
1 Introduction

Vanessa Ratten and Léo-Paul Dana

We are grateful to Edward Elgar for this opportunity to serve as editors of this collection of papers on international entrepreneurship in Asia. We are also thankful to the many experts who reviewed the manuscripts.

The chapter on Afghanistan is by Ruth Clarke and Ramdas Chandra (Chapter 2). They discuss how Afghanistan is one of the least developed countries in the world and how international government support is fostering entrepreneurship. They also highlight how the war-devastated country needs international entrepreneurship in the form of resources to increase infrastructure and small business activity.

The chapter on Armenia is by Vahé Heboyan (Chapter 3). This chapter explains how international entrepreneurship is important in Armenia despite being a land-locked country. The author also examines the impact of Russia on Armenia's entrepreneurial spirit.

Elena Sannikova and John F. Cassidy (Chapter 4) write about international entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan. The authors highlight how Azerbaijan's oil industry dominates most business and entrepreneurial activity in the country. The importance of oil in Azerbaijan means that more economic policy needs to be focused at developing the small business sector.

In the chapter on Bahrain (Chapter 5), Sadiq Sohail discusses how the Kingdom of Bahrain is an archipelago that has a relatively small land mass, which has affected the types of entrepreneurship occurring within the country. The author stresses the role of the large expatriate community in Bahrain that has made the country focus more on international markets particularly those in Asia. The influence of oil on Bahrain in the international economy is also highlighted.

Muhammad Mahboob Ali in writing his chapter on Bangladesh (Chapter 6) discusses how entrepreneurship has developed since the country became independent. The importance of different cultural groups in Bangladesh in increasing entrepreneurial activity is discussed. The author also stresses how entrepreneurship is critical to developing the Bangladesh economy.

The chapter on Brunei by Stephen W. Litvin (Chapter 7) examines how Brunei's international exports are primarily related to oil. The chapter discusses how the Brunei government has encouraged SMEs in the oil industry to further internationalize. In particular, the author highlights how government policy in Brunei encourages the development of SMEs through education and training.

Richard W. Wright and Malcolm Innes-Brown (Chapter 8) discuss the importance of international entrepreneurship in Cambodia as the country is amongst the least developed countries in the world. They stress the importance of culture (particularly French culture) in promoting innovation in Cambodia. Furthermore, the chapter examines how the rich history of Cambodia can be reinvigorated through proactive business policies.

David Smallbone and Xiao Jianzhong (Chapter 9) discuss how China's ability to

2 *Handbook of research on Asian entrepreneurship*

attract foreign direct investment has increased entrepreneurship in the country. The authors highlight how small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have transformed China and increased international entrepreneurial activity. The strong emphasis on planning and business development in China as being proactive in terms of their entrepreneurial orientation is stressed.

Joseph Sy-Changco (Chapter 10) discusses international entrepreneurship in the Pearl River Delta (Hong Kong, Macau and Guangdong Province). The author interestingly highlights how it is part of Chinese culture for everyone to want to be their own boss. The chapter stresses the importance of entrepreneurship in the Pearl River Delta as it is the most prosperous region in China.

Shameen Prashantham (Chapter 11) writes about how the rapid internationalization of the Indian economy has occurred. The global success of the Indian software industry that has occurred through international entrepreneurship is discussed. Furthermore, the author highlights how knowledge, intent and networks are important determinants of the internationalization process of small and new entrepreneurial firms.

Latif Adam in his chapter on Indonesia writes about how Indonesia is one of the richest countries in Southeast Asia in terms of natural and cultural resources (Chapter 12). Furthermore, the author discusses how international entrepreneurship in the tourism and investment sector has huge potential in Indonesia.

The chapter on Iran by Babak Fooladi and Martine Spence (Chapter 13) discusses how much of the export activities of the country are around oil. However, the authors stress that the Iranian government is trying to diversify the economy through entrepreneurship. In particular, more spin-off SMEs from the manufacturing and service sector are being encouraged by the government.

Liora Katzenstein, Eli Gimmon, Eyal Benjamin and Itay Friedberg (Chapter 14) write about international entrepreneurship in Israel. The authors discuss the unique phenomenon of Israel and its rapid internationalization of its business activities in the past thirty years. The authors also highlight how Israel has achieved economic success through its internationalization policies.

Jane W. Lu and Paul W. Beamish describe in their chapter on Japan how there is little systematic investigation on the internationalization process of SMEs (Chapter 15). The authors describe the performance of Japanese SMEs' worldwide investments. The authors also highlight how foreign direct investment in Japan has created an entrepreneurial environment.

