

# Call for Sessions - WEHC 2015 [S20152]

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## Proposed title of the session

Historical Diversities of Intra-Asian Trade Networks 16-19 C

## Abstract

Sugihara and Kawakatsu launched a major debate on intra-Asian trade in the 1970's. In recent years, other scholars have proposed new thematic, methodological, and conceptual approaches for the study of economic history in Asia, widening the framework for the study of intra-Asia trade. This session will re-examine the framework of intra-Asia trade through these newly developing approaches to the study of economic history.

In recent years, we have seen increasing variety and diversification in the frameworks used to study economic history. These new approaches have come from two main directions. One approach—that of global history—covers different layers of regions: typical examples of this approach are the histories of East India Companies. The other approach involves what we will call local=indigenous history combined with the study of broad, multilateral trade networks. New perspectives have also been proposed by studies of coastal trade, which go beyond the confines of the function of national economies. Maritime history approaches have also enriched the study of Asian economic history. This session will focus on the rich diversity of regional examples, viewed from the framework of historical transformations of intra-Asian trade networks.

Weichung Cheng, from the Academia Sinica, Taiwan discusses “The Initiation of Taiwan Deerskin Exports by the VOC (1624-1645).” The Dutch East India Company set up a trading post at a fort in 1624 and Fort Zeelandia became a stepping-stone for Dutch commerce in the Sino-Japan trade. As a new provider in the Japan market, the VOC also attempted to import deerskins from Southeast Asian kingdoms. When the Japanese shogunal court implemented the exclusion policy to forbid Japanese going abroad and excluded the Portuguese from the deerskin provider list in 1634, the VOC became keen to obtain deerskins from either Siam or Taiwan.

Vũ Đường Luân, from Vietnam National University Hanoi, by utilizing various Vietnamese and Chinese languages sources explores the spatial arrangement and mechanisms of border market towns, which he argues were a main factor for the changing structure of the commercial system in Vietnam after the withdrawal of the East Indian companies' sea-route trading power. He will describe the role of this trade in the commercial networks of the northern Vietnam--South China region before analysing the divergence of China - Vietnam economic interactions that crossed over the limits of traditional tribute relations in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Feng Ying, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, investigates the growth of rice production of Java from the early 19th century. The expansion of rice trade absorbed more labor migration to Java and Southeast Asian regions. Koh Keng We, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, clarifies varieties of merchant groups with different ethnic background in the Malay maritime world. Hamashita Takeshi will discuss connections between the papers, which reflect the inter-regional and multi-layered framework of intra-Asian trade networks.

Examining the divergence of intra-Asia networks of Asia, especially the multi-layered regional ties between Southeast Asia and the South China regions, the session seeks to deepen our understanding of the creative forces that made the multi-layered and cross-regional markets in Asia.

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## I. Corresponding Session Organiser

Prof. Takeshi Hamashita (Sun Yat-sen University [Japan])

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## II. Co-Organiser(s)

1. Corresponding Organiser.

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## III. Expected Participant(s)

1. Keng We Koh (Nanyang Technological University [Singapore])
2. Weichung Cheng (Academia Sinica [Taiwan])
3. Đường Luân Vũ ( Vietnam National University Hanoi [Viet Nam])
4. Ying Feng (Sun Yat-sen University [China])