

University of Macau  
Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

Department of Government and Public Administration

**Regional Integration in East Asia:  
The Feasibility Study of East Asian Community**

The seal of the University of Macau is a large, faint watermark in the background. It features a central shield with a bridge and a building, topped with a crown. The shield is flanked by two pillars. The text "UNIVERSIDADE DE MACAU" is written in a circle around the top, and "澳門大學" is written in Chinese characters around the bottom.

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*Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for  
the degree of Master of Arts in International Relations and  
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*May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

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## Statement

I, WANG QIUWEN, hereby state that this thesis is my own and original work, apart from the sections where origins are clearly stated. All the materials in this thesis have never been used (partially or wholly) in fulfilling the requirements for any degree or qualification in this or other universities prior to this submission.

Student's Signature: WANG QIUWEN

Date: May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011



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## Abstract

This paper provides an overview about the development of East Asian integration and cooperation. Furthermore, it gives a brief explanation about the feasibility of an East Asian Community in the framework of ASEAN+3(China, Japan and South Korea) in terms of economic community, socio-cultural community and security community. Realism, liberalism and constructivism will be applied to analyze the prospects of the establishment of economic community, socio-cultural community and security community in East Asia. It finds out that economic interdependence among countries in East Asia provides a good base for economic integration. The prospected Free Trade Area among ASEAN+3 is the first step for the building of East Asian Economic Community. Some principles of Confucianism can be borrowed for the building of cultural community and collective identity in East Asia. However, the establishment of security community is very difficult because of security dilemma .Furthermore; it argues that ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is a security mechanism rather than a security community for East Asia. This thesis concludes that East Asia is turning to regionalism and predicts an open, inclusive East Asian Community. United States will continue its involvement in the regional integration in East Asia because of the interdependence relationship between East Asia and United States. China needs to take an active role in the building of East Asia Community. The interplay of China, Japan and United States will influence the future of East Asian Community building.

