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INTEGRATION PROCESSES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

The peculiarities of the integration processes development of the Asia-Pacific region (APR), which is characterized by the expansion of the tendency to regionalization, due to the deepening of economic ties while maintaining rivalry between the countries, have been analyzed. It has been noted that the peculiarities of integration processes within the APR have a positive impact on the economy of the participating countries; they provide an opportunity to adapt in a timely manner to new technological and financial requirements related to the globalization process and create the conditions for the formation of other structures of integration character on the basis of APEC.

Keywords: development, integration processes, Asia-Pacific region, economics relations, international relations.

Федун И., Коломиец Д. Интеграционные процессы в Азиатско-Тихоокеанском регионе. Проанализированы особенности развития интеграционных процессов в Азиатско-Тихоокеанском регионе, характерной чертой которого является направленность тенденции к регионализации через углубление экономических связей с одновременным сохранением соперничества между странами. Отмечено, что особенности интеграционных процессов в рамках АТР положительно влияют на экономику стран-участниц; обеспечивают возможность своевременно адаптироваться к новым технологическим и финансовым требованиям, связанным с глобализацией; создают условия для формирования на основе АТЭС иных структур интеграционного характера.

Ключевые слова: развитие, интеграционные процессы, Азиатско-Тихоокеанский регион, экономические связи, международные отношения.

Background. The strengthening of the economic interdependence of the national economies on bilateral, sub-regional, regional and interregional levels has become the requirement for modern international economic relations, because it is clear that one country's economy can't be enclosed into a single national frame, but it is supposed to participate in international division of labour, based on comparative advantages.

One of the characteristic features of the modern world economy, in particular of the Asia-Pacific region, is the spread of regionalization tendency, being the way of deepening economic ties maintaining rivalry between countries at the same time.

The analysis of publications shows that in fact there is no unanimous approach to identifying features of the regional and sub-regional integration groups. The complex approach and systematization of the factors that led to regional and sub-regional economic and other processes has been left behind the researchers' attention, in particular in the Asia-Pacific region. Due to the need for diversification of foreign trade streams of Ukrainian goods and services, a promising issue under this study is to outline the prospects for Ukraine's cooperation with the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. This very fact has determined *the relevance* of the proposed research.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The essence of the regional and sub-regional integration processes, which have become extremely widespread and turned out to be one of the largest factors determining the development of the world economy, has been studied by domestic and foreign scientists. Among them are such Ukrainian economists as K. Balabanov [1], E. Ryabinin [2], V. Shved [3], and foreign – N. Veremiyev [4], I. Gerchikova [5]; J. Revenhill [6], R. Severino [7] and others.

The analysis of the publications shows that there is practically no single approach to identifying features of the regional and sub-regional integration groups. Outside the researchers' attention, there was a complex approach and systematization of the factors that led to regional and sub-regional economic and other processes, in particular in the Asia-Pacific region. This determined *the relevance* of the proposed study.

The **aim** of the article is to identify the peculiarities of the development of international economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region and to substantiate the mechanisms of integration of these countries into a single structure.

Materials and methods. The complex of complementary methods of scientific research of economic processes and phenomena was used to realize the purpose of the research: statistical analysis – to substantiate the effectiveness of the development of integration processes; analysis; synthesis; classification; grouping and graphical representation of the results; information materials of national and foreign research centres; wide range of domestic and foreign literary sources, results of own scientific researches, analytical and informative materials from the open sources.

Results. One of the distinctive features of the modern world economy is the tendency to regionalization. In the Asia-Pacific region (hereafter, the APR) this process began at the end of the 1980's and was caused by the need to consolidate the region's protectionism facing the threat of the EU and NAFTA.

Today the APR accounts for 42,6 % of GDP, nearly 40 % of world trade and foreign direct investment, respectively, and total remittances have increased from 35,3 billion USD (2001) to 266,8 billion USD (2017). In the region is concentrated 65 % of world stock of raw materials, living more than 40 % of the population. The APR is the third largest Centre of the global economic integration, whose regionalism has become globally important [8].

The dynamics of the GDP of the APR, its share in the structure of world GDP is presented in *table 1*.

