

## Key Focus and Models of Regional Cooperation in Emerging Fields

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In recent years, trade protectionism has been on the rise. While countries except the United States remain actively engaged in regional economic integration, the number of signed Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) has decreased. Influenced by ongoing U.S.-China tensions, the COVID-19 pandemic, and international situations like the Ukraine-Russia war, global regional economic integration is experiencing more distinct changes than before.

In response to competition from mainland China, the United States has shifted from actively pursuing trade negotiations with market access model to cooperating with like-minded partners. It aims to align with allies in adapting to the development trends of digitalization and clean energy transformation within industries. Additionally, based on common political and diplomatic interests, there is a concerted effort to counter China. Other countries, while continuing to promote market access in regional economic integration, have recognized the increasing risks to global supply chains caused by changes in the international landscape. They understand that ensuring the security of critical technology supply chains cannot be guaranteed by a single country's efforts alone. Therefore, there is a proactive push for new forms of cooperation agreements that align with economic, trade, and industrial development.

Looking at recent cooperation initiatives promoted by major countries such as the United States, mainland China, the European Union, and Japan, the focus is generally on emerging areas such as digital economy, clean energy, and supply chain resilience. In terms of cooperation models, countries are utilizing methods such as signing memoranda of understanding, establishing partnership relationships, organizing new cooperative initiatives, and deepening cooperation within existing FTA frameworks.

Analyzing the main themes of negotiations for new types of agreements in digital economy, clean energy, and supply chain resilience, along with case studies from various countries, it is evident that these agreements place less

emphasis on issues like tariff reduction, market access, and rules of origin. Instead, the focus is on promoting digitization, energy conservation, carbon reduction, and strengthening the connectivity of supply chains. This shift has become a recent cooperation focus for countries, and the related norms and outcomes will impact the establishment of global economic and trade cooperation networks and rules.

To enhance Taiwan's ability to respond to changes in the international landscape, it is recommended that the government not only closely monitor international economic and trade cooperation trends but also expand research efforts on industrial cooperation issues. This involves analyzing areas, models, and negotiable bargaining chips for collaboration with different partners, aiming to increase the tangible benefits of Taiwan's promotion of new types of international cooperation.

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