997 under a repatriation program arranged through the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Repatriation of the remaining 22,000 Rohingyas in the refugee camps in Bangladesh is in the process. A similar exodus took place in 1978 when around 250,000 Rohingya were forcibly pushed into the territory of Bangladesh by the authority in Myanmar. Bangladesh-Myanmar bilateral relations, however, is not affected by it. The political relations between Bangladesh and Myanmar have always been friendly and cordial. Myanmar recognized Bangladesh as an independent country within a month of achieving independence from Pakistan. Since then the two countries have enjoyed good relations of peaceful coexistence.

Bangladesh's relations with the other countries of ASEAN beyond Myanmar have been cordial and friendly too. Bangladesh shares many common values and cultural similarities with these countries. In the dialects of Thailand many Sanskrit and Bengali words are used. It indicates that hundreds of years ago people of this region would intermingle for religious and business purposes. Buddhism spread to Southeast Asia from South Asia through the eastern part of South Asia now constituting Bangladesh. In fact, Goutom Buddha was born in Orissa (now a state in India) which was hundreds of years ago a part of Greater Bengal. The newly formed sub-regional grouping, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and

Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), has been a forum where Bangladesh regularly interacts with two members of ASEAN – Myanmar and Thailand – who are members of the group.

Bangladesh shares common Islamic heritage and values with the Muslim majority countries of Southeast Asia, namely Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. All are members of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore have employed a large number of Bangladeshi workers and white-collar professionals. These Bangladeshi workers and professionals are contributing to the economic development of these countries. Singapore has been Bangladesh's the largest trading partner in Southeast Asia. Interactions with the other members of ASEAN have not flourished significantly though there remains opportunity in this regard. Bangladesh-ASEAN potentialities have never been tapped to the fullest.

The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) has been a pioneer think tank in Bangladesh which has conducted a few studies on South and Southeast Asian affairs. Little exchange programmes have taken place between the BIISS and the similar institutions of Southeast Asia. Dialogue series were conducted with the Jakarta-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies and Kuala Lumpur-based Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS). The BIISS had concluded an agreement with the Singapore-based Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) and the Ford Foundation in 1996. Under this agreement a three year-programme called *Research Fellowship in Bangladesh-Southeast Asian Relations* was arranged which allowed ten scholars from Bangladesh to conduct research at the ISEAS with funding from the Ford Foundation. Under this programme four scholars from the Southeast Asian countries had visited Bangladesh. Except this programme, no other exchange programme has been known from the available literature.

2.4 Recent Developments in Bangladesh-ASEAN Relations

Bangladesh is committed to engagement with Southeast Asia. This commitment is reflected on its efforts to form BIMSTEC in 1997. BIMSTEC has been a linkage between ASEAN and SAARC. Bangladesh's desperation to engage with ASEAN can be understood from the intensity of the official visits made by the leadership of Bangladesh to the ASEAN countries and also visits made by the ASEAN leaderships to Bangladesh since the adoption of the 'look east' policy by the Government of Bangladesh. Table-2.2 shows the visits made by the major ASEAN leaderships to Bangladesh. From July 2002 to June 2004, six Heads of State/Heads of Government from Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and Indonesia had paid official visits to Bangladesh. It is an indication of more than normal interactions between Bangladesh and ASEAN.

Table-2.2: Recent Visits to Bangladesh by Southeast Asian Leaders

Country	Leader	Designation	Date
Thailand	Thaksin Sinawatra	Prime Minister	July 2002, January 2004
Myanmar	General Than Shwe	Prime Minister	December 2002
	General Khin Nyunt	Prime Minister	April 2004
Indonesia	Megawati Sukarnoputri	President	June 2003
Vietnam	Tran Duc Luong	President	March 2004
Singapore	Goh Chok Tong	Prime Minister	June 2004
Malaysia	Mahathir Mohammad	As a former Prime Minister	December 2004

From December 2002 to June 2005 the present Prime Minister of Bangladesh had paid official visits to Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Brunei. During these mutual visits some agreements and memorandum of understandings (MOU) have been concluded covering a wide range of issues. These recent visits and agreements have cemented the bonds between Bangladesh and the ASEAN countries and have accelerated cooperation.

