
SPECIAL ISSUE

Foreign direct investment, trade and development

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

This issue of Transnational Corporations is a collection of papers presented at the annual conference of the Academy of International Business (United Kingdom chapter) in Londonderry in April 2004 in honour of Professor V.N. Balasubramanyam of the University of Lancaster. V.N. Balasubramanyam – Baloo – has contributed, over many years, to our understanding of the relationship between trade and foreign direct investment.

In this volume, the authors, all of whom have worked with Baloo at some stage in his career, examine the various facets of his work. The first chapter by David Sapsford examines Baloo as an economist and takes an affectionate view of Baloo's career development. This chapter takes in the terms of trade debate, Baloo's views on foreign investment and growth, and relates this to Baloo's intellectual and personal history.

The chapter by Peter Buckley, Jeremy Clegg and Chengqi Wang examines the impact of foreign direct investment on host country productivity with special reference to the Chinese electronics industry. Bob Pearce moves from Baloo's background as an economist to a wider view of globalization and development based on an international business strategy approach. This paper is useful in helping us to see the wider context of the role of transnational corporations in development.

Frances Ruane and Ali Uğurexamine the particular case of export platform foreign direct investment and its relationship to the potential dualistic development of the host economy. The theme of the relationship between foreign direct investment and the host economy is also taken up by Rhys Jenkins who examines the impact of foreign investment on employment in Viet Nam. Colin

Kirkpatrick, David Parker and Yin-Fang Zhang look at foreign direct investment in infrastructure in developing countries and pay particular attention to the role of regulation.

Finally, John Dunning presents an overview of trade, foreign direct investment and development, in a wide-ranging article that links development to the determinants of international business activity.

As Baloo's PhD supervisor Jagdish Bhagwati says in his generous introduction, Baloo has developed from being "a fine developmental economist" to "a world-class scholar in the area of multinationals". Baloo's contribution goes far beyond his written work to a wide-ranging encouragement of younger scholars in the field, particularly to the large number of doctoral students that he has painstakingly supervised. As one who has benefited from his excellent supervision, I trust that the present collection will be a fitting tribute to an extraordinary scholar and outstanding individual.

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