The main objective of the study is to outline the economic, politicaleconomic and political benefits that Vietnam has derived from ASEAN membership. The relevance of this topic can be explained by the following factors. Firstly, the world economy is facing new trends in economic integration: in particular, according to the traditional approach to the essence of integration, profound formats such as common market, economic union, economic and monetary union were to become more and more numerous over time, but the most popular type at present is free trade areas, which often do not lead to further deepening of integration. In the context of the phenomenon of «new regionalism», ASEAN is a very notable example. It is important to understand how this organization attracts new members (in particular Vietnam). Secondly, the above topic remains under-studied in the scientific literature – works either address individual areas such as finance¹ or view the problem uncritically, previewing Vietnam's membership in ASEAN as the absolute benefit². Moreover, the report is intended to address the issue in an integrated manner, from the perspective of three different spheres, which would allow for a more comprehensive disclosure of the objective. Also, since Vietnam joined ASEAN and AFTA, there has been enough time to analyse specific outcomes.

The methodology of the study is based on statistical data analysis. The author uses data from the World Bank database³, WITS⁴, ASEAN statistical yearbooks⁵. For analysis in the field of international relations, a systematic approach is chosen.

The main results can be characterized as follows. Accession to ASEAN itself has not brought huge economic benefits to Vietnam, the development of the economy in recent decades (in particular, growth of GDP and increased inflows of FDI) should be considered as the result of Da Mo's policy in general. Economic and political benefits are much more substantial: ASEAN membership has been the basis for further development of Vietnam's external trade relations (e.g., the ASEAN

¹ CHan H.H., Do H.H. Analiz privlecheniya pryamyh inostrannyh investicij v nedvizhimost' V'etnama v usloviyah pandemii // Upravlencheskoe konsul'tirovanie. 2022. №3.

² SHpakovskaya M.A., Ngiem Ba CHi, CHan Zuj Than'. V'etnam v ASEAN i ego rol' v razvitii otnoshenij mezhdu Rossiej i Associaciej // YUgo-Vostochnaya Aziya: aktual'nye problemy razvitiya, 2021, Tom IV, №4 (53).

³ World Bank Open Data [Electronic resource] URL: <u>https://data.worldbank.org/</u> (дата обращения: 20.01.2025)

⁴ World Integrated Trade Solution [Electronic resource] URL: <u>https://wits.worldbank.org</u> (дата обращения: 20.01.2025)

⁵ ASEAN Investment Report 2023. International investment trends: Key issues and policy options. Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat, 2023; ASEAN Statistical Yearbook 2013. Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat, 2013; ASEAN Statistical Yearbook 2023. Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat, 2023.

experience was used to prepare for WTO accession), also created the country's image as a key ASEAN representative (this is well-established in Vietnam's relations with the EAEU and the EU). The political benefits can be also been estimated as high: cooperation with other countries of the region allows for joint resistance to China, and, thanks to ASEAN, Vietnam's political image has been enhanced both regionally and internationally.

The practical significance of the study is that the example of Vietnam can be used to draw conclusions about the benefits of attracting new participants into integration associations of a modern type, and to use this experience for the development of other organizations.