As a result of the increased cooperation between Bangladesh and ASEAN countries fuelled by the 'look east' policy, Myanmar has taken up steps for rapid repatriation of the remaining 22,000 Rohingya refugees now living in the refugee camps in Bangladesh. A project for establishing direct road link from Dhaka to Bangkok through Yangon as part of the Asian Highway is in the pipeline. Following the visits Thailand has granted duty free access to 229 categories of Bangladeshi products to the Thai market while Indonesia has given such facility to 23 Bangladeshi products to the Indonesian market. This duty free access facility to ASEAN markets is essential for Bangladesh because Bangladesh incurs a huge trade deficit with the ASEAN countries. Malaysia and Brunei have withdrawn their moratorium imposed on imports of manpower from Bangladesh. These developments can be seen as results yielded by the recent initiatives taken by Bangladesh.

2.5 Some Basic Statistics on Bangladesh and ASEAN

2.5.1 Size of the economies

The economies of the ASEAN region vary greatly in all respects – population, land area, income and output (Table-2.3). In income category Brunei and Singapore fall in the high income group, Malaysia in the upper middle income group, Philippines and Thailand in the lower middle income group while Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Vietnam in the low income group. Highest per capita income in the grouping belongs to Singapore which is US\$ 21230 while the lowest belongs to Cambodia being US\$ 300 in 2003. Mean per capita income of the 8 countries (except Brunei and Myanmar whose data are not available) is US\$ 3788.75; median income is US\$ 945 with a standard deviation of 7151.272. All countries are below the mean income except Malaysia and 4 countries are below the median income. Average annual growth of these 8 countries was 5.0% for 2002-2003. On the other hand, Bangladesh's per capita income in 2003 was US \$ 400 with an annual average GDP growth of 5.3% for 2002-2003. Gross National Income (GNI) of Bangladesh in 2003 was US\$ 55 billions with a world ranking of 51 which is above Brunei, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam. Table-2.3 shows the size of the economies of ASEAN region vis-à-vis Bangladesh. The table shows that Indonesia has the biggest

GNI in ASEAN with US\$ 173.5 billions (world ranking 27) while Lao PDR has the smallest GNI with US\$ 1.9 billions (world ranking 152). Considering the asymmetrical sizes of the ASEAN economies Bangladesh is not a stranger to them (Figure-1).

Table-2.3: Size of the economy in 2003

Country	Popula- tion millions	Surface Area thousand sq. km.	Popula- tion Density people per sq. km.	Gross National Income				Gross Domestic Product (2002- 2003) % growth
				\$ billions	\$ per capita	ppp \$ billions	ppp \$ per capita	
Brunei	356 (thousand)	5.8	68	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	13	181	76	4.1 (126)	300 (183)	27	2000 (160)	5.2
Indonesia	215	1905	119	173.5 (27)	810 (146)	689	3210 (142)	4.1
Lao PDR	6	237	25	1.9 (152)	340 (179)	10	1730 (170)	5.0
Malaysia	25	330	75	96.1 (37)	3880 (82)	222	8970 (81)	5.3
Myanmar	49	677	75	..	..	..	..	..
Philippines	82	300	273	87.8 (41)	1080 (135)	379	4640 (128)	4.5
Singapore	4	1	6343	90.2 (39)	21230 (29)	103	24180 (30)	1.1
Thailand	62	513	121	135.9 (31)	2190 (105)	462	7450 (87)	6.9
Vietnam	81	332	250	38.8 (58)	480 (165)	202	2490 (151)	7.2
Bangladesh	138	144	1061	55.0 (51)	400 (173)	258	1870 (163)	5.3

Note: Data within parenthesis indicates world ranking.

