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## **GLOBALIZATION AND CHANGE IN ASIA**

Dennis A. Rondinelli and John M. Heffron, editors

2007/280 Pages

ISBN-13:978-1-58826-497-8 PB \$24.50

"This rich book goes beyond the usual superficial discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of globalization to focus on the actual dynamic relationship between global forces and Asian adjustments." Ming Wan, George Mason University

"A fresh and integrative look at the critical challenges of globalization in Asia." Paul Smoke, New York University

Globalization and Change in Asia explores three decades of adjustment on the part of governments, civil society, and the private sector to the complex new forces of international competition. Recognizing that the benefits of globalization have not accrued equally to all Asian countries, nor