



Apr 21st, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Factors Influencing Growth of Exports of Manufactured Products in South East Asia: An Investigation

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Oral Presentation 4.5

**FACTORS INFLUENCING GROWTH OF EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURED
PRODUCTS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA: AN INVESTIGATION**

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This paper is an investigation into the possible causes of the development of manufacturing exports in South East Asian countries. Several studies in the 1970's and 1980's, and empirical work carried out by the UNCTAD have confirmed the fact that developing countries with higher share manufacturing exports tend to have higher rates of economic growth. The South East Asian countries have been particularly successful in pushing export growth in manufacturing and might hold important lessons for other developing countries. This paper postulates that the South East Asian success at promoting export of manufactures can be ascribed to six main factors. Two of these factors are population density and level of development, which are fixed in the medium run. The other four are subject to policy changes, and are variable in the medium run, they are; Openness of the economy, labour skills, Infrastructure and level of privatization. All these factors are hypothesized to be positively correlated to share of manufacturing exports. The results of my statistical research show that all the four policy variables have a direct and significant effect on the export of manufactures goods as hypothesized for four of the five countries under consideration.