Source: World Development Indicators 2005, the World Bank at www.worldbank.org

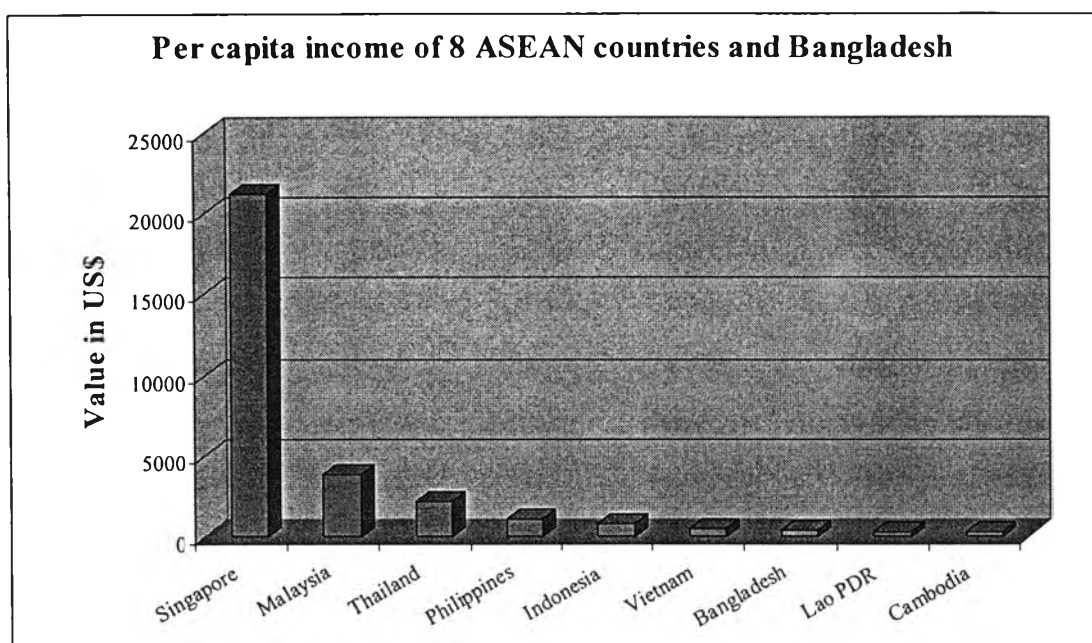


Figure-2.1: Per capita income of 8 ASEAN countries and Bangladesh

2.5.2 Mortality, live expectancy, poverty and literacy

Table 2.4 shows latest statistics on under-five mortality rate, life expectancy at birth, percentage of population below the national poverty line, and adult literacy rate of the ASEAN countries and Bangladesh.

Table-2.4: Mortality, Life Expectancy and Poverty in 2003, and Literacy in 2002

Country	Under-five mortality rate Per 1,000	Life Expectancy at birth (years)		Percentage of population below the poverty line		Adult literacy rate 2002) ages 15 and above	
		Male	Female	Survey year	%	Male %	Female %
Brunei	..	76		..	..	..	..
Cambodia	140	53	56	1997	36.1	81	59
Indonesia	41	65	69	1999	27.1	92	83
Lao PDR	91	54	56	1997-98	38.6	77	55
Malaysia	7	71	76	1989	15.5	92	85
Myanmar	107	55	60	..	..	89	81
Philippine	36	68	72	1997	36.8	93	93
Singapore	5	76	80	..	..	97	89
Thailand	26	67	72	1992	13.1	95	91
Vietnam	23	68	72	1993	50.9	...	...
Bangladesh	69	62	63	2000	33.7	50	31

Source: World Development Indicators 2003 and 2005.

Under-five mortality rate is very high in Cambodia and Myanmar, which in every 1000 births is 140 and 107 respectively for these two countries. Only Malaysia and Singapore have lowered down to a single digit achievement. For Bangladesh this figure is 69, which is still very high. Most ASEAN countries and Bangladesh have increased life expectancy at birth over 60 years for both male and female, while for Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar they are below 60 years but above 50 years. Percentage of population below the national poverty line is very low for Thailand and Malaysia while these figures for Singapore and Brunei are not available. For Bangladesh and the other ASEAN countries except Indonesia this rate is above 30%. All countries in ASEAN have achieved a high degree of adult literacy rate while Bangladesh lags far behind the ASEAN countries.

2.5.3 Income distribution, water, sanitation and electricity

Table 2.5 shows distribution of income/consumption among the population, access to improved water source, access to improved sanitation facilities, and access to electricity by the population. Though the survey years of the income distribution are different, they are not very far from each year.

