



In this thesis I am seeking to explain a phenomenon in the realm of international trade, namely the perceived failure of the Doha Round, and an alternative to it, in the form of an ongoing free trade agreement negotiation - the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. A qualitative analysis and case study method will be incorporated in the research. In this research, I found that the Doha Round's failure is parallel to the proliferation of scaled-down FTAs across regions, particularly in Asia. The Round's deadlock is resulted from its designed inability to manage an increasingly complex web of interaction, made possible by the number of actors and sensitivity of issues within the negotiation. On the other hand, RCEP's rise as the Asian regional FTA can be described as a phenomenon in which states look for an alternative, after realizing the promising characteristics of RCEP negotiation, mainly due to its clear framework and institutional structure.

In conclusion, member states strategically consider the RCEP as a more viable multilateral negotiation than the Doha Round, as the shift from global to regional FTAs negotiations is becoming more apparent.

Key words

Multilateral Negotiation, Regional Free Trade Agreement, Doha Round, RCEP