



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**EFFECTS OF CAPITAL FLIGHT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH IN
SELECTED ASEAN ECONOMIES**

**SIAH KIM LAN
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**EFFECTS OF CAPITAL FLIGHT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SELECTED
ASEAN ECONOMIES**

By

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**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universities Putra Malaysia,
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Chairman : Associate Professor Zulkornain Yusop, Ph.D.

Faculty : Economics and Management

Prior to the Asian financial crises, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand had experienced strong and impressive real economic growth rate from the 1970s to until beginning of 1997. Conventional wisdom hold that with the region's impressive economic growth associated with higher interest returns and lower risk would expect capital to stay in the countries but not flee. However, it was quite surprising that even during periods of high economic growth rate; there was capital flight in these selected ASEAN economies. The lost of capital through capital flight will intensify capital scarcity problem as it restricts the capacity and the ability to finance domestic investment where resources are most needed to generate economic growth and development particularly after the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

Although there are no universally accepted and indisputable definitions of capital flight, however, it is generally agreed that capital flight is the outflow of capital that is conflict



with national interests, goals and objective. For the empirical work, the ARDL ‘Bounds test’ approach to cointegration was conducted with annual time series data from 1972 to 2005 to determine factors affecting capital flight from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand using World Bank measure, Morgan Guaranty Trust measure and Dooley Derived measure. By using the three alternative measures of capital flight, yields broadly similar results. On one hand, the results indicate that higher capital flight is associated with higher external debt, higher budget deficit as well as higher political instability that proxy by Political rights. On the other hand, the elasticities indicate that higher capital flight is associated with lower Interest rates differential (United States Treasury Bill rate minus domestic deposit rate), and lower accumulation of international reserve. However, the estimated results reveal that only higher capital flight is associated with higher Interest rates differential in Thailand case.

Although there are large and growing researches for the determinants of economic growth, there has scarcely been any study concerning the impact of capital flight on economic growth. The empirical results support the contention that capital flight played a crucial role in influencing the four selected ASEAN economic growths. Furthermore, there has been no systematic investigation of the impact of political instability on capital flight and economic growth, particularly the ASEAN countries. The empirical results clearly show that political stability plays an important role in affecting capital flows and in determining economic growth in these four Southeast Asia economies. For a flight relief or even reversal of capital flight to occur as well as to stimulate economic growth, steps includes economic policies, political stability and institutional developments should be taken to prevent the causes of capital flight to ensure sufficient capital



resources required for recovery from the current recession in the short-run and accomplish a more sustainable impressive economic growth in the long run. Indeed, the more preferred and effective strategy would be to implement balanced policy measures but not just bias on one or just certain aspects of macroeconomic fundamentals, perhaps, the adaptation of appropriate policy to suit varying circumstances of the economy is more important. Any policy announcements by the government should be in line with the long-term objectives of the country.



**Abstrak tesis yang di kemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah**

**KESAN PELARIAN MODAL KE ATAS PERTUMBUHAN EKONOMI
DI EMPAT NEGARA ASEAN YANG TERPILIH**

Oleh

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Krisis berlaku di luar jangkaan umum selepas tiga dekad pada ketika seluruh dunia berasa kagum dengan keempat-empat negara ASEAN yang mengalami kadar pertumbuhan ekonomi yang kukuh dan hebat berserta dengan pulangan kadar bunga yang lebih tinggi dan risiko yang lebih rendah. Apabila krisis kewangan negara Asia meletus pada tahun 1997, semua parti terperanjat mendapati negara-negara ASEAN telah terjerumus ke dalam masalah seperti perlarian modal dari negara-negara ASEAN. Secara empirik, ARDL 'Bounds tests' ke kointegration telah dilaksanakan dengan data tahunan dari 1972 sehingga ke 2005 untuk menentukan factor-faktor yang mempengaruhi perlarian modal dari negara Indonesia, Malaysia, Filipina dan Negara Thai dengan menggunakan kaedah World Bank, kaedah Morgan Guaranty Trust dan kaedah Dooley. Dengan menggunakan ketiga-tiga kaedah perlarian modal menghasilkan keputusan yang agak seragam. Keputusan yang diperolehi menunjukkan tahap perlarian modal meningkat dengan hutang luar yang tinggi dan ketidakstabilan politik. Selain daripada itu, keputusan kajian juga menunjukkan tahap perlarian modal meningkat