Table 1

**Dynamics of the GDP of the APR, 2008-2017
(in Billions of National Currency)**

Countries	GDP at Current Prices									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Brunei	20,4	15,6	18,7	23,3	23,8	22,6	21,7	17,8	15,8	16,7
Cambodia	41968	43057	47048	52069	56862	61327	67437	73423	81242	90188
Indonesia	4948688	5606203	6446852	7419187	8230926	9546134	10569705	11526333	12406774	13588797
Lao PDR	46215	47562	55694	64727	81610	93868	106797	117252	129279	140749
Malaysia	770	713	821	912	971	1019	1106	1159	1230	1353
Myanmar	29233	29233	39777	46308	51259	58012	65262	72714	79723	91283
Philippines	7721	8026	9003	9708	10561	11538	12634	13322	14480	15806
Singapore	272	280	322	347	363	381	395	418	428	447
Thailand	9707	9659	10808	11307	12357	12915	13230	13747	14533	15450
Vietnam	1616047	1809149	2157828	2779880	3245419	3584262	3937856	4192862	4502733	5005975

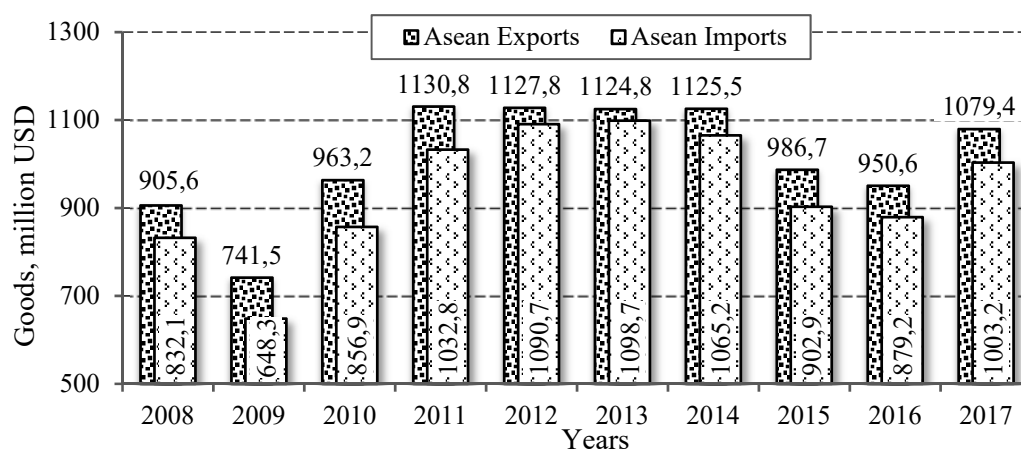
Source: [9].

Regarding the share of GDP of the APR in World GDP, during the specified period of time, it was increasing every year, so there is a gradual strengthening of the role of this integration group in the world economy.

The APR's GDP during this time period was changing evenly and growing most of the time. The fall occurred only in 2009 and 2015, when the global economy saw a crisis wave. The rest of the time a positive tendency of growth was traced.

In the past decade, successful indicators of the economic development of the APR countries (in particular ASEAN countries) have contributed to the growth of economic interdependence between the countries of the region through the growth of foreign trade and the international capital movement [8].

These factors (population growth, GDP share increase) have a positive effect on the dynamics of export and import of goods in ASEAN, which is shown in figure 1.



**Figure 1. Dynamics of export and import of goods ATR
(million USD) during 2008–2017**

Source: [9].

Throughout the reporting period, the fall in exports and imports in the grouping was observed in 2009 (when exports decreased by 16,84 % and imports by 23,12 %). This is primarily due to the impact of the waves of the global financial crisis, which in turn influenced the demand and supply of ASEAN core commodities. The growth of the indicators was observed in the period 2010–2014 (although during this period there was a slowdown in the growth of export and import indicators).

The APR countries are export-oriented. *Table 2* shows the movement of exports of goods to trading partners in millions of USD.

Throughout the reporting period, the fall in exports and imports in the grouping was observed in 2009, 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively. This was influenced by the wave of the global financial crisis and declining product demand in Austria, ASEAN, Russia, the USA and the rest of the world.