The chapter on Jordan by Vanessa Ratten examines the development of international entrepreneurship in the predominately Muslim country (Chapter 16). The history of Jordan in terms of its international growth is discussed. In addition, the attractive tax environment for fostering SMEs in Jordan is highlighted.

Sandra Pennewiss (Chapter 17) examines how Kazakhstan is the ninth biggest country in the world in terms of land mass and this fact can be harnessed to utilize the country's land mass for entrepreneurship. The author of this chapter focuses on the development of Kazakhstan as being amongst the 10 fastest growing economies in the world. However, as the author states there needs to be more international business activity in the country to further accelerate business activities.

Serkan Yalcin (Chapter 18) describes how Kyrgyzstan has developed since becoming

independent from Russia. He discusses how business in Kyrgyzstan is gradually becoming more international through the privatization of state-owned enterprises. Furthermore, the chapter describes how Kyrgyzstan has quickly encouraged foreign collaboration.

Léo-Paul Dana and Susanne Barthmann discuss in the Laos chapter how it is one of Asia's most underdeveloped nations and needs to internationalize its business sector (Chapter 19). The authors highlight how communism in Laos discouraged entrepreneurship. However, the authors also state that the Chinese community in Laos is very entrepreneurially active.

Wafica A. Ghoul in the chapter on Lebanon (Chapter 20) describes how Lebanon has a strong *laissez-faire* commercial tradition. Moreover, the chapter discusses how the banking and tourism sector in Lebanon has encouraged internationalization. The author also highlights how for Lebanon to increase its economic growth rate it must concentrate on international entrepreneurship and in particular increase its export rate.

Nnamdi Madichie and Christopher Seow in their chapter on Malaysia (Chapter 21) discuss how Malaysia has transformed its industry to focus more on exports. The chapter describes how government support for internationalization activities in the SME sector have encouraged entrepreneurship. However, the authors also contend that as there are challenges to globalization, more focus needs to be on how Malaysia can further encourage international entrepreneurship.

Isabell M. Welpel and Teresa E. Dana discuss in the Maldives chapter how the Maldives is the smallest Asian country in terms of population but still has an international outlook (Chapter 22). The authors describe how the Maldives' geographic position has influenced their outlook on international entrepreneurship. The chapter also highlights how tourism has helped increase entrepreneurship.

The chapter on Mongolia by Malcolm Innes-Brown (Chapter 23) highlights how geography plays an important role in the development of international export rates. The impact of government policies and culture is stressed by the author in this chapter. The role of education in helping SMEs in Mongolia to internationalize is also discussed.

Léo-Paul Dana and Frank Lasch (Chapter 24) discuss the development of entrepreneurship in Myanmar despite the country's status worldwide as being secretive, and East Asia's last country to fully realize the potential of globalization. The history and development of business activities in Myanmar is investigated with a discussion on how the natural resources of the country can be utilized more to increase business activity. The role of laws and policy is also discussed in Myanmar.

Yochanan Shachmurove writes in the Oman chapter about how oil has influenced entrepreneurial activities in the country (Chapter 25). The chapter also discusses how the government is trying to foster entrepreneurship in non-oil businesses such as light manufacturing and tourism. The author also describes the government's economic reforms that are aimed at the international market.

M. Khurram S. Bhutta and Adnan Omar (Chapter 26) write about international entrepreneurship in Pakistan. They discuss how the geographic position of Pakistan between Central and South Asia means that it is vital that the country keeps an international outlook. The authors also discuss how economic development programmes have increased attention on entrepreneurship.

The chapter on Palestine by Nidal Rashid Sabri (Chapter 27) discusses the role of education in helping developing countries like Palestine internationalize. The importance of

the public sector to the Palestinian economy is examined in terms of how it affects other subsidized services like health. The contribution of the service sector and the attempts by the Palestinian government to internationalize it are discussed.

Maria Carmen Galang and Sonia Tiong-Aquino (Chapter 28) discuss local entrepreneurship and internationalization of SMEs in the Philippines. They discuss how the Philippines is the only Christian nation in Southeast Asia and how this has impacted on entrepreneurial activities. They also discuss how the legacies from the USA have impacted on the language and politics for businesses in the Philippines.

Yochanan Shachmurove describes in the chapter about Qatar (Chapter 29) its development from the oil industry. He also discusses the formation of the Qatar Petroleum Company and its entry to the Arab League. The chapter furthermore includes an examination of the increased focus on the global market and socio-political liberalization in Qatar.

