

# **The Emerging Role of APTA in Forging Asia-Pacific Integration**

## **Training on Trade Defence Measures and Other Trade Related Issues**

Trade Training Institute, Yangon  
4-5 September 2014

**Trade and Investment Division**

# Presentation Structure

## Part I

- **Overview of RTAs in Asia and the Pacific**

Presenter: *Joong-Wan Cho*, Chief, APTA Secretariat, TID/UNESCAP

## Part II

- **Overview of APTA**

- **Role of APTA in Promoting Trade and Regional Integration – Potential Benefits for Myanmar**

- **Accession Procedure**

Presenter: *Joong-Wan Cho*, Chief, APTA Secretariat, TID/UNESCAP

## Part III

- **Market Access: Results of the Fourth Round Concessions under APTA**

- **Recent Developments on Rules of Origin (RoO), Including APTA RoO**

Presenter: *Rajan Sudesh Ratna*, Economic Affairs Officer, TID/UNESCAP

# **Part I**

## **Overview of RTAs in Asia and the Pacific**

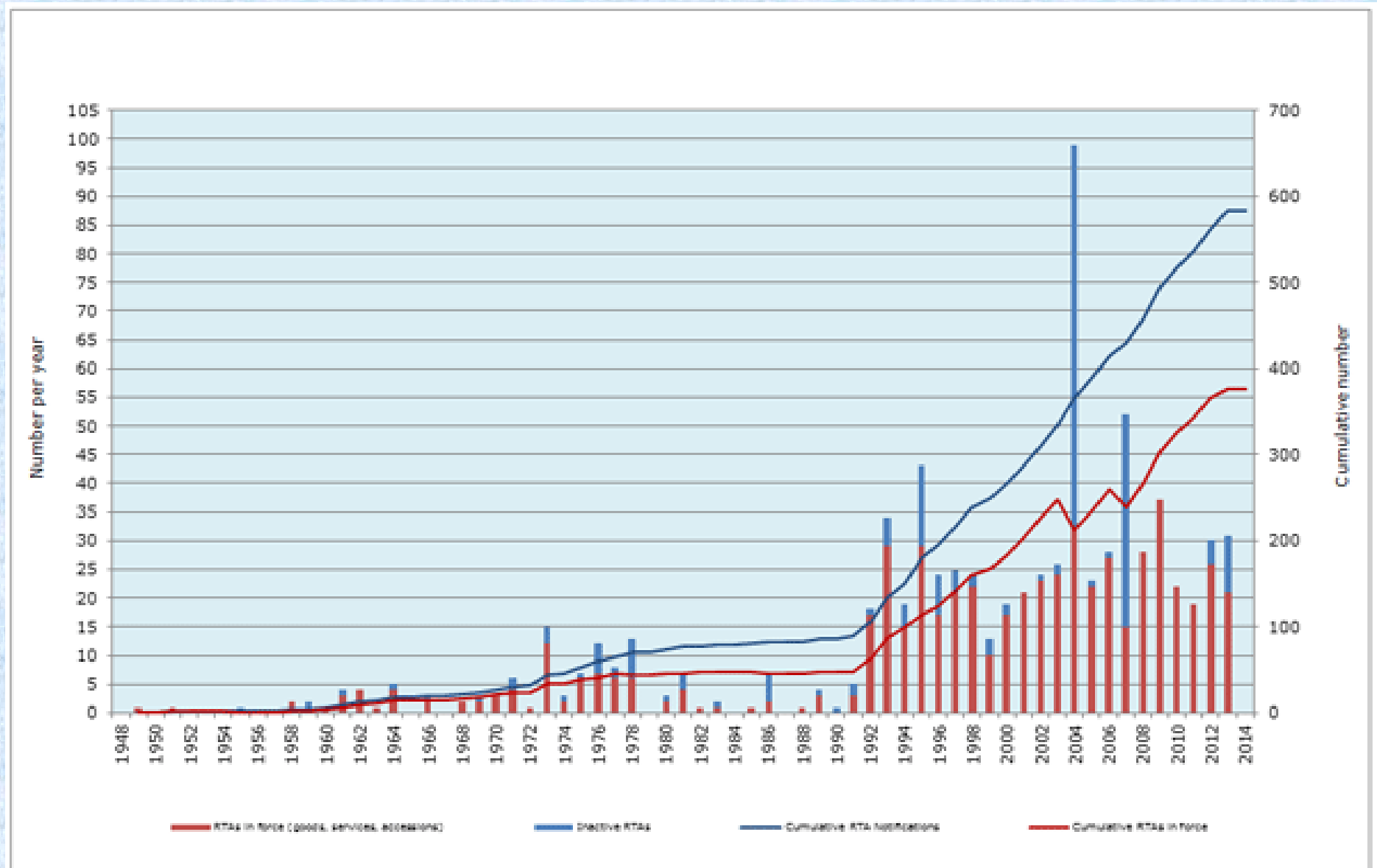
# RTAs: Economic Rationale

- The provision for Regional Trade Agreements was built as exception to the WTO rule on Most Favored Nation; but now they are changing the global landscape.
