

***Special Session (SS03) on:  
Regional Development and  
Integration in Eurasia in the Belt  
and Road Era***



**Organizer:**

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Regional development and integration of Eurasia is being accelerated by major policies, such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and by changes in the direction of world trade driven by geo-political factors. While the BRI has expanded to include Africa, Oceania and Latin America, the original impetus to strengthen the infrastructure linking East Asia and Europe rightly sees much analysis centred on Eurasia. For example, the China Europe Freight Train now covers more than 200 cities in 25 European countries. Changes in the direction of trade flows due to sanctions (such as on Russia) and due to trade competition between China and the United States also matter, especially for overland energy trade. For example, the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) that is comprised of Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan increased exports to China by almost 40% in 2022, driven especially by changes in energy flows. Overall, trade amongst member countries of the BRI has grown by almost eight percent annually over the last decade, which is far faster than the annual global trade growth in the same period.

The aim of this symposium is to promote research that improves understanding of the ways that development in Eurasia is responding to this growing economic integration. The research may focus on particular case studies or may consider the region as a whole (but does need to consider some member countries of the Asian Development Bank). The focus should be on understanding the lessons for the development process from these major regional changes.

All relevant submissions are invited and subject to a review process, selected papers will be published in a mini symposium in the *Asian Development Review*.

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