dengan perbezaan kadar bunga yang lebih rendah (perbezaan antara Bill Treasury Amerika Syarikat dengan kadar deposit tempatan), kurangan bajet yang tinggi dan juga penimbunan rizab antarabangsa yang rendah. Di sebaliknya, keputusan elastisities di Negara Thai menunjukkan tahap kapital flight meningkat dengan perbezaan kadar bunga yang lebih tinggi.

Banyak penyelidikan berkaitan dengan factor-faktor mempengaruhi perlarian modal, tetapi kurang penyelidikan tentang kesan perlarian modal terhadap pertumbuhan ekonomi. Keputusan empirik menyokong pendapat bahawa perlarian modal memainkan peranan dalam pertumbuhan ekonomi di keempat-empat negara ASEAN. Tambahan pula, tiada penyelidikan secara sistematik tentang kesan kestabilan politik pada perlarian modal dan pertumbuhan ekonomi, terutamanya dalam lingkungan keempat-empat negara ASEAN. Keputusan empirikal jelas menunjukkan bahawa kestabilan politik memang berperanan penting dalam mempengaruhi pengaliran modal dan mempengaruhi pertumbuhan ekonomi di keempat-empat negara ASEAN. Oleh yang demikian, demi memulihkan keadaan perlarian modal serta memajukan pertumbuhan ekonomi, langkah-langkah termasuk polisi ekonomi, kestabilan politik dan pembangunan institusional haruslah diambil untuk mengelakkan berlakunya perlarian modal demi memastikan kecukupan sumber-sumber modal yang amat diperlukan. Sebenarnya, strategi yang lebih digemari dan berkesan adalah memperkenalkan polisi seimbang dan bukan hanya tertumpu pada satu atau suatu aspek asas makroekonomi, mungkin, menggunakan polisi yang bersesuaian dengan suasana yang tertentu adalah lebih berkesan. Sebarang pengumuman polisi sepatutnya selaras dengan objektif jangka masa panjang kerajaan.

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I certify that A Thesis Examination Committee has met on 5th August 2009 to conduct the final examination of Siah Kim Lan on her thesis entitled 'Effects of capital Flight on Economic Growth in Selected ASEAN Economies' in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADF	Augmented Dickey Fuller
AIC	Akaike Information Criterion
AR	Autoregressive
ARCH	Autoregressive Conditional Hetero
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN-Four	Includes only Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand.
BD	Budget deficit as a percentage of GDP
BOP	Balance of Payment
CIF	the cif/fob factor, an adjustment for the cost of freight and insurance.
CAD	Current account deficit
CPI	Consumer Price Index
DINT	Interest rates differential
DUM	1997/1998 Asian financial crisis
DX	Total export discrepancies with trade partners
DM	Total import discrepancies with trade partners
ED	The change of total external debt as a percentage of GDP
ECM	Error Correction Model
E&O	Errors and Omissions, representing unrecorded capital outflow
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GE	The share of government expenditure to gross domestic product.
GW	Gross domestic product growth rate



