Stephen E. Little • Frank M. Go • Teresa Shuk-Ching Poon Editors Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Challenges and Experiences from East and West

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Foreword

This book could not arrive in a more timely fashion. Whilst the effects and consequences of globalisation in the political, social and cultural domains have continued to be extensively debated among scholars and commentators, economic globalisation has gone largely uncontested. Increasing global interconnectivity complemented by the deregulation of international trade, investment and capital movement for economic growth and prosperity has become the dominant public discourse of the past decades. Scepticism about the scale and scope of economic globalisation remained limited to critical academics and business elites where alternative models of an international economy and governance have been advanced. However, recently, this discourse of boundless economic globalisation 'for the benefit of all' has come to be challenged. The crisis in the economic globalisation discourse indeed has generated alternative models of globalisation that are inclusive of social and cultural dimensions.

The discourse on economic globalisation was nurtured by the rise of Northeast Asia as a major player in world economy. The 'Asian Miracle' was basically hardware-driven: Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and China are home to manufacturing powerhouses such as Sony, Samsung, Acer and Haier. However, Asian countries swiftly caught up with the West, combining successful participation in the global economy with the development of highly sophisticated service enterprises, which provided access to resources required for a profitable connection to the wider world. East Asian countries were the frontrunners in information technology spawning the first digital revolution. Underlying the second digital revolution-which is currently in progress-is the supply of digital content and services. The significance of this second digital revolution extends far beyond economic growth and is already emerging as a magnificent social and economic force. Innovations are driven by entrepreneurs creating new tools, concepts and forms of expression. East Asian countries, for example, dominate the production of the world's digital gadgets. Pokemon, Hello Kitty and animation from Japan and K-pop from Korea are among the most imaginative digital innovations that mark the emergence of East Asia as a cultural superpower. These products successfully attract audiences in North America and Western Europe. In aiming to enhance people's social experience or self-perception, software innovation requires a deep understanding of people and culture and about managing social and supply chain networks around them. Issues of regulation and control are the challenge for future business leaders and governments.

The various contributions to this book analyse the growing and deepening global connectedness through the lens of innovation and entrepreneurship. These contributions provide evidence that the knowledge-intensive industries play a substantial role in the transfer of technology, international trade and business practices within and between Western and Asian. The declining emphasis on traditional power structures favours talented creators with a taste for diversity and new cultural combinations. Processes of globalisation have shifted focus away from hardware to soft power. It is at the intersection of technology and culture where innovations sprout. The book's strength in dealing with the challenges of this new global economy is underpinned by a truly international and interdisciplinary range of contributors with a mix of academic expertise and professional experience.

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