

---

# Foreword

---

No society can survive without entrepreneurs. The issue for researchers is to find out how in a given society entrepreneurs develop and operate. If one agrees that entrepreneurship consists in the social and individual alchemy that organizes the fusion between individual talent and opportunities then comparative entrepreneurship research will try to look at the conditions under which in particular countries such an alchemy materializes. In the majority of environments entrepreneurship is considered as equivalent to private initiative and freedom, while in others the state, or at least some inspired politician and bureaucrats, have played this role. The value of the present handbook is that it provides an exhaustive survey over 43 countries of the private and public landscape of entrepreneurial development. This work is a prolongation of Dana's original work on the subject, with a much wider scope. The landscape is extremely contrasted ranging from feudal Afghanistan to post-industrial Japan. The task is ambitious and challenging but very rewarding, and reveals a variety of paths: India's software industry for instance that emerges in a regulatory and administrative unfavourable context, while in China farmers have been the spearhead of the entrepreneurial revolution immediately after the so called 'cultural revolution'. Dana et al. in the concluding chapter provide a model that successfully gives an overall picture out of this kaleidoscope. A very useful and interesting handbook.

Philippe Lasserre  
Emeritus Professor of Strategy and Asian Business  
INSEAD  
1 Ayer Rajah Avenue, Singapore, 138676

