

Regional Architecture for Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific: A Japanese Perspective

Akiko Fukushima

Senior Fellow

The Japan Foundation

A Japanese Perspective

- ❑ Japan and Multilateralism: the twin challenges
- ❑ Premise, drivers and obstacles in building regional architectures
- ❑ Concluding thoughts

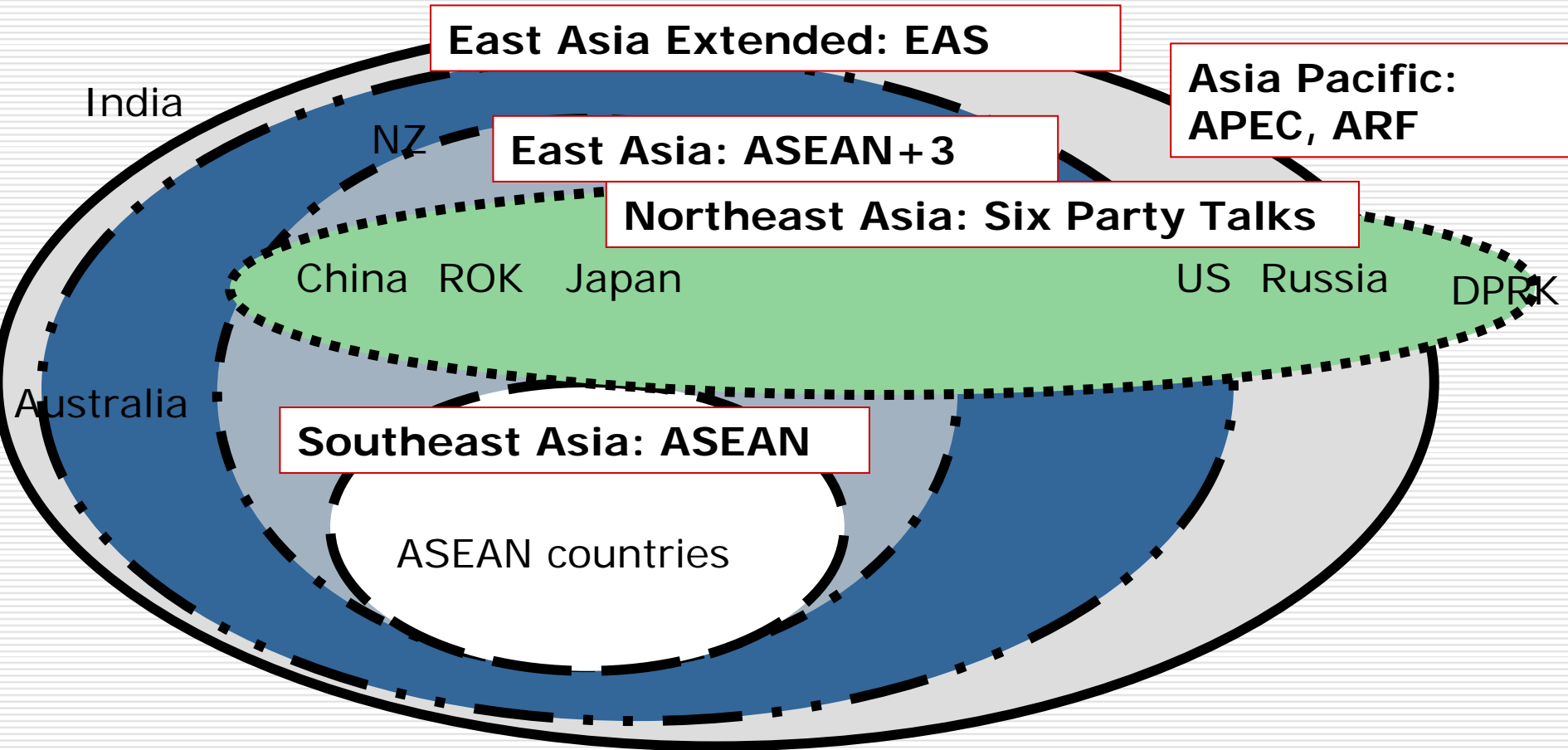
Japan and Multilateralism

- ❑ Japan has used both bilateralism and multilateralism.
- ❑ Multilateralism, not as a replacement for its strengthened bilateral alliance with the United States, but as necessary complement.
- ❑ Twin challenges: (1) Relations with the US, (2) History problem.

Footprint of Regional Architecture

- ❑ The Pacific Rim: PECC, PBEC ⇒
- ❑ The Asia Pacific APEC, ARF⇒
- ❑ East Asia: ASEAN+3 ⇒
- ❑ East Asia Extended: EAS ⇒
- ❑ Northeast Asia: The Six Party Talks
⇒

Figure 1 Overlapping regional architectures and major actors



Drivers for Regional Cooperation

- ❑ Economic interdependence (regional production network)
- ❑ Shifting power dynamics in Asia
- ❑ Strategic complexities



- ❑ Region must be stitched together
- ❑ Direction and destination for regional cooperation

Enduring principles and emerging prospect for cooperation

- ❑ Both bilateralism and multilateralism to flourish, complementing one another
- ❑ Cooperation and competition
- ❑ Open regionalism
- ❑ Common values and principles
- ❑ Functional Cooperation – Short term
- ❑ Le congrès danse beaucoup, mais il ne marche pas ⇒ Operationalize

In concluding

- ❑ Regionalism is one of the paths for Japan.
- ❑ Japan wants to be a relevant player, if not a pivotal country in promoting regionalism in Asia from economy to security, trying to reconcile its past, and making a positive contribution to Asia's future.