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Date: 2024/08/14

Report on the Final Exam

Name of the Chair: Maung Aung Myoe

On behalf of the Dissertation Examining Committee, I would like to report the result of the Final Exam as follows.

1. Student ID	1B7D02
2. Name	Edirimuni Nadeesh Rangana de Silva
3. Cluster	International Relations Cluster
4. Dissertation Examining Committee	Supervisor: Osamu Nakamura
	External Examiner: Shintaro Hamanaka
	Advisor: Maung Aung Myoe
	Advisor: Naoko Kumagai
5. Dissertation Title	Neo-Classical Realism Approach to Economic Integration Through Free Trade Agreements: A Study on South Asia (2000-2020)
6. Submission Date	Draft: 14 October 2023
	Final: 29 July 2024
7. Final Exam Date	13 November 2023
8. Faculty Meeting Date	21 August 2024
9. Degree Title	PhD in International Relations
10. Result	Pass

Signature of the Dissertation Examining committee:

Supervisor: Osamu Nakamura Date: 13 August, 2024

External Examiner: Shintaro Hamanaka Date: 14 August, 2024

Advisor: Maung Aung Myoe Date: 12 August, 2024

Advisor: Naoko Kumagai Date: 14 August, 2024

I. Dissertation Overview and Summary of the Presentation

The dissertation analyzes the impact of the systemic factors and processes affecting South Asia's low level of economic integration (2000-2020) by applying a theoretical approach of neo-classical realism. It traces the causal relations between the systemic, sub-systemic and domestic variables in the FTA-making processes in three South Asian countries: India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The pressure from the US, China and the India – Pakistan rivalry are systemic and sub-systemic pressures. Four factors, leader images, strategic culture, state-society relations, and domestic institutions, are the domestic variables mediating systemic pressure.

The dissertation comprised of a total of nine chapters, including introduction and conclusion. The study suggests the necessary criteria to establish causation between all three systemic and sub-systemic pressures – US factor, China factor, and Indo-Pakistan rivalry – and the economic integration in South Asia, differently in three stages: 2000-2006/07; 2006/07-2010 and 2010-2020. The impact of the US pressure during the first stage has resulted in a proliferation of FTAs. In the second phase, the pressure from China has significantly impacted the region, forming a more restrictive environment for trade liberalization through its bilateral engagements with Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Meanwhile, India has expanded its trade with East Asian countries. The same trend continued more intensely from 2010 – 2020, further weakening South Asian integration. The study found the NCR Type III model to be enormously useful in explaining the phenomenon of the low level of economic integration in South Asia.

II. Notes from the Dissertation Examining Committee (including the changes required to the dissertation by the committee)

When the oral examination was conducted on 13 November 2023, the dissertation had several problems and shortcomings. As a result, the examination committee made the following recommendations for major revisions. The committee recommended that the dissertation should have a proper structure and clear idea regarding the scope of the research. Moreover, the committee suggested refining main research questions to reflect the chosen scope of research and methodology. Recommendations also included a proper explanation and application of neo-classical realism and domestic factors in decision-making process. Therefore, the examination committee held a strong opinion that the dissertation needs major revisions in terms of conceptual framework, methodology, structure, and empirical analysis. As a result, the committee concluded that it should be awarded a “pass” grade with major revisions to address the concerns of the examiners within the current academic year that ends on 31 August 2024.

III. Confirmation by the Chair that changes have been done to the satisfaction of the committee

The committee confirms that the revised version reflects the recommendations and questions during the oral examinations as listed in the previous section of this report.

IV. Overall Evaluation

The examination committee finds that the dissertation is now suitable for a PhD in International Relations. As such, the committee agree a “Pass” grade for the final revised version of the dissertation submitted on 29 July 2024.