

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS & AGREEMENTS

Lisa M. Yarmoshuk Nathan Associates Inc. In-depth Trade and Investment Training October 20, 2008

Trade Negotiations & Agreements

- Multilateral Trade Negotiations
 - GATT/WTO & Doha Development Agenda

Regional & Bilateral Trade Agreements



World Trade Organization - Basics

- A contract among its members that is legally enforceable
- Single undertaking
- Framework for resolving disputes
- Structure for conducting negotiations
- Consensus-based
- Rules-based
- Transparent, predictable system of trade

Membership Requirements

- Full obligation to general rules of GATT, GATS, and TRIPS
- GATT and GATS schedules
- Dispute Settlement procedures
- Trade Policy Review mechanism

Membership Requirements (continued)

Must adhere to agreements in:

- Agriculture
- Textiles and Clothing
- Trade Related Investment Measures
- Customs Valuation
- Preshipment Inspection
- Import Licensing

- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
- Technical Barriers to Trade
- Anti-dumping
- Rules of Origin
- Subsidies and Countervailing Duties

Doha Development Agenda & Negotiations

- WTO issues of interest to developing countries following the Uruguay Round
- Doha Ministerial Declaration of 14 November 2001 & Timetable.
- Complexity of Doha Development Agenda
- Key Issues Agriculture, Services, Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA), "Singapore" Issues, TRIPS
- Ministerial Conferences
- Aid for Trade
- Possible Consequences of Prolonged Delay/Failure of Doha Round



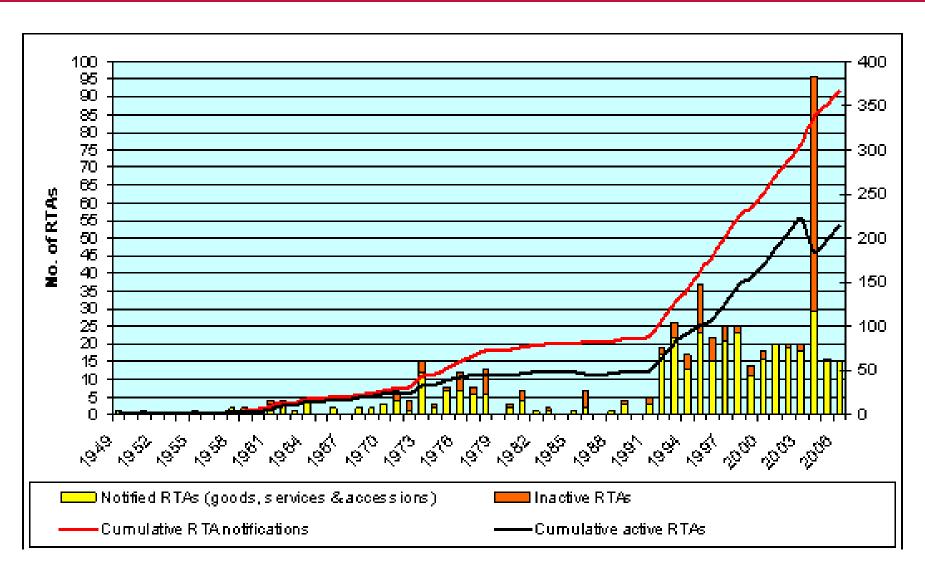
WTO "Rules on Preferential Trade"

- WTO permits exceptions to the principle of non-discrimination
 - Preferential Trade Agreements
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 - Generalized preferences
 - Non-generalized preferences
- Trade Agreements
 - Bilateral Trade Agreements (BTAs)
 - Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)

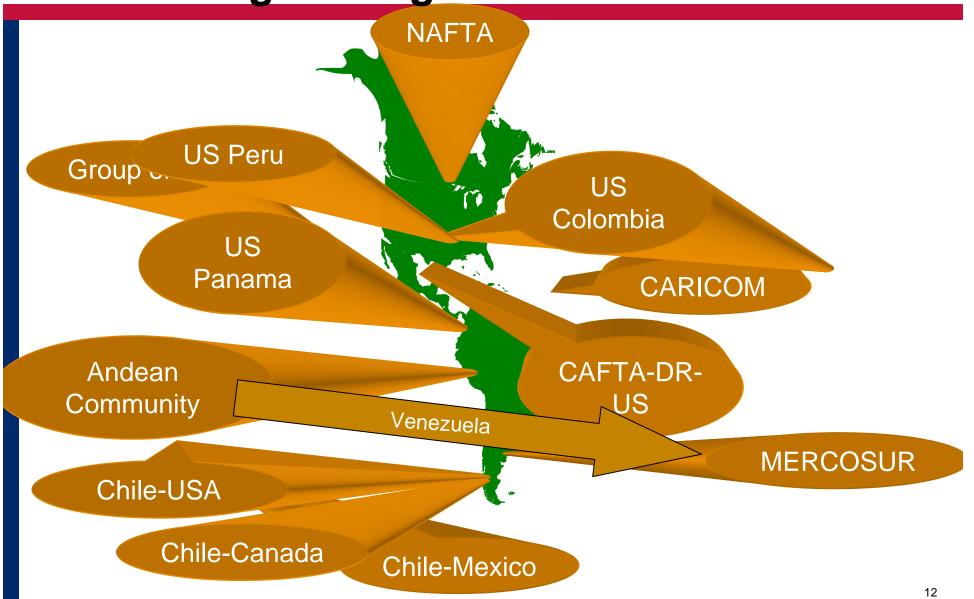
Basic Terminology

Levels of Integration	No tariffs on trade among members	No tariffs on intraregional trade and common external tariffs	Free movement of labor & capital & services	Coordination of economic policies & harmonization of standards
Free Trade Area (FTA)				
Customs Union (CU)				
Common Market (CM)				
Economic Union (EU)				

