

Poverty, Inequality and Social Cohesion in ASEAN countries

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Abstract

Recent events have called a renewed attention to the analysis of social cohesion and its measure. Although there is no consensus on the precise definition of social cohesion, there is a broad acceptance that the sense of belonging, shared values and loyalties and solidarity between citizens living in the same country are fostered by weak social exclusion, high social capital and social mobility and vice-versa. We focus on the analysis of social exclusion in Southeast Asian countries and its potential negative effect on social cohesion. We discuss the respective relevance of inequality and poverty in defining social exclusion in these countries. We also discuss the respective importance of absolute and relative poverty in Southeast Asia. We then use data from Gallup World Poll to measure what can be called subjective poverty to compare it with objective poverty. Our basic assumption is that the higher the difference between objective measures and subjective measures of poverty, the more fragile social cohesion is. We present our results for Southeast Asia and to a minor extent East Asia and South Asia and discuss them.

Short Biography

Bruno Jetin has a PhD in economics from the University of Sorbonne Paris Cité-Paris Nord (France). He is specialised in development, industrial and labour economics. He is presently researcher at IRASEC (Institute for Research on Contemporary South East Asia) a French public research institute based in Bangkok. He is also Associate Professor at the University of Sorbonne Paris Cité-Paris Nord. His current research project deals with the ASEAN Economic Community and its effect on inequality and social cohesion. His recent publications include: "Distribution of income, labour productivity and competitiveness: Is the Thai labour regime sustainable?" *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, 2012, vol. 36, n° 4, p 895-917; "The role of China in the global capitalist economy", in A. Loong-Yu editor: *China's Rise -Strength and Fragility*. 2012, 300p Merlin Press, Pontypool; "Industrial upgrading and Educational upgrading: two critical issues for Thailand", in Y. Leclerc, P. Intarakumnerd editors: « Sustainability of Thailand's Competitiveness: The Policy Challenges », 2010, ISEAS Press, Singapore; "Towards an Asian Community?" In J.F. Sabouret, editor: "The Asian side of the world". Editorials on Asia and the Pacific 2002-2011. CNRS Éditions, 2012, 600 p, Paris. In French: A. Dubus and B. Jetin (2015), « Thailand, the conservative temptation » chapter book in "Southeast Asia 2015" edited by A. Pesses, Bangkok and Paris: IRASEC-Les Indes savantes; A. Dubus and B. Jetin (2014), "Thailand: towards the breaking point" chapter book in "Southeast Asia 2014" edited by F. Robinne and J. Jammes, 2014. Bangkok and Paris: IRASEC-Les Indes savantes.

His upcoming publications include two edited books "ASEAN Economic Community, A Model for Asia-wide Regional Integration?" (Bruno Jetin and Mia Mikic coeditors) to be published by Palgrave MacMillan, New York, in 2015 and "Global Automobile Demand, Volume 1: Major Trends in Mature Economies; Volume 2: Major trends in Emerging Economies" (edited by Bruno Jetin) to be published by Palgrave Mac Millan, London in 2015.