

Institut ekonomických studií

Fakulta sociálních věd, Universita Karlova Praha

Supervisor's report on the Bachelor/Master Thesis submitted to State Exam

Student Name:	Chalakorn Rattanaphan
Thesis Supervisor Name:	Karel Janda
Thesis Title:	Thailand in Regional and Bilateral Free Trade Agreements

Overall Evaluation:

The thesis is dealing with a standard economic topic of the international trade under free trade agreements (FTA). The thesis provides a good historical background, description of policies and descriptive statistics on the FTA and trade flows between Thailand and its FTA partners. Main emphasize of the paper is on the detailed description of the Thailand foreign trade in selected key industries.

While the thesis is very extensive and all chapters and appendix constitute an impressive research outcome, I consider the chapter 4 dealing with comparison of Japan and Australia FTA with Thailand to be the best one. The whole thesis is written in a good English and the work with the literature sources is exceptionally good. I would also like to emphasize diligent work of the author during the preparation of the thesis. Actually the background readings and drafts of the thesis comprised even wider area than the presented thesis, but they had to be left out of the final thesis in order to achieve a manageable size of the final version of this thesis.

While the thesis would be considered too descriptive and lacking appropriate theoretical framework in the case of full-time economics student at IES and would not be admitted to defense at IES, I consider the approach of this thesis fully appropriate for a student in a joint program for whom the economics is only a minor subject. The comparative advantage of the author of this thesis is a familiarity with the situation in Thailand and the ability to draw at the political science education of the author. In the appendix devoted to comparison of Thai FTA with similar FTA between different countries (example of Ukraine – EU FTA) the author clearly shows that she is able to do a good analytical work even in the area which she does not know as well as her home country. This appendix documents her ability to extend successfully her work on FTA to other countries besides Thailand.

A deeper analysis of interaction between economic and other policy (and political) forces behind the Thai FTA would significantly improve the quality of the paper. Good example of this kind of policy science approach is presented in the section dealing with negotiation of Japan- Thailand Economic Partnership Agreement.

Possible questions to ask during the defense:

What is the influence of both recent and long term Thailand political unrests on Thailand international trade?

Compare the roles of ASEAN and Australia FTA in the development of Thailand automotive industry. (In chapter 4 the Japan and Australia FTA in the automotive sectors are compared already.)

What is the role of labor cost and natural environment and resources conditions with respect to low Thai competitiveness in agricultural sector in comparison with Australia? Would natural conditions ever allow Thailand to have lower cost of agricultural products than Australia (which products?)? Related question is: How much socially, politically and economically important is the provision of 0.2 l of free milk to all school children in Thailand?

I recommend the thesis to the defense and I suggest the grade B (grade 2 according to usual grading at Czech universities).

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SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for the explanation of categories and scale, please, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
Quality of Research	20
Clarity and Readability	10
Content/Quality of Ideas	22
Organization & Development	13
Manuscript Form	5
TOTAL POINTS	70
LETTER GRADE	B

(Signature – Supervisor)

Karel Janda

<Supervisor's Name and Title>

Evaluated on: 22.12.2008