

## Abstract

This research, "Japan and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC): Goals and Interests", has the objectives toward studying goals and interests of Japan from Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in addition to the opportunities, the capabilities, the obstacles, and the achievement resulting from the economic cooperation. It also aims at the possible anticipations and reactions from the member countries to the role of Japan

The Documentary Research was used by gathering information from both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources were from speech and statement made by countries' leaders. The secondary sources include books, academic articles from Thai and foreign language journals and newspapers. Descriptive presentation was mostly used within this research and interview results were used in addition to study ideas and standard in order to analyze and bring about the conclusions.

According to the research, it is shows that Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a critical tool for Japan to proceed political interests for negotiating and pursuing a good relationship with other countries, which significantly generate a national prestige and honorable place in the international community. Besides economic interests of trade negotiation, and achievement to a free trade market and investment policy is of Japan expectation. The economic and political interests are considered to be the middle-range goals of Japan's foreign policies, leading Japan to national economic prosperity and long term political stability. Nonetheless, APEC cannot provide the satisfactory return to Japan's national interest in terms of the political interest aiming at enhancing the liberty and stability. However, in the APEC leaders meeting in New Zealand and Shanghai, Japan raised the topics concerning the conflicts within the region to discuss. This represents the tendency to become the stage for political negotiations.

Concerning the economic cooperation, the anticipation of other APEC's countries towards the role of Japan can be classified into two aspects that are economy and politic. The developed countries expect Japan to be the leader and

initiator for APEC's operations in addition to the involvement in politics, security and stability for burden sharing. In the meantime, the Newly Industrialized Economies (NIES) and the developing countries do not rely on Japan's capability to use the APEC as the stage to play the important role in politics and stability. On the other hand, the expectation towards economic support from Japan is still existed. The Newly Industrialized Economies (NIES) want Japan to support the open market trade and investment, while the developing countries expect more than that. They want Japan to offer technological support through both APEC and bilateral assistant.

As a consequent, to study about Japan's targets and the advantages from the economic cooperation in Asia-Pacific region will probably get the clearer understanding of Japan's role and policy in a certain level. Yet, Japan's role and policy or its targets and advantages must be explored among the foreign affairs associations in other countries, and, then, must be comparatively analyzed. This will results in a better understanding in Japan's implementation on foreign policy in Asia-Pacific region as well as other international cooperation.