Table 2

Dynamics of goods export to trading partners (millions of USD)

Trading partners	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
ASEAN	251,3	200,2	264,4	316,0	328,0	338,6	330,2	287,1	276,8	310,8
Trading partners	727,9	610,6	781,1	921,5	924,9	933,7	957,4	884,6	875,9	1011,4
Austria	34,7	29,1	38,0	42,7	46,0	45,2	45,2	35,8	33,1	34,6
Canada	5,5	5,5	5,7	6,4	6,2	6,8	7,0	7,2	7,4	7,8
China	87,5	81,5	112,5	139,9	142,4	153,1	153,7	145,3	144,2	186,5
EU	92,6	92,7	114,2	129,6	123,1	122,2	129,9	127,4	130,4	158,0
India	31,4	26,6	37,1	46,0	43,6	42,3	43,7	40,6	37,8	45,3
Japan	105,8	78,1	102,9	127,9	127,8	122,2	119,8	101,9	96,6	105,8
Korea	36,5	34,3	45,0	54,1	55,3	52,8	51,5	45,4	45,9	55,0
New Zealand	4,5	3,1	4,4	5,0	5,6	5,7	6,4	5,2	4,6	5,5
Russia	2,7	1,7	3,4	4,7	4,8	5,2	5,4	4,3	4,8	5,9
USA	102,6	82,0	98,0	103,0	106,3	111,8	119,2	125,4	131,11	142,7
The rest of the world	223,9	176,1	220,0	262,2	263,8	266,4	275,7	246,1	240,2	264,4
Total	97,24	810,8	1045,5	1237,5	1252,9	1272,3	1287,6	1171,7	115,3	1322,2

Source: [9].

Table 3 shows the geographical structure of the population in 2008–2017.

Table 3

The average annual population of the ASEAN countries in 2008–2017 (in thousands of people)

Country	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Brunei	375	380	387	393	400	406	412	412	417	421
Cambodia	13795	14085	14303	14521	14741	14677	14932	15192	15454	15718
Indonesia	228523	231370	234181	241991	245425	248818	252165	255462	258705	261891
Lao PDR	6000	6128	6256	6385	6514	6644	6809	6492	6621	6753
Malaysia	27568	28082	28589	29062	29510	30214	30709	31186	31634	32050
Myanmar	49708	50110	50537	50149	50667	51184	51991	52450	52917	53388
Philippines	90457	92227	93135	94824	96511	98197	99880	101562	103243	104921
Singapore	4839	4988	5077	5184	5312	5399	5470	5535	5607	5612
Thailand	66482	66903	65921	66214	66492	66755	67003	67236	67455	67653
Vietnam	85119	86025	86947	87860	88809	89760	90729	91710	92695	93672
Total	572867	580297	585333	596583	604382	612052	620099	627237	634748	642079

Source: [9].

The geographical structure of the ASEAN population in 2017 is presented in *figure 2*.

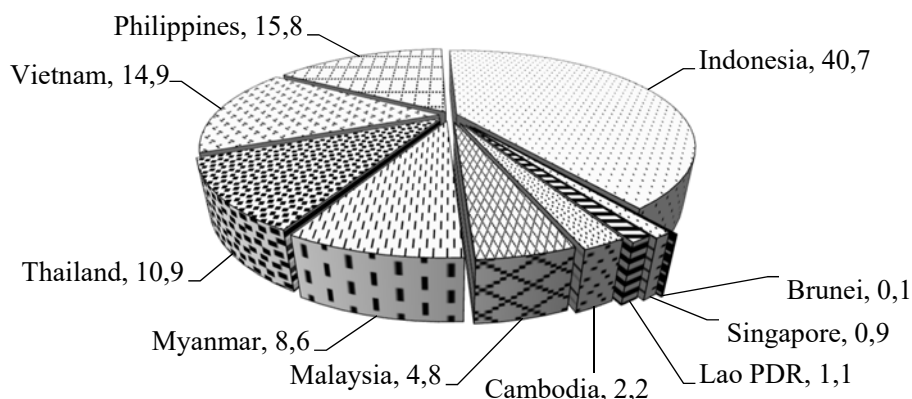


Figure 2. The geographical structure of the ASEAN population for 2017, %

Source: developed by the author on the basis of [9].

According to the data (*figure 2*), Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand have the largest share in the ASEAN population, with Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, Laos and Cambodia the smallest.

