



Pathways and Pitfalls to Good Governance in East Asia

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East Asia & Governance

East Asia here means ASEAN Ten plus
Three (PRC, ROK, Japan)

Governance implies national level not
corporate. Covering both political and
economic domains which are intertwined

Governance

“*Political* governance is essentially about managing the state, estab. A practice of accountability to the people & promoting a sense of nationhood.”

i.e. process of electing leaders; interface bet. pol. & bureau –cratic arms of govt.; interactions with oversight bodies like judiciary, ombudsman, independent commissions, select committees; relations bet. civil society groups & other interest groups (e.g., business assocns., trade unions) & govt.

(derived from; “*Pacific 2020*, background paper: political governance”. Australia, 2005)

Governance (contd.)

Governance from a development perspective

“the manner in which public officials institutions acquire and exercise the authority to shape public policy and provide public goods and services”

(“Strengthening World Bank Group Engagement on Governace and Anticorruption”, Joint Ministerial Committee of the Board of Governors of the Bank and the Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries, Washington, D.C., 2007, p. 1)

Governance (contd.)

Issues of concern

- Political stability
- Legitimacy (of rule) & governability
- Accountability
- Division of power
- State capture
- Corruption & nepotism
- State capacity
- Leadership quality (agency)
- Institutions (structure)
- Regional and global pressures

Indicators?

Rule based indicators: quantifying an extensive set of rules & regulations, procedures catered for each issue of concern

Pitfalls: role of “subjective judgment; complexity of links bet. rules & outcome; gaps between (*de jure*) rules & (*de facto*) implementation

Outcome based indicators: assess operations & functions in relation to desired outcomes; expert & peers.

Pitfalls: more subjective; causal relations obscure & even tautological; arbitrary scales for outcomes

These are two poles of a continuum in the spectrum of indicators

World Bank's Indicators

Voice & accountability: ability to participate in selecting govt., freedom of expression, association., & press

Political stability & absence of violence: destabilization by unconstitutional. & violent means; terrorism

Govt. effectiveness: quality of public service, cap. & indep.of civ. serv.; quality of policy formulation

Regulatory quality: sound policies, regulations to promote private sector development

Rule of law: extent having confidence in & abide by rules of society; inc. quality of property rights, police, courts, crime risk

Control of corruption: public power for private gain; petty & grand forms, elite "capture" of state

Underlying Concepts (contested)

Neoliberal Economics

- Market rules
- State failure unacceptable/less intervention
- Free trade
- FDI & MNCs

Liberal Democracy

- Free & fair elections
- Human rights, minority rights, Individual rights
- Secularism
- Civilian control of security forces
- Unfettered opposition
- Human rights & human security

Externalities

- Climate change
- Energy & food security
- Pandemics
- R2P
- Natural disasters
- International terrorism
- Major powers (hard & soft)

GG Means or End?

Acceptable definition?

For whom?

Who decides what?

How to reconcile GG with nation & state building; imperatives of regime maintenance?

Democracy, GG & development; a non-linear relationship?