

## **Editorial Introduction**

This issue of TRESP contains a well-diversified combination of quality research findings that have important policy implications, particularly for developing and emerging countries. In the first paper, ‘Innovation and Productivity in the Service Sector: The Case of Thailand’, Peera Charoenporn and Supawat Choksawatpaisan empirically examine the impacts of R&D on innovation and productivity in the service sector. Thailand’s service sector accounts for more than 60 percent of the country’s GDP but innovation has not progressed much over decades of economic development, and little has been understood.

Utilizing data from the Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) survey between 2011 and 2018, this study performs a three-stage Crépon-Duguet-Mairesse (CDM) econometric model across the different sectors to investigate the relationship between R&D, innovation, and productivity. The paper found the clear link between R&D activities and service innovation and productivity. It argues that firms’ resource base is vital for innovation and suggests the role of government in promoting supply-side measures. It also highlights the importance of executives’ incentive to innovate as a result of market competition. Opening market competition and liberalization in service sector should, therefore, be promoted.

The second article of this issue is ‘The CPTPP and Vietnam: Impact, Covid-19 Pandemic and Causes of Resilience’ by Tran Van Hoa, Jo Vu and Pham Quang Thao, which assesses the impact of the CPTPP on Vietnam through the Covid-19 pandemic and the country’s surprising observed resilience.

The paper analyses national accounting and UNCTAD data and argues that achievements and characteristics of the Vietnamese economy are attributable essentially to its successful development processes that include openness policy and legal and institutional reforms since the landmark Doi Moi. It also discusses useful lessons learned to enhance the agreement's major benefits or to mitigate the consequences of adverse crises.

The third article 'Fostering Active Ageing in Thailand's Informal Economy: A Policy Imperative', by Euamporn Phijaisanit, highlights Thailand's unique challenge from looming ageing societies where a large informal sector excludes most workers from mandatory retirement ages and social security coverage and discusses the underutilized potential of Thailand's extensive informal sector as a source of employment opportunities for older adults. It suggests the data-driven policy making approach using Active Ageing Index (AAI) as a policy tool, identifying the missing elements in the localities where policy should prioritize.

Thammasat Review of Economic and Social Policy (TRESP) is a young biannual double-blind peer reviewed international journal published in June and December. Its first publication was in December 2015. The Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University and the Editorial Team of TRESP seek to provide an effective platform for reflecting practical and policy-oriented perspectives that links the academic and policymaking community. Having devoted to our 'knowledge-for-all' philosophy so as to drive our society forward, the Faculty decided that TRESP shall be published in an open access model. Authors are responsible for the published articles. The views and opinions expressed in the articles do not necessarily reflect those of the Editors and the Editorial Board. For further information and updates on this journal, or

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Pornthep Benyaapikul  
Editor-in-Chief