**Global Production Networks in the Garment Industry in Asia**

The global textile and apparel sector has historically played a key role in the developing economies of Asia, which now account for three quarters of global apparel exports. Historically, the export-oriented industrialization of a number of Asian states (Japan in the 1950s and 1960s, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan in the 1970s and 1980s) began with the garment production. Today, as new countries embark on this path, the geography of the industry is expanding, the supply chains of the largest companies are lengthening due to the inclusion of new manufacturing centers in the Asian region.

Within the framework of the increasing processes of globalization, the competitiveness of individual countries is explained not so much by endogenous factors of development as by their place in the organization of world production, trade and financial activities; about 80% of international trade is currently organized through global production networks. The spatial pattern of the industry is shaped by lead firms (TNCs), that source from independent suppliers located mostly in Asia. They integrate the entire apparel commodity chain, including raw materials supply, yarn and fabrics production at textile factories; cut-make-trim operations, marketing and sales. In turn, supplier firms from developing countries are gradually undergoing industrial modernization, specializing in increasingly lucrative activities along the chain.

The work is dedicated to the analysis of the formation processes in the textile and apparel industry of global production networks as a result of the activities of transnational companies in various geographical contexts and scales in the Asian region. The main spatial and structural characteristics of the global production networks of the leading companies in the industry (Nike, H&M, Adidas, VS and Fast Retailing) are analyzed based on the method of geocoding and data aggregation using geographic information systems. In total, about 3 thousand textile, processing and sewing production sites were analyzed, of which more than half specialize in making clothes. Based on the analysis of the spatial organization of the industry, 14 areas of the export-oriented textile and apparel industry in Asia have been highlighted and divided into three types based on their product and technological specialization, the size and ownership structure of enterprises, and backward linkages to the textile sector (areas of integrated small-scale development of the textile and apparel industry; areas of large-scale exclusively garment production based on foreign capital and areas of large-scale garment production with a high potential for modernization).

An analysis of the production networks of the largest companies in the fashion industry showed that despite a number of differences inherent in the firms under study - from the country of origin and the strategy of finding suppliers to the price segment and the specifics of products, the pattern of their production networks repeats. Global production networks in the garment industry are increasingly concentrated in the Asian region, where 55% to 92% of the suppliers of leading firms are located.

It was revealed that at the present stage of the territorial development of the industry, the trend of "drifting" of garment production continues both at the level of national economies (to other countries) as well as at the regional level (from large centers to the inner regions of countries),

The constant increase in competition on the apparel market is one of the factors behind the macro trend in the consolidation of the supply base - a decrease in the number of supplying companies and countries. For leading companies in the industry maintaining a competitive position as apparel manufacturers implies constant modernization and the search for new competitive advantages, for example, in the form of developing backward linkages to the textile sector (East Asian new industrial countries), integrating into segments of the supply chain with higher added value (Sri Lanka ), deepening specialization and exploiting the effect of economies of scale (China), increasing supply flexibility through the development of horizontal links (India).

The optimal combination of industry location factors in terms of the technical and economic characteristics of the industry and the requirements of leading firms when choosing suppliers (cost and order execution time) leads to an overconcentration of production in the largest cities and metropolitan areas of Asia, such as Jakarta, Dhaka, Ho Chi Minh City, etc. A limited number of industrial centers are being formed, which, under the influence of intensification of production ties, are combined into areas of development of textile and apparel industry.