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ARCHITECTS OF GROWTH?

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ARCHITECTS OF GROWTH?

Sub-national Governments and
Industrialization in Asia

Edited by

Francis E. Hutchinson



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FOREWORD

The chapters in this book are based on papers presented at a remarkable conference organized by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies on 7 October 2011. They are groundbreaking in several ways.

For one thing, they discuss territories instead of countries. This approach is highly significant, and promises to lead ISEAS research in new directions in our effort to understand Southeast Asian dynamics beyond national divides.

The chapters also study major actors in the political economy of many nations, who are often overlooked. The focus is tactically moved towards politics and key processes found at levels below the national conceptual umbrella.

Furthermore, the book as a whole examines the nexus between politics and economics and in the process not only gives a deeper meaning to regionalism, but also inspects the geography and geopolitics of developmental processes today.

These are important strands that when interwoven, amount to a unique innovation. The case studies do not come only from within Southeast Asia, but also cover industrial areas external to the region as well.

I congratulate Dr Francis Hutchinson for conceiving of and organizing this conference and bringing to bear, in the process, his wide range of international contacts, and his penchant for comparative studies in an area that is necessarily complex.

Heartfelt thanks to Konrad Adenauer Stiftung for helping to sponsor the conference.

*Ooi Kee Beng
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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Conventional academic and practical approaches to economic policy-making focus on the national level. However, over the last three decades, this nation-centred approach has been called into question by the re-scaling of economic, political and social processes. Decreasing barriers to trade, ever further-reaching production networks, greater flows of information, and demands by citizens for more participation in public life have challenged the primacy of the nation-state.

In addition, many national-level governments now have to contend with energized and proactive sub-national governments. In part, this is due to policies enacted by national governments themselves. Over the past decades, the “Silent Revolution” of decentralization has swept the globe, as central governments (with some notable exceptions) have devolved responsibilities to state, provincial, and municipal governments.

Furthermore, economic globalization seems to be heightening the relationship between location and economic activity. Despite investment being mobile, economic activity and, in particular, innovation have remained very sensitive to geography and the local institutional environment. This is seen in the emergence of high-performing regional economies in industrialized as well as industrializing countries.

These trends have implications for sub-national governments. While state and provincial governments may have gained in importance, the challenges facing them have also increased. More mobile investment along with heightened competition in many sectors means that policy-makers must now, not only attract investment, but also work hard to retain it. Firms that have problems getting reliable suppliers, securing appropriate labour, or obtaining licences will relocate to more amenable locations — often in a neighbouring state or province. Thus, competition between sub-national governments for

investment is also on the rise, as they strive to outdo each other by providing incentives and specialized infrastructure.

However, while state and provincial governments have acquired new visibility and additional responsibilities, they are different from their national counterparts in that they do not have a wide range of tools or a large quantity of resources at their disposal. In addition, they are embedded in a specific power relationship with their national governments, and must reconcile central priorities with those of their constituents.

Conversely, despite their relative paucity of revenue and governmental responsibilities, state and provincial governments are usually responsible for a range of public services that are important to firms. In addition, they may be in a better position to leverage their proximity to the local economy to support new, innovative activities, particularly those that require social capital and ground-level knowledge. Indeed, scarce resources may preclude the rent-seeking often associated with state-supported enterprises, forcing firms and sub-national governments to engage in more disciplined value-enhancing dialogue.

Despite their unique characteristics and challenges, there is little research available on what state and provincial governments can or should do to effectively steward their economies — particularly at this juncture. To this end, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies organized a conference on “State Policy and Industrialization at the Sub-national Level in Asia” on 7 October 2011 in Singapore. Researchers looking at economic developments at the sub-national level in Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia, South Asia and Europe were invited to present papers on emerging state and provincial economies.

This book is the end-result of that conference, both of which have sought to deepen our understanding of whether, how, and under what circumstances sub-national governments can play a significant role in promoting industrialization. Following the conference, the papers were revised by the authors based on comments arising during the discussion, as well as during the subsequent editing process.

The conference was generously funded by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, and institutional support was provided by Ambassador K. Kesavapany, who was ISEAS Director at the time. Heartfelt thanks go to both for making the event and this book possible.

I would also like to thank the conference participants for their insights. Special thanks go to Ooi Kee Beng, Faizal bin Yahya, Vikram Khanna, Omkar Shrestha and Carlos Kuriyama for their work as Chairs and Moderators.

Logistical and organizational support for the conference was provided and gratefully received by Karthi Nair, Loh Joo Yong, Ramlee Othman, and Razali.

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Thanks are also due to the ISEAS Publications Unit staff under the leadership of Triena Ong for their efficient and professional help.

I am extremely grateful to the contributors of this volume, who have generously given their time, insights, and support through the various rounds of revision and editing.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFTA	ASEAN Free Trade Agreement
AIADMK	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AV	Audio-Visual
A*STAR	Agency for Science, Technology, and Research
BOI	Board of Investment
CEM	Contract Electronics Manufacturing
DMK	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
EDB	Economic Development Board
E&E	Electrical and Electronics Sector
EEl	Electrical and Electronics Industry Institute
ELCOT	Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu
EMS	Electronic Manufacturing Services
EPZ	Export Processing Zone
ER	Economic Region
ERSO	Electronics Research and Service Organization
EU	European Union
FAI	Fixed Asset Investment
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FIS	Foreign Invested Sector
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GERI	Gumi Electronics & Information Technology Research Institute
GIN	Global Innovation Network
GNP	Gross National Product
GPN	Global Production Network
GRP	Gross Regional Product
HDD	Hard Disk Drive
HDDI	Hard Disk Drive Institute
HSIP	Hsinchu Science-based Industrial Park

HTCE	High Tech Campus Eindhoven
IC	Integrated Circuits
IDEMA	International Drive Equipment and Manufacturers' Association
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
INR	Indian Rupee
IRDA	Iskandar Regional Development Authority
IT	Information Technology
ITA	Information Technology Agreement
ITRI	Industrial Technology Research Institute
JCS	Johor Civil Service
JSEPU	Johor State Economic Planning Unit
JSIC	Johor State Investment Centre
KEIC	Korea Electronics Industrial Corporation
KMIT	King Mongkut Institute of Technology
KRW	Korean Won
LCD	Liquid Crystal Display
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LGU	Local Government Unit
LIUP	Local Industry Upgrading Programme
MEMS	Microelectromechanical Systems
MEPZ	Mactan Export Processing Zone
MNCs	Multinational Corporations
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoEA	Ministry of Economic Affairs
NBDA	North Brabant Development Agency
NECTEC	National Electronic and Computer Technology Centre
NICS	Newly-Industrialized Countries
NIS	National Innovation System
NSTDA	National Science and Technology Development Agency
NTD	New Taiwan Dollar
OBM	Original Brand Manufacturers
ODM	Original Design Manufacturers
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturers
OFDI	Outward Foreign Direct Investment
PAO	Provincial Administrative Organs
PC	Personal Computers
PCB	Printed Circuit Board
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity

R&D	Research and Development
RIS	Regional Innovation System
RM	Malaysian Ringgit
RMB	Renminbi
SER	Supra-Economic Region
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SIPCOT	State Promotional Corporation of Tamil Nadu
SIRIM	Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SOE	State-owned Enterprise
TEEMA	Taiwan Electrical and Electronic Manufacturing Association
TIDCO	Tamil Nadu Industrial Corporation
TIIC	Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation
UNCTAD	United Nations Convention on Trade and Development
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
VCCI	Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
VND	Vietnamese Dong
WTO	World Trade Organization