Table-2.5: Income Distribution, Access to Water, Sanitation and Electricity in 2000

Country	Distribution of income/consumption				Percentage of population with access to		
	Survey year	Gini Index	Lowest 20%	Highest 20%	Improved water source	Improved sanitation facilities	Electricity
Brunei	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	1997	40.4	6.9	47.6	30	17	15.8
Indonesia	2000	30.3	8.4	43.3	78	55	53.4
Lao PDR	1997	37.0	7.6	45.0	37	30	..
Malaysia	1997	49.2	4.4	54.3	..	..	96.9
Myanmar	..	..	..	..	72	64	5.0
Philippines	2000	46.1	5.4	52.3	86	83	87.4
Singapore	1998	42.5	5.0	49.0	100	100	100.0
Thailand	2000	43.2	6.1	50.0	84	96	82.1
Vietnam	1998	36.1	8.0	44.5	77	47	75.8
Bangladesh	2000	31.8	9.0	41.3	97	48	20.4

Source: World Development Indicators 2003



A Gini index of 0 indicates perfect equality in the distribution of income/consumption while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality. The Gini index for Malaysia is very high (49.2). Indonesia, Lao PDR and Vietnam show comparatively lower Gini index in ASEAN which is below 40. But for others it is over 40. For Bangladesh Gini index is 31.8. Income inequality comparatively is more pervasive in Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore. Access to improved water source, and improved sanitation facilities for Cambodia and Lao PDR is still very low. Access to electricity is very low in Cambodia, Myanmar and also in Bangladesh.

2.5.4 Structure of output

Lao PDR and Cambodia have very small GDP in ASEAN, while Indonesia has the highest one. Figure on Brunei is not available. Table 2.6 shows the structures of the ASEAN countries and Bangladesh. Contribution of agriculture to the GDP is still more than 50% for the case of Lao PDR and Myanmar. Service sector constitutes more than 50 percent or nearly 50 percent for the case of Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, and Bangladesh. In Malaysia and Thailand manufacturing contributes more than 30% to their economies, contribution of manufacturing is very low for Myanmar which is 7% and for Bangladesh it is comparatively low – only 15%. Contribution of industry is more than 40% in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. This figure is very low for Myanmar which is 10% only.

Table-2.6: Structure of output in 2001

Country	GDP	Agriculture value added	Industry value added	Manufacturing value added	Services value added
	million US\$	% of GDP	% of GDP	% of GDP	% of GDP
Brunei	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	3,404	37	22	..	41
Indonesia	145,306	16	47	26	37
Lao PDR	1,761	51	23	18	26
Malaysia	88,041	9	49	31	42
Myanmar	..	57	10	7	33
Philippines	71,438	15	31	22	54
Singapore	85,648	0	32	23	68
Thailand	114,681	10	40	32	49
Vietnam	32,723	24	38	20	39
Bangladesh	46,706	23	25	15	52

Source: World Development Indicators 2003

2.5.5 Structure of manufacturing

While Malaysia and Thailand rank the highest position in Southeast Asia in terms of contribution of manufacturing to their respective GDPs, contribution of machinery and transport equipment to the manufacturing sector is very high for Singapore and Malaysia, which are 62% and 47% respectively. For Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, and Bangladesh food, beverages, and tobacco form 38%, 26%, 20%, and 22% respectively. Bangladesh's manufacturing sector is dominated by the textile and clothing sector whose contribution is 33% of the total followed by food, beverages, and tobacco with a 22% contribution. Table 2.7 shows structure of manufacturing in the year 2001.

Table-2.7: Structure of manufacturing in 2001

Country	Food, beverages, and tobacco % of total	Textile and clothing % of total	Machinery and transport equipment % of total	Chemicals % of total	Other manufacturing % of total
Brunei	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	..	..	..	..	..
Indonesia	20	20	17	11	32
Malaysia	8	4	47	7	33
Myanmar	..	..	..	..	..
Philippines	38	9	9	11	33
Singapore	3	1	62	15	20
Thailand	26	17	10	8	40
Vietnam	..	..	..	..	..
Bangladesh	22	33	16	10	19

Source: World Development Indicators 2003

2.5.6 Structure of merchandise exports

When we look at the composition of merchandise exports of the old members of ASEAN, we find that manufactures constitute the bulk of their total merchandise exports. Table-2.8 shows contributions of different sectors in the total merchandise exports of the ASEAN countries and Bangladesh. For the Philippines, manufactures constitute as high as 90% of the total merchandise exports. For Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia manufactures' contribution is 85%, 77%, 75%, and 52%

respectively. For Bangladesh, manufactures occupy 89% of the total merchandise exports. By contrast, in Cambodia food and agricultural raw materials contributes 99% to the total merchandise exports of the country.

