

CAREC INSTITUTE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

4-5 March 2021

Session Two

Regional Integration and Macroeconomic Dynamics Beyond COVID-19 Pandemic

**Speakers: Dr Alessandro Arduino,
Dr Paradorn Rangsimaporn,
Ms Inkar Aitkuzhina**



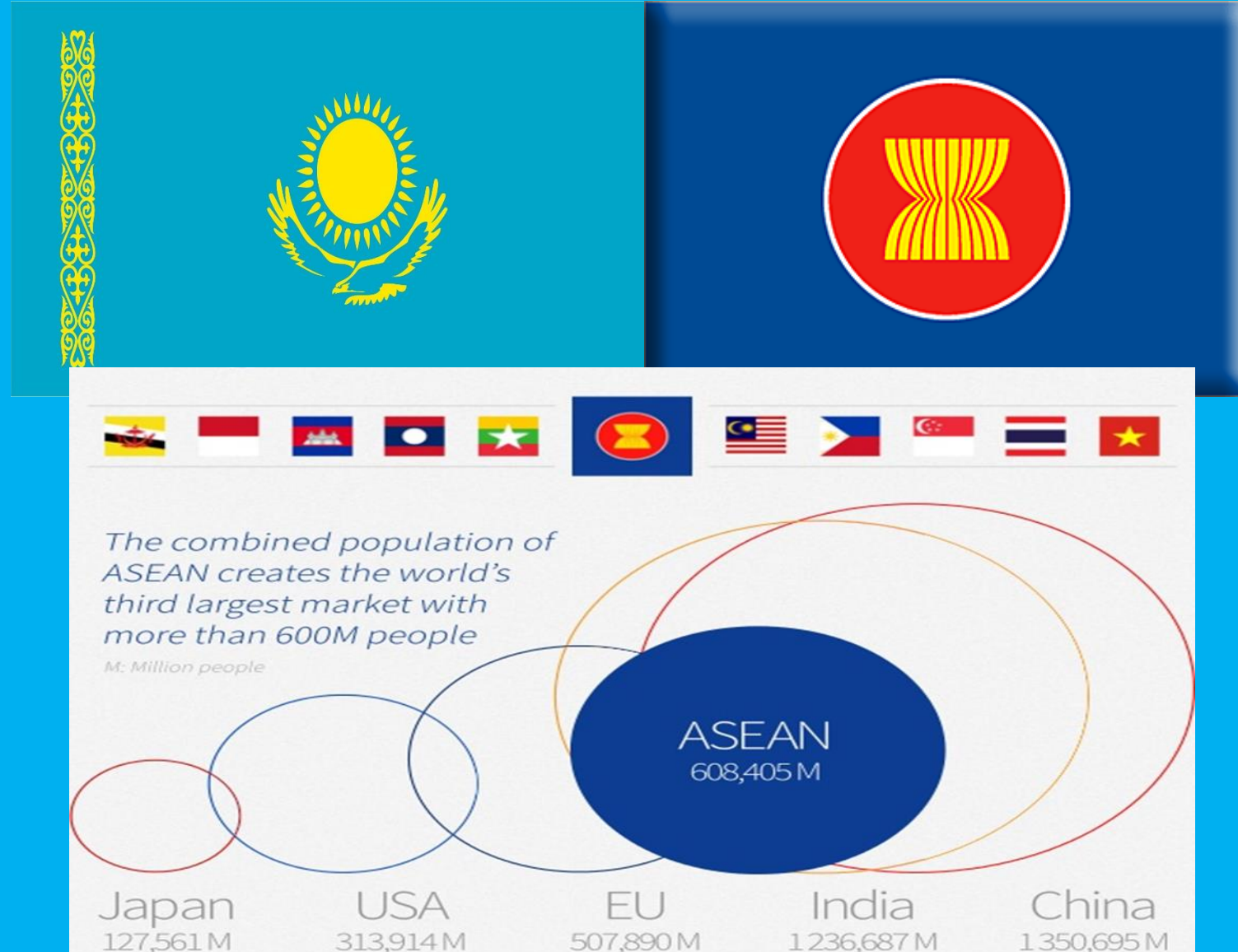
CAREC Institute Research Conference on post- COVID-19 Recovery March 4th

How Kazakhstan sees opportunities in ASEAN and its member countries
in a post-COVID-19 world

- Dr Alessandro Arduino NUS
- Dr Paradorn Rangsimaporn
- Ms Inkar Aitkuzhina NUS

How Kazakhstan sees ASEAN

- Large market to access (population of approx. 656 million and GDP of USD 3,166 billion in 2020)
- Potential enhanced economic links through the EAEU: Kazakhstan is a member (Vietnam and Singapore have FTAs with EAEU)



How Kazakhstan sees ASEAN

- Opportunities of increased economic and trade links with ASEAN through Kazakhstan's central landbridge role in China's BRI and Kazakhstan's *Nurly Zhol* infrastructure development programme
- ASEAN seen as one alternative economic and political partner as part of Kazakhstan's multi-vector foreign policy, potentially providing some balance in Kazakhstan's foreign relations



How Kazakhstan sees ASEAN

- ASEAN countries as successful political and economic models to emulate: esp. Singapore and Malaysia (“Asian Tigers”)
- Importance of greater engagement with ASEAN as it plays a leading role in Asia-Pacific regional integration (ARF, APEC, EAS).
- ASEAN experience as a useful model for Central Asian regionalism due to composition of small and medium states facing similar regional challenges



Central Asia's Popular Perception of ASEAN

- Case study of Kazakhstan's perceptions of Singapore
- Analysis of local media: articles in Russian language from major local news as such Vlast Kz, KazPravda, and EurAsia Daily -> elites' perception
- Analysis of local social media: 600+ comments in Russian and Kazakh languages in 40 articles about Singapore on Instagram and VKontakte accounts of major local news -> people's perception

3 Major Trends in Local Media Perceptions

- Kazakhstan and Singapore share long-standing relationships endorsed at high government level
- There are constantly growing bilateral engagements in trade and investment
- Singapore is Kazakhstan's role model for development

3 Major Trends in Local Social Media Perceptions

- Singapore and Kazakhstan are on the opposite spectrums for government corruption and transparency
- Singapore is a people-centric country, and that makes difference in addressing country's socio-economic issues
- Kazakhstan is unlikely to replicate Singapore-modelled policies

THANK YOU !

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