Ruta Aidis, Julia Korosteleva and Tomasz Mickiewicz discuss in the chapter on Russia (Chapter 30) how it is Asia's largest country. The authors discuss the internationalization of Russia's energy resources and what this means for entrepreneurship. The impact of the private sector in Russia for international business is also examined.

Tim Rogmans (Chapter 31) examines international entrepreneurship in Saudi Arabia. The author describes how Saudi Arabia is diversifying more in the international market. The chapter also discusses how many industry sectors in Saudi Arabia are now open to foreign competition.

Wee-Liang Tan and So-Jin Yoo (Chapter 32) discuss the internationalization of the Singapore economy. The authors highlight how despite having a small land mass, Singapore is one of Asia's leading economies. Interestingly, the authors also describe how the strong emphasis on the international economy has meant that Singapore performs well in business surveys of best places to do business.

The chapter on South Korea by Ed Hopkins and Siri Terjesen (Chapter 33) examines how the country has grown significantly through export activities. The role of South Korea's international trade networks with neighbouring Asian countries is discussed. Moreover, the role of economic plans in stimulating the internationalization of SMEs is highlighted.

Sudatta Ranasinghe and Jay Weerawardena (Chapter 34) discuss Sri Lanka's international entrepreneurship outlook. The authors discuss how despite being an island nation and having some political conflict, Sri Lanka has had a relatively good economic growth rate in the past five years. The authors also stress how the economic liberalization policy of Sri Lanka has tried to encourage entrepreneurship.

Wafica A. Ghoul (Chapter 35) examines the role of the oil industry in influencing international entrepreneurship in Syria. The author discusses how the majority of exports are oil related but the government has been trying to promote a social market economy. Legislative reforms that have encouraged entrepreneurship in Syria are also discussed.

Hung-bin Ding and Hsi-mei Chung (Chapter 36) examine the success of Taiwan in achieving high export growth rates. The authors discuss how the focus on technological innovations has spurred new innovations in Taiwan. Furthermore, the authors describe how government incentives have shifted the focus of the Taiwanese economy to the international market.

The chapter on Tajikistan by Léo-Paul Dana (Chapter 37) examines one of the poorest

countries in Central Asia. The role of the Soviet Union in affecting international growth rates in Tajikistan SMEs is discussed. Moreover, the role of politics and the transition to a market economy in fostering business development is stressed.

Scott A. Hipsher in the chapter on Thailand (Chapter 38) describes how politics have influenced entrepreneurship. Moreover, the free market economy in Thailand has led to a strong focus on international markets. The author also discusses the large informal entrepreneurial sector in Thailand.

Mats Lundahl and Fredrik Sjöholm (Chapter 39) discuss entrepreneurship in Timor-Leste. They examine how despite Timor-Leste being one of the poorest countries in Asia, there is still a strong entrepreneurial spirit existing in the country. Moreover, the authors describe what the government has been doing to promote entrepreneurship in Timor-Leste.

Serkan Yalcin (Chapter 40) discusses the role of entrepreneurship in Turkey, which is located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. The role of politics and religion in promoting entrepreneurship in Turkey is examined. The author also highlights how Turkey is now classified as one of the world's top emerging markets.

The chapter on Turkmenistan by Gerard McElwee (Chapter 41) discusses the role of energy in fostering a country's international activities. The economic environment for Turkmenistan entrepreneurs is discussed that highlights the high role of government intervention. Moreover, the role of joint ventures in fostering local entrepreneurship is discussed by the author.

Mervyn J. Morris (Chapter 42) examines international entrepreneurship in the United Arab Emirates. He discusses how the strategic position of the country has influenced international business activities. The role of the Federal government in the United Arab Emirates is examined in terms of foreign policy and social affairs.

Gulnoza S. Saidazimova (Chapter 43) discusses Uzbekistan's entrepreneurial activities in the international marketplace. The historical development of Uzbekistan is examined in terms of how the country's independence has led to a renewed focus on international markets. The authors also stress how Uzbekistan has shifted its focus away from the Russian market.

Mai Thi Thanh Thai and Narendra M. Agrawal (Chapter 44) discuss international entrepreneurship in Vietnam. The authors describe how the Vietnamese people have encouraged entrepreneurship whilst complementing the political situation in the region. Furthermore, the authors describe how through remarkable policy improvements, the Vietnamese economy has achieved a strong international growth rate.

We hope readers will enjoy these as much as we did.