



hinrich foundation
advancing sustainable global trade

Hinrich Foundation Sustainable Trade Index: Will Trade Become More Sustainable in the Post-COVID-19 World?

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Defining Sustainable Trade

Sustainable trade

Engaging in international trade in a way that not only generates balanced economic growth, but also strengthens social capital and provides for environmental stewardship.

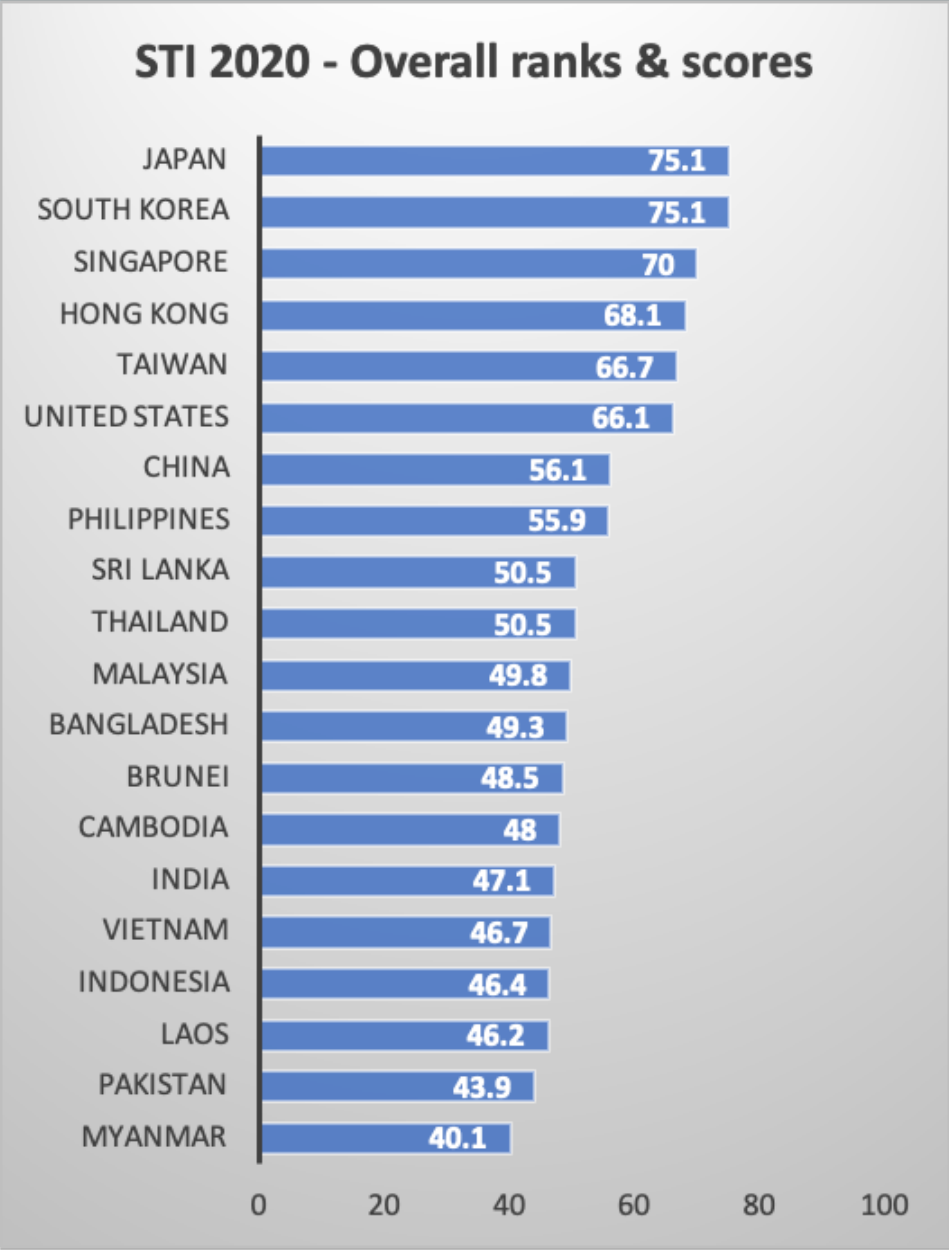
- Although trade is an indispensable ingredient in economic development, it cannot be sustainably pursued without responsible environmental stewardship and a commitment to fully developing social capital
- Based on UN Brundtland Commission
 - 3 pillars: economic, social & environment

Creating the STI

- Evaluates 19 Asian economies + USA across the 3 pillars
- Process
 - Produced by EIU, based on literature review, expert consultations & workshops
- Indicators structure
 - 15 indicators under economic pillar
 - 5 under social
 - 7 under environmental
- All pillars & indicators equally weighed

Hong Kong	India
South Korea	Malaysia
Singapore	Thailand
Japan	Indonesia
USA	Brunei
Taiwan	Pakistan
Sri Lanka	Bangladesh
China	Laos
Vietnam	Cambodia
Philippines	Myanmar

2020 STI Results



STI 2020: Policy Implications in the Age of Covid

- Pandemic highlights importance of sustainable trade principles.
 - Economic pillar: Avoid over dependency in trade
 - Social pillar: Political stability helps ensure public buy-in for pandemic policies
 - Environmental pillar: stewardship helps head-off future zoonotic disease
- Key question: Will pandemic lead to more sustainable trade?
 - Reasons for both optimism and pessimism
- Economic distress raises temptation to cut labor/environmental protections, but...
- Business/investors now leading on sustainability and strong commitment to “build back better”.