

On Singaporean Dollar-U.S. Dollar and Purchasing Power Parity^{*}

Venus Khim-Sen Liew^a, Ahmad Zubaidi Baharumshah^a and Kian-Ping Lim^b

^a *Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Management, Universiti Putra Malaysia,*

43400 UPM Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

^b *Labuan School of International Business and Finance, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, P.O.Box 80594, 87015 W.P. Labuan, Malaysia*

This version: 1 September 2003

ABSTRACT

This study re-examines the validity of relationship between Singapore Dollar-US Dollar exchange rate and the relative price using the latest econometric methodologies that accounts for non-linearity. Among others, this study finds Exponential Smooth Transition Autoregressive (ESTAR)-type non-linear mean-reverting adjustment process of the nominal Singapore dollar-US dollar rate towards consumer price index ratio. Unlike previous finding of linear cointegration relationship between nominal Singapore Dollar-US Dollar exchange rate and consumer price index ratio, this study shows that the relationship is in fact non-linear in nature. The major economic implications of our findings includes: (1) Policy makers need to take non-linearity into consideration on their policy decision; (2) Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) is able to maintain the macroeconomic equilibrium albeit the authority's strong dollar policy; and (3) One should keep track on Singapore monetary policy and other innovations in aggregate demand in order to closely monitor the movement of Singapore exchange rate.

Keywords: Exchange rates; Non-linearity, Purchasing Power Parity; Exponential Smooth Transition Autoregressive (ESTAR), Singapore.

JEL Classifications: F31, F32

^{*} Published in *The Singapore Economic Review*, Vol. 49, No. 1 (2004) 1 – 14.