Table-2.8: Structure of merchandise exports in 2003

Country	Merchandise exports	Food	Agricultural raw materials	Fuels	Ores and metals	Manufactures
	Million US\$	% of total	% of total	% of total	% of total	% of total
Brunei	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	1690	63	36	0	0	1
Indonesia	60955	11	5	26	6	52
Malaysia	99369	9	2	10	1	77
Lao PDR	378	..	..	..	..	..
Myanmar	2600	..	..	..	..	..
Philippines	36502	6	1	2	2	90
Singapore	144127	2	0	8	1	85
Thailand	80522	14	5	2	1	75
Vietnam	20176	25	2	21	1	50
Bangladesh	6942	8	2	1	0	89

Source: World Development Indicators 2005

2.5.7 Structure of merchandise imports

Table- 2.9 figure outs the structure of merchandise imports of the ASEAN countries and Bangladesh. All countries in ASEAN and also Bangladesh have a big share of manufactures in their total merchandise imports.

Table-2.9: Structure of merchandise imports in 2003

Country	Merchandise imports	Food	Agricultural raw materials	Fuels	Ores and metals	Manufactures
	Million US\$	% of total	% of total	% of total	% of total	% of total
Brunei	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	1715	6	1	7	1	84
Indonesia	32551	11	5	24	3	56
Lao PDR	524	..	..	..	..	..
Malaysia	81948	5	1	6	3	83
Myanmar	2600	..	..	..	..	..
Philippines	39502	7	1	10	2	80
Singapore	127934	3	0	14	1	80
Thailand	75809	5	3	12	3	76
Vietnam	24863	6	3	11	3	76
Bangladesh	9476	20	7	8	2	63

Source: World Development Indicators 2005

Manufactures in Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore have a share of 80% or over 80% in the total merchandise imports. Fuel occupies a double digit figure of share in the merchandise imports of Indonesia (24%), the Philippines (10%), Singapore (14%), Thailand (12%), and Vietnam (11%). Food imports occupy a double digit figure in Indonesia (11%) and Bangladesh (20%) because of their large number of population.

2.5.8 Structure of service exports

Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia have a big share in commercial services exports. Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Bangladesh have a small share in commercial services exports. For Thailand, Lao PDR, Indonesia, and Cambodia travel earns more than 50% of the total commercial service exports. For Bangladesh and Myanmar computer, information, communication and other services constitute more than 50% of the total commercial service exports. Table-2.10 shows the composition of commercial services exports.

Table-2.10: Structure of service exports in 2003

Country	Commercial services exports	Transport	Travel	Insurance and financial services	Computer, information, communication and other services
	Million US\$	% of total	% of total	% of total	% of total
Brunei	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	518	16.0	75.0	..	8.9
Indonesia	5143	16.6	78.5	0.1	4.8
Lao PDR	127	18.0	82.0	..	..
Malaysia	13459	20.6	43.8	2.5	33.1
Myanmar	277	29.0	20.9	..	50.1
Philippines	2954	19.7	49.6	3.8	27.0
Singapore	30613	38.5	13.1	8.7	39.7
Thailand	15694	22.3	50.1	0.9	26.8
Vietnam	2948	..	..	..	..
Bangladesh	398	18.1	14.3	8.1	59.5

Source: World Development Indicators 2005

2.5.9 Structure of service imports

In case of service imports, Singapore has the largest share in ASEAN followed by Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Table-2.11 shows the structure of commercial services imports. For all the ASEAN countries transport and computer, information, communication and other services consume the biggest share of commercial service imports. For Bangladesh transport alone consumes 75.7% of the total commercial service imports.

Table-2.11: Structure of service imports in 2003

Country	Commercial service imports	Transport	Travel	Insurance and financial services	Computer, information, communication and other services
	Million US\$	% of total	% of total	% of total	% of total
Brunei	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	386	60.5	9.4	5.0	25.1
Indonesia	17171	28.1	18.0	1.7	52.2
Lao PDR	5	99.0	1.0	..	..
Malaysia	17323	36.1	16.4	3.4	44.0
Myanmar	339	65.0	9.4	..	25.6
Philippines	4171	53.6	15.2	8.6	22.6
Singapore	29412	45.7	16.7	7.4	30.2
Thailand	17999	47.1	16.2	6.3	30.4
Vietnam	3698	..	..	..	..
Bangladesh	1606	75.7	10.3	7.6	6.5

Source: World Development Indicators 2005