
Foreword

Entrepreneurship has become recognized as a major force in the global economy and, as internationalization issues become increasingly important to business, there is a growing need to research and understand when, how and why entrepreneurs internationalize their firms. Academic institutions around the world, including Georgia State University, Imperial College, Strathclyde University and the University of Adelaide, have been introducing courses about international entrepreneurship, yet the literature is still emerging, and what exists is quite dispersed. It is, therefore, an honour for me to write the Foreword to the world's first handbook about research on international entrepreneurship. I am sure that this book will be a stimulating and useful volume for researchers, doctoral students and other readers everywhere.

In what is itself a testament to the international nature of business, the editor of this volume, working from the University of Canterbury, in New Zealand, has commissioned chapters from leading researchers around the world. As a result, this reference book presents a wide variety of reflections, concepts and perspectives of international entrepreneurship. It includes recent research conducted by international consultant and McGill University professor Nancy Adler, Paul Beamish (former editor of the prestigious *Journal of International Business Studies*), Robert Brockhaus Sr (delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business), Frank Hoy (former editor of the highly respected journal *Entrepreneurship: Theory & Practice*), Richard W. Wright (founder of the International Business Department at McGill University, and currently the E. Claiborne Robins Distinguished Chair in Business at the University of Richmond) and geographer Henry Yeung.

These notable researchers have a common dedication to rigorous methodologies and vigorous research. Together, in this volume, the researchers have assembled and presented a cross-section of tested methods and innovative approaches. These contributions are an inspiration to younger researchers, and this bids fair to set the tone, and level of intellectual rigour and vigour, for future research in the emerging field of international entrepreneurship. I am delighted that the University of Canterbury, through the work of Léo-Paul Dana, is associated with this endeavour and with this volume.

Professor Bob Kirk

Acting Vice-Chancellor, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

October 15, 2002