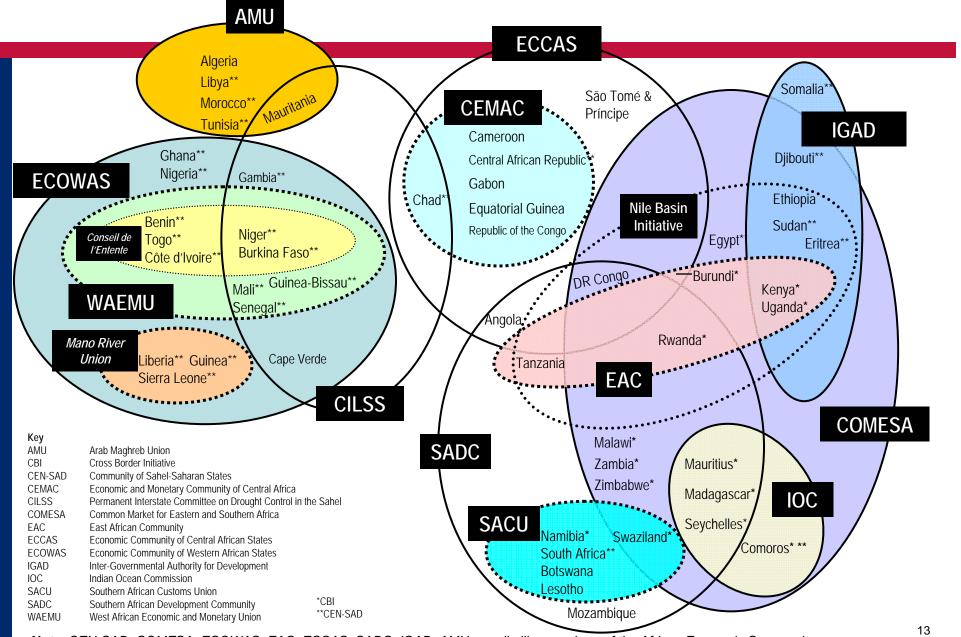
RTAs Notified to WTO: Going Up



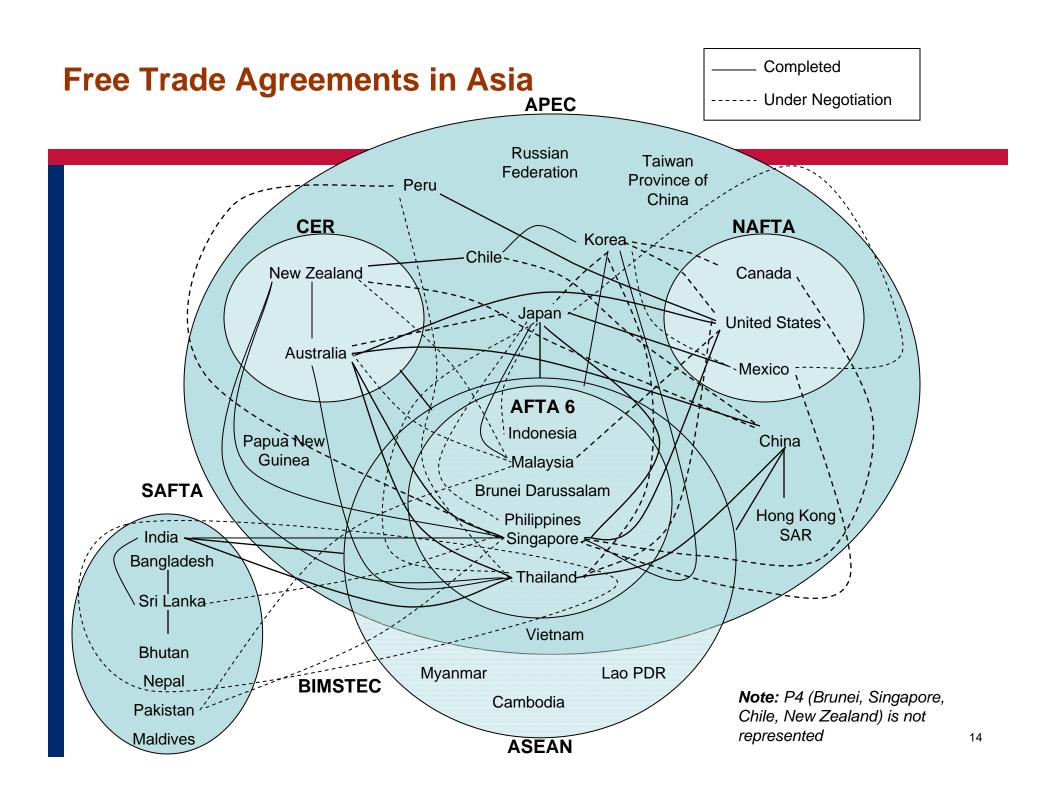
Western Hemisphere—Major bilateral and subregional agreements



SSA regional economic integration arrangements



Note: CEN-SAD, COMESA, ECOWAS, EAC, ECCAS, SADC, IGAD, AMU are all pillar members of the African Economic Community



RTAs—Pros and Cons

Economic benefits

- TRADE CREATION
- Increased returns from larger market size and scale
- More attractive to FDI
- Lower prices due to tariff elimination and trade creation
- Increased efficiency from increased competition

Economic costs

- TRADE DIVERSION
- Rise in prices if tariff cut absorbed in profits
- Proliferation of complex, and difficult-to-administer rules
- Loss of government revenue
- Relocation of existing activity within the RTA

Building Block or Stumbling Blocks?

Have RTAs helped multilateral trade?

Has regionalism been more efficient?

Where to go from here?

Considering:

 The challenges in completing the Doha Round.

The reality of regionalism today.