During the period from 2008 to 2017, there was a positive trend of population growth, from 572867 thousand people to 642079 thousand people. The system of international division of labour, formed in the Asia-Pacific region, became the basis for integration of economies of the region, economic convergence at the level of transnational corporations and firms, which blurs borders and overcomes the separation of the national complexes [6, p. 24].

The combination of favourable and negative factors has determined the specificity of Asian integration – the emergence of «actual integration» at regional and sub-regional levels, which is not typical of other regions of the world. This type of integration arose under the influence of economic interconnections and complementarity of neighboring countries and territories, which eventually forced the governments of these countries to give the actual integration an institutional form through the signing of interstate agreements [7, p. 41].

A feature of the development of the Asia-Pacific region is the deepening of economic ties between the countries while maintaining geopolitical rivalry between them.

The APR countries interact through such organizational forms as the Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, the Asia-Pacific Economic Community (APEC); existing sub-regional integration groups – Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), «ASEAN + 3» (China, Japan, Republic of Korea); bilateral cooperation in the triangle Japan – Republic of Korea – China; Free Trade Area (AFTA), East Asian Community Summit (SAC); Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO); Asian Development Bank (ADB), an association of developing countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – BRICS (*table 4*) [2, p. 12].

Table 4

Characteristics of BRICS

Countries	Country strategic goals	The place of the economy in the world	Exports of goods and services, million USD	Imports of goods and services, million USD	GDP, billion USD	GDP growth index, %	GDP per capita, USD
Brazil	Develop relations between the BRICS countries in the area of trade, scientific and technical cooperation and create a Bank for the development and implementation of the foreign exchange reserve pool agreement	9	294 453	312 616	3 240,3	1	11 190
Russia	To reform the international financial and economic structure of the countries of the world	11	514 420	396 276	3 565	4.3	14 680
India	Start reforms global governance institutions	7	455 267	551 611	7 376	6.9	1 548
China	Align the economic structure, accelerate the economies of the world and establish a global partnership for development	2	2 296 098	1 998 293	17 617	9.3	8 466
South Africa	Strengthening ties of South Africa with members of the BRICS	165	117 659	120 140	701	3,1	6 936

Source: Developed by the author on the basis of [10; 11].

Each of these organizations has significant influence in the Asia-Pacific region and is the authoritative subject of the international relations system.

The BRICS countries account for 30 % of the world's territory, with 45 % of the world's population. The BRICS are dynamic countries with innovative methods of management, crisis resilience, and countries that are key players in the international trade.

Each of the BRICS Summits is a new step in solving the global challenges of developing countries that have great potential. The BRICS Group is a new format for global development and governance based on progressive reforms, shared interests and a desire to strive for peace and security in the world [10].

A feature of the ASEAN is cooperation with other countries in terms of importance: partners for dialogue and consultation as well as observers have been identified. Partnership is not formed spontaneously – it is the result of the purposeful search and selection of a partner: how and whom to choose as partners depends on the initiator of the partnership and the decisions of potential partners [12 p. 23]. The Association has a positive track record of collectively developing a common line of conduct in the international arena and practices of collegial solutions to Southeast Asia's internal problems based on consensus principles.

The Association includes New Industrial Countries (NICs) – covering a number of Asian and American countries, which are characterized by high economic growth. NICs emerged from the developing world in the 1960s. In the formation of NICK 4 stages can be distinguished. In the first phase,

four countries of Southeast Asia, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea) and three Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Mexico) quickly achieved major socio-economic shifts and practically equalled those with stable economic growth. In the second phase, Malaysia, Thailand and India were added to these countries. In the third phase, the NIC group began to enrol Cyprus, Tunisia, Turkey and Indonesia, in the fourth – the Philippines and China. Entire regions have emerged that can be declared industrial with steady growth, a dynamic economy, a rise in the professional level of the workforce, intensive participation in the international division of labour, the widespread use of foreign capital for development, which overcomes the effects of the economic crisis and, consequently, face difficulties in the integration process. To accelerate it, an agreement was reached on the creation of the ASEAN – NAFTA Free Trade Area [13].

From an economic point of view, the creation of the Association is the realization of the ultimate goal of integration, enshrined in the ASEAN 2020 Vision – the development of a stable, highly competitive region with free movement of goods, services and investments, balanced economic development, gradual elimination of socio-economic disparities.