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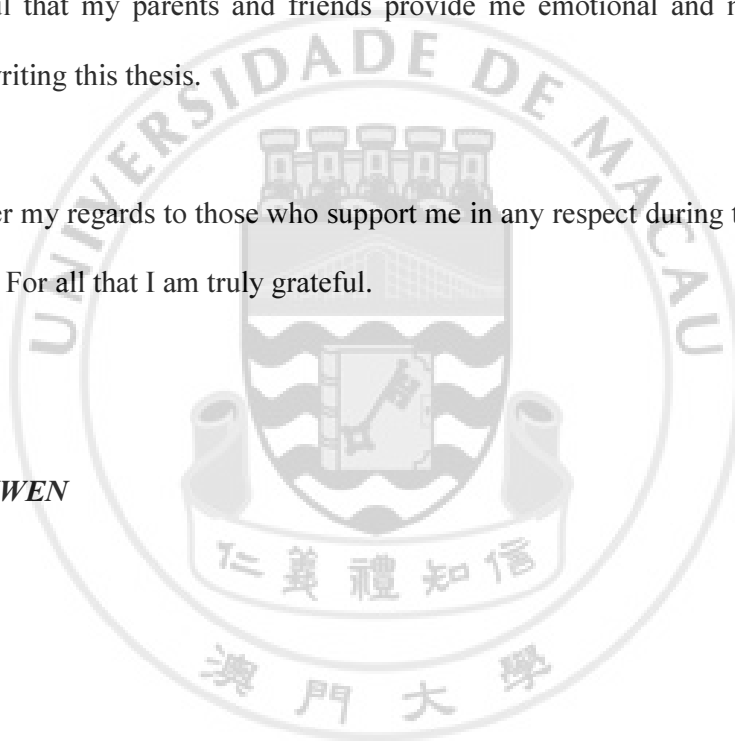
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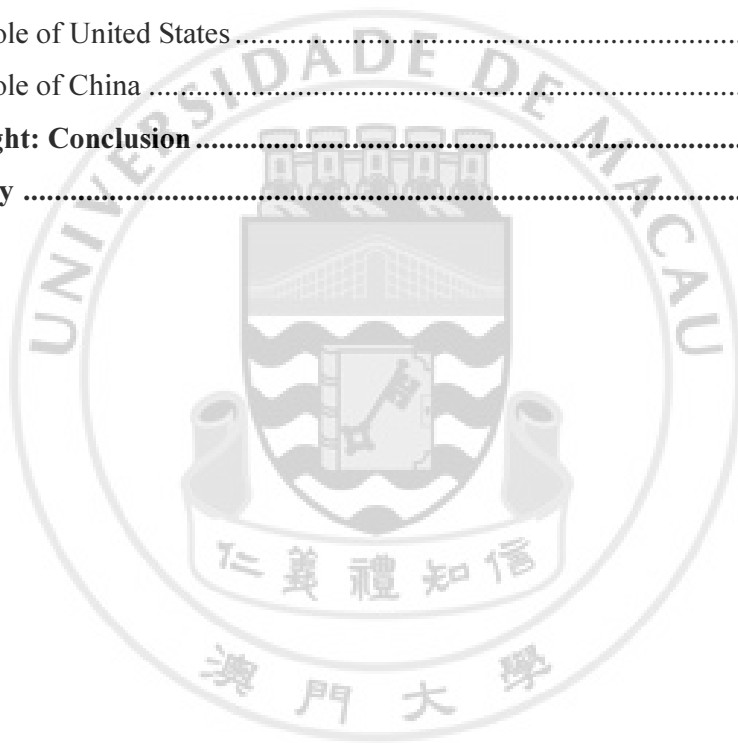
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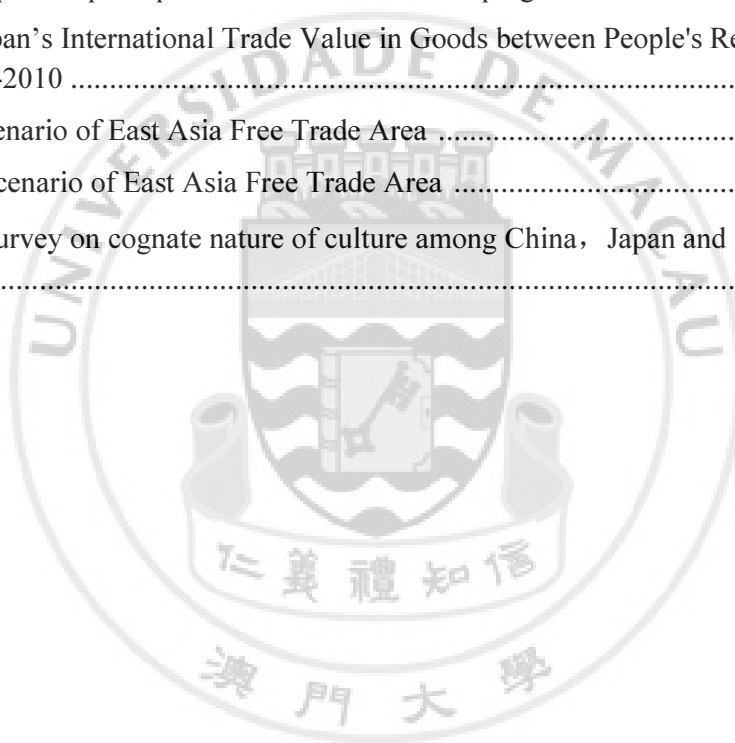
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## List of Abbreviation

ACFTA	ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement
AMF	Asian Monetary Fund
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum
APT	ASEAN plus Three
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
EAS	East Asian Summit
EU	European Union
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JACEP	Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Economic Partnership
KAFTA	South Korea-ASEAN FTA
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
TPSEPA	Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement

