Book Presentation

First World Report on Regional Integration

UNU-CRIS in collaboration with UNCTAD, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, UNECE, UNU-WIDER

New York-Washington, 9-10 April 2008
UN Headquarters, New York, April 9 (3:00 – 5:30pm)

Introduction:

Jean-Marc Coicaud, Head UNU New York Office

Presentation of World Report:

Philippe De Lombaerde, Research Fellow UNU-CRIS and Editor World Report

Khalilur Rahman, Special Adviser, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Panel:

Amr Nour, Officer-in-Charge, Regional Commissions New York Office

H.E. Lila Hanitra Ratsifandrihamanana, Permanent Observer, Office of the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations
Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, April 10 (3:00 – 5:30pm)

Introduction:

Kent Hughes, Director, Woodrow Wilson Center

Jean-Marc Coicaud, Head UNU New York Office

Presentation of World Report:

Philippe De Lombaerde, Research Fellow UNU-CRIS and Editor World Report

Raquel Artecona, Regional International Trade Advisor, UN-ECLAC

Panel:

Mauricio Moreira, Integration and Trade Sector, Inter-American Development Bank

José Raul Perales, Senior Program Associate, Latin American Program, Woodrow Wilson Center
Presentation of World Report

- About the series…
- About the first volume… main findings…
About the series…

- The importance of regional governance and regional integration processes
- The UN and the regions
- UNU = UN + U
- GARNET Network of Excellence
About the series…

Planned themes:

- **Volume I**: “Multilateralism, Regionalism and Bilateralism in Trade and Investment”

- **Volume II**: “Aid for Trade: Global and Regional Perspectives” (co-edited by Lakshmi Puri, UNCTAD)

- **Volume III**: “The UN and the Regions” (co-edited by Tânia Felício, UNU-CRIS)
About the first volume…

- Collaborative effort: UNU-CRIS + UNCTAD, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, UNECE, UNU-WIDER, GARNET

- Theme of the volume: "Multilateralism, Regionalism and Bilateralism in Trade and Investment"

- coherence + convergence ≠ one view + ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach to policy-making
About the first volume...

Contents:

- **Thematic Part** (UNCTAD, UNU-CRIS, UNU-WIDER)

- **Regional Reports** (ESCAP, ECLAC, ECA, ESCWA, UNECE, UNU-CRIS)

- **Statistical Annex** (UNU-CRIS)
... main findings:

First, concerning the global regulatory architecture of trade, investment and related issues:

- Complex multi-level governance system is a structural feature… but more coherence is needed.

- Regional rule-making is essential although not always optimal.

- There is a need for a revision of WTO rules regarding RTAs.
... main findings:

- A new monitoring/transparency mechanism for RTAs/FTAs within the WTO is needed.
- Plurilateral/multilateral framework agreements are needed.
- UNCTAD could play a more important role in this area.
... main findings:

Second, concerning the policy options for low-income countries in their relations with high (and middle) income countries:

- Preferential market access leads to trade expansion... but at highly variable rates...

- Need for gradualism and balancing of integration benefits vs. adjustment costs in N-S RTAs

- Benefits of N-S RTAs depend upon complementary adjustments in domestic policies
... main findings:

Third, concerning S-S arrangements:

- The ‘stepping stone’ or ‘sparring partner’ arguments in favour of S-S arrangements are valid.

- Slow pace of S-S integration processes is not necessarily a problem...

- More legal certainty and sustainability through stronger institutions and funding arrangements are needed.

- Overlap and intra-regional inconsistencies should be reduced.
About the statistical annex... and RIKS

Welcome to the Regional Integration Knowledge System

A Short Introduction

Please take a moment to read through this text to get a basic understanding of the current status and available functionalities of the current version of the Regional Integration Knowledge System.

Regional integration agreements have increased in number, scope and diversity over the last two decades of the twentieth century. In the twenty-first century, the trend towards regional cooperation looks set to continue as governments and states opt for cooperation to serve a variety of purposes and to secure common interests. Regional cooperation serves to reconcile the tensions between globalisation pressures and the demands for greater local autonomy, while offering states an opportunity to retain their own autonomy over political processes. However, in spite of the continuing development of the (supra-national) regional governance level, the provision of systematic, detailed and comparable information on regional integration processes worldwide seems still to lag behind.

The Regional Integration Knowledge System is a joint initiative taken by UNU-CRIS and the GARNET Network of Excellence. It has the ambition to provide a central node for information exchange on regional integration processes worldwide and to constitute a 'missing link' between the existing regional initiatives for information provision on regional integration and cooperation.

The Regional Integration Knowledge System counts three main components (represented by the menu on the top):

- Database
- Academic Resources
- News

The current version of the Regional Integration Knowledge System is a prototype version which will be gradually refined, improved and extended in close collaboration with the users of the system.

Although the system should be working stable, please keep in mind that it is still in an early level of development. Therefore you may still experience some "bugs" and missing data.

The system itself is a web-based application, accessible with a browser with JavaScript enabled. With older browsers like Netscape 4.x or Internet Explorer 4.x you may encounter errors displaying the website.

Contact Data

The users are strongly encouraged to interact with the designers of the system in order to further develop the system:

- Factual updates and errors and suggestions for the improvement of the structure and design of the system should be communicated to: Béjar Fühne (bfuhne@cris.unu.edu).
- Users interested in contributing to the development of new indicators of regional economic integration should contact: Philippe de Lombaerde (philippe.de-lombaerde@cris.unu.edu).
- Users interested in contributing to the development of new indicators of regional political integration and regional governance should contact: Michael Schutz (michael.schutz@padi.gu.ac.su).

United Nations University
Comparative Regional Integration Studies
UNU-CRIS
Thank you

pdelombaerde@cris.unu.edu
www.cris.unu.edu
www.unctad.org
www.garnet-eu.org
www.springer.com