The regional integration of East Asian countries is based on expansion of trade and foreign direct investment. In the area of trade, regional integration has been on the rise in the recent decades. *Table 5* shows the dynamics of the share of intra-regional trade of different groups in the world for the period 2013–2018.

Table 5

Share of intra-regional trade in total regional trade, %

Regions	Years				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
East Asia–15*	45,6	55,5	54,0	55,4	57,3
East Asia–14**	36,4	43,7	43,4	45,6	47,5
NIC–4	14,3	18,1	16,4	17,5	17,1
ASEAN–10***	18,9	24,1	25,7	24,1	24,4
NAFTA	37,9	43,2	48,8	49,0	48,3
EU–15	58,6	56,8	62,2	62,1	62,4

* East Asia–15 covers East Asia–14 and Japan.

** East Asia–14 covers NIC (Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan),

*** ACEA–10 (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and China) –without Singapore.

Source: Developed by the author on the basis of [9].

As can be seen from the table, the share of intra-regional trade as a share of total trade in the East Asian region increased from 45,6 % to 57,3 % over the 5-year period, including Japan. Although almost 55 % of East Asia's total trade turnover is now in the countries of the region, their share in intra-regional trade is inferior to the EU–15, but higher than that of NAFTA.

Trade integration in East Asia has its own characteristics that can be traced to *table 6*.

Intra-regional trade Intensity, Index

Regions	Years				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
East Asia–15*	2,4	2,5	2,3	2,2	2,5
East Asia–14**	3,2	3,2	2,7	2,4	2,8
NIC–4	2,1	2,1	2,0	1,7	2,1
ASEAN–10***	5,7	4,4	3,7	4,1	4,1
NAFTA	2,0	2,1	2,4	2,2	2,3
EU–15	1,5	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,7

* East Asia–15 covers East Asia–14 and Japan.

** East Asia–14 covers NIC (Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan),

*** ASEA–10 (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and China) – without Singapore.

Source: developed by the author on the basis of [9].

Thus, in 2018, the East Asian Trade Intensity Index is higher than in the EU, but lower than in ASEAN–10 – regardless of whether Japan is included in the region. This confirms that regional economic integration through trade in East Asia is quite high, comparable to that of the EU and the ASEAN.

However, trade in East Asia has grown rapidly, but not at the expense of intra-regional trade. So, it can be stated that the East Asian countries maintain their export competitiveness outside the region.

Much broader integration activities are carried out within the APEC Forum. It's not an organization, it has consultative status and consists of 21 parties of countries. APEC's economic policy is based on joint declarations and statements [14].

With significant human and natural resource potential and a strong manufacturing base, the APEC controls a significant portion of the commodity and currency markets of the world. The Forum has gradually evolved into a sophisticated supranational institute that facilitates coordination of participating countries in the commodity, investment and financial fields.

The APEC is the most classic example of an objective integration process that develops based on the production internationalization factors. Here, the direct influence of the state pursuing a purposeful policy on economic cohesion has been replaced by recommendations.

The high level of economic interdependence and complementarity in the countries of East Asia has led to the emergence of a new form of economic cooperation – Economic Growth Areas (ZER), whose main purpose is the transnational development of geographically close regions of three or more countries through the sharing of production factors.

Economic growth zones are seen as the primary stage of deepening the internationalization of economic development. In the South Pacific, eight regional free trade zone agreements are in place.

The most powerful are the Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area – ANSCERT (JER), the New Zealand-Singapore Free Trade Area (ANSSEP) and the Free Trade Area of two member countries and ten ASEAN–NAFTA member countries [15].

Conclusion. The Asia-Pacific is the most promising and dynamic region in the world. Significant differences in the economic, political and social spheres do not affect the countries of the APR, which cooperate actively between each other.

The study allowed defining that the specificity of the effective integration processes development of the Asia-Pacific region is provided directly through sub-regional integration, which, unlike the regional one, is characterized by a significantly high intensity, diversification of integration, being in advance of economic development.