- RTAs were seen as a ‘building block’– a stepping stone towards economic liberalization at multilateral level for:
  - A desire to obtain more secure, quick and preferential access to major markets.
  - Liberalising the economy with limited trade partners to test their waters.
  - Ultimately taking the multilateral route of economic liberalisation and thereby exposing firms and countries to seek efficiency through larger markets, increased competition, and access to foreign technologies and investment.

# Benefits of RTAs

- Positive effects: bigger the membership in the RTA with deeper and wider commitments for integration.
- Indirect effects: economic and industrial restructuring; wider economic cooperation.
- Increased bargaining power in WTO and other forum, even though trade interests of all RTA members may not be the same.
- Benefits for LDCs, Small Island countries; Land-locked countries for trading with neighboring countries.
- Forge political alliances under the present geo-political situation.

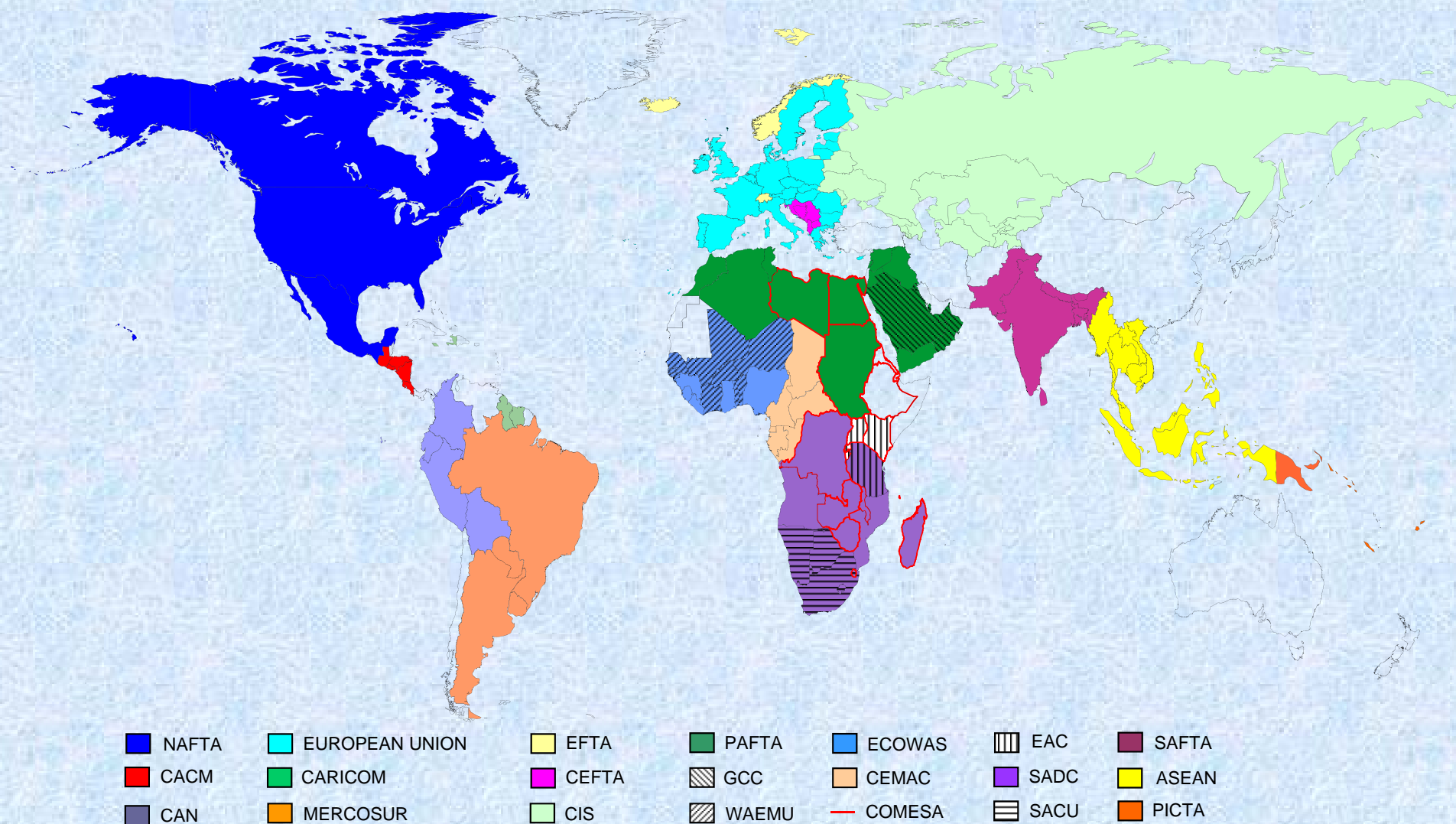
# RTAs notified to GATT/WTO (1948~2014)