OPEN	Trade Openness
I	Investment income
i	Market interest rate
JB	Jarque-Bera
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ITBT	Income from Tourism and Border Transaction
FD	Financial development
KF	Capital Flight
KF_C	Cuddington's measure for capital flight
KF_{Cline}	Capital Flight based on Cline (1987) measurement
KFD	Capital Flight Dooley Derived measure
KFM	Capital Flight Morgan Guaranteed trust measure
KF_{MIS}	net capital flight arising from trade misinvoicing
KFWB	Capital Flight World Bank measure
LM	Lagrange Multiplier
M	The country's recorded imports from trade partners
MIS_X	Trade misinvoicing from export discrepancies
MIS_M	Trade misinvoicing from import discrepancies
MIS_t	Total trade misinvoicing
NFDI	Net foreign direct investment
OLS	Ordinary least square
P^d	Domestic CPI
PX	Value of trading partner's imports from the country



PM	Value of the same trading partner's exports to the country
P*	United States CPI
PR	Political rights
RII	Reinvested Investment Income
RES	The accumulation of international reserves as a percentage of GDP
RESET	Regression Equation Specification Error Test
SEA	Stock of external assets
SFA _B	Short-term foreign asset of the banking system
SKO _{NB}	Short-term capital outflows by the non-bank private sector
VAR	Vector Autoregression
VECM	Vector error correction model
X	The country's recorded exports to trade partners



CHAPTER 1

1 INTRODUCTION

After the 1980s debt crises, less attention have been paid to capital flight as many developing countries started to experience reversal of flight episodes of a great magnitude [see Calvo et al. (1993); Drabek and Griffith-Jones (1999); Ffrench-Davis and Griffith-Jones (1995 and 2003); Griffith-Jones et al. (2001)]. However, since the Asian financial crisis sparked by the collapse of the Thai baht in July, 1997, capital flight has been a hot issue as there has been a resurgence of capital flight in developing countries, particularly it has become a severe threat to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) economies.

After more than 40 years of development, several countries in the ASEAN prove to be among the most successful nations than other regional organisations of the developing countries. The four selected ASEAN countries in this study comprise the major economies in ASEAN, specifically Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. Singapore is excluded in the study as she was not a serious victim of the Asian economic and financial crisis in the year 1997. Prior to the Asian financial crises, the four selected ASEAN countries (perhaps with the exception of the Philippines) had registered strong and impressive real economic growth rate from the 1970s to until beginning of 1997. In the 1990s, the major impetus for the ASEAN region's strong economic growth was contributed by the sound macroeconomic fundamental such as small fiscal deficit, stable exchange rates, high saving rates, and highly regarded work force attracted private capital flows into these four selected

ASEAN countries at accelerating rates. Besides, other domestic factors such as the widespread liberalization of financial markets and the credit-worthiness of these countries as well as the external factors including falling in global interest rates and asset yields in industrial countries in the ASEAN financial markets jointly played a pivotal role contributing to the initial impetus for the surges of private capital inflows to these countries.

ASEAN nation use foreign capital as the source of additional funds to cover the shortage of investment funds and to achieve their economic development. The most important form of introducing foreign capital among all ASEAN countries were long-term borrowings (except Malaysia), followed by foreign direct investment. Foreign direct investment filled the largest share of the composition of capital flows into the private sector and expanded promptly after the second half of the 1980s. The expansion of FDI inflows at first into Thailand and Malaysia, and then shifted to Indonesia and the Philippines from the early to middle of 1990s. Meanwhile, the increase creditworthiness of Asian business enterprises attracted capital inflows in the form of banking loans in the 1990s. Indirect investment such as portfolio investment in equities and bonds also played a significant role in the introduction of foreign capital. The greater lending to the private sector and the diversification of capital flows made inflows of a large amount of short-term funds into the region, especially by the United States, Europe and Japan money managers between 1993 and 1996¹. Among the five Asian economies that was most affected by the crisis,

¹ However, the lack of the proper control and monitoring have caused a significant portion of the money used for speculation (particularly in property sector) and other less productive investment activities. The large amount of short-term borrowings associated with profit repatriation by multinational corporations and high merchandise imports had led to serious current account deficit problem among the ASEAN countries. In 1996, Thailand was recorded as the highest level of current account deficit (USD14.4 billion), followed by Indonesia (USD7.6 billion), Malaysia (USD4.8