The efficiency and dynamic development of the Asia-Pacific region outlines promising spheres of cooperation for Ukraine, which are to ensure progressive development of integration processes directly, which in particular can be realized right only by increasing integration into the environment of the region under study. Among the positive processes are the following: effective impact upon the economy of the participating countries; the ability to adapt to new technological and financial requirements of the globalization process in a timely manner; providing conditions for the formation of other structures of integration character on the basic grounds of APEC. Each of these characteristic features may be the subject of further scientific research.

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Федун І., Коломієць Д. Інтеграційні процеси в Азіатсько-Тихоокеанському регіоні.

Постановка проблеми. Посилення економічної взаємозалежності національних економік на двосторонньому, субрегіональному, регіональному та міжрегіональному рівнях стало вимогою сучасних міжнародних економічних відносин, адже очевидно, що економіка однієї країни не може замикатися в національних рамках, а повинна брати участь у міжнародному поділі праці, спираючись на порівняльні переваги.

Характерною рисою сучасної світової економіки і зокрема Азійсько-Тихоокеанського регіону (АТР) є поширення тенденції до регіоналізації, особливістю якої вважають поглиблення економічних зв'язків із одночасним збереженням суперництва між країнами.

Аналіз останніх досліджень і публікацій засвідчує, що єдиного підходу до визначення особливостей регіональних і субрегіональних інтеграційних угруповань немає. Поза увагою дослідників залишився комплексний підхід і систематизація чинників, що зумовили регіональні й субрегіональні економічні та інші процеси, зокрема в Азіатсько-Тихоокеанському регіоні.

Метою статті є виявлення особливостей розвитку міжнародної економічної інтеграції в Азіатсько-Тихоокеанському регіоні та обґрунтування механізму об'єднання цих країн в єдину структуру.

Матеріали та методи. Для реалізації мети використано комплекс взаємодоповнювальних методів наукового дослідження економічних процесів і явищ: статистичний аналіз; синтез; класифікація; угруповання та графічне зображення результатів; інформаційні матеріали національних і закордонних дослідницьких центрів; широке коло вітчизняних та закордонних наукових джерел, результати власних досліджень, аналітичні й інформаційні матеріали з відкритих джерел.

Результати дослідження. Проаналізовано особливості розвитку інтеграційних процесів в Азіатсько-Тихоокеанському регіоні. Встановлено, що характерною рисою для забезпечення ефективності реалізації політики в рамках АТР є поширення тенденції до регіоналізації через поглиблення економічних зв'язків з одночасним збереженням суперництва між країнами. Відзначено, що поступальний розвиток через посилення процесів регіональної економічної інтеграції Східної Азії сприяє надходженню прямих іноземних інвестицій (ПІІ) в регіон. Головними інвесторами в АТР є корпорації промислово розвинених країн.

Досліджено, що особливості інтеграційних процесів у рамках АТР позитивно впливають на економіку країн-учасниць; забезпечують можливість своєчасно адаптуватися до нових технологічних і фінансових вимог, пов'язаних із процесом глобалізації; створюють умови для формування на основі АТЕС інших структур інтеграційного характеру.

Висновки. Азійсько-Тихоокеанський регіон є найперспективнішим і динамічним у світовому розвитку. Суттєві відмінності в економічних, політичних, соціальних сферах не впливають на країни АТР, що активно взаємодіють між собою.

За результатами дослідження встановлено, що особливу специфіку ефективного розвитку інтеграційних процесів Азійсько-Тихоокеанського регіону забезпечено безпосередньо внаслідок субрегіональної інтеграції, якій на відміну від регіональної характерні значно висока інтенсивність, різноспрямованість інтеграційних процесів, що випереджають економічний розвиток.

Ефективність і динамічний розвиток АТР визначає перспективні напрями співпраці для України, що забезпечують поступальний розвиток інтеграційних процесів, які, зокрема, реалізуватимуться безпосередньо через нарощування інтеграції в середовищі досліджуваного регіону. Серед позитивних процесів можна виокремити ефективний вплив на економіку країн-учасниць; можливість своєчасно адаптуватися до нових технологічних і фінансових вимог, пов'язаних із процесом глобалізації; створення умов для формування на основі АТЕС інших структур інтеграційного характеру. Кожна зазначена особливість може бути об'єктом подальших досліджень.

Ключові слова: розвиток, інтеграційні процеси, Азіатсько-Тихоокеанський регіон, економічні зв'язки, міжнародні економічні відносини.