Source: WTO Secretariat.



# Global RTA Landscape

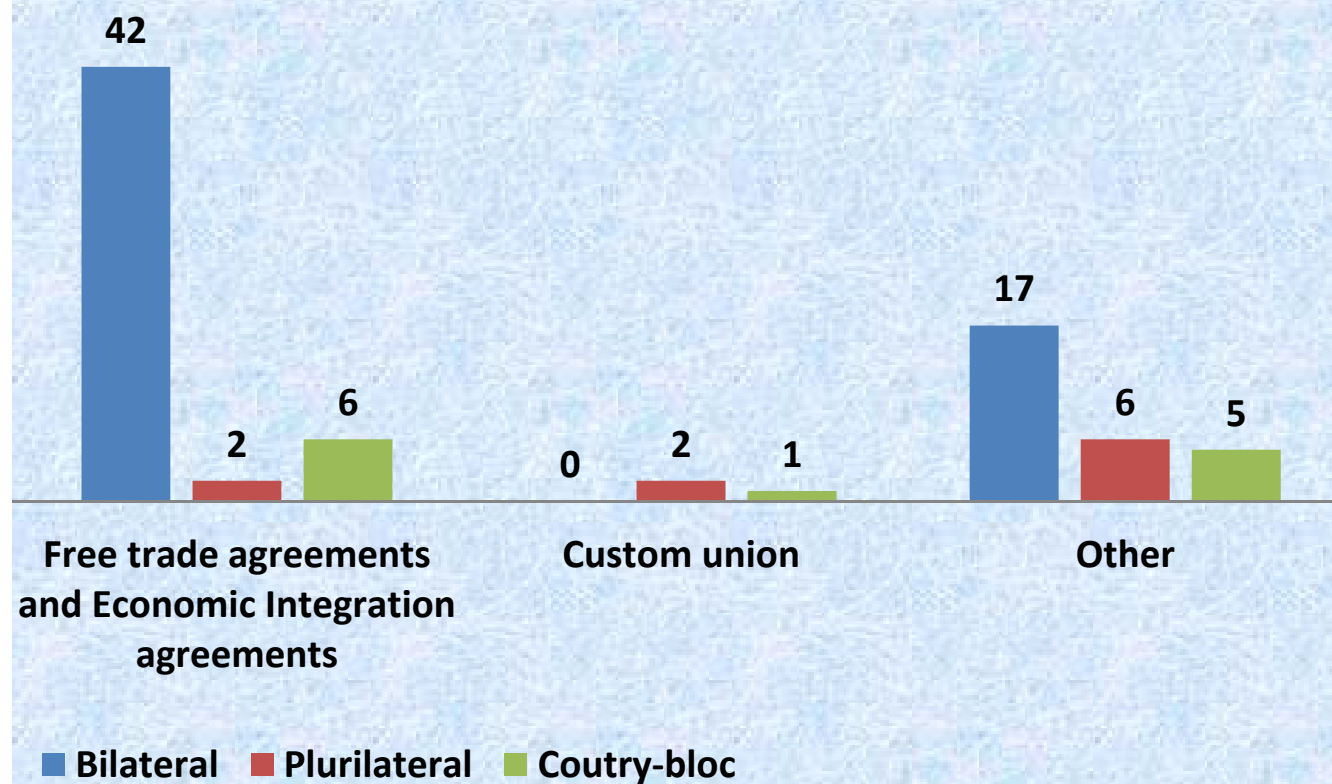


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## As in Asia and the Pacific



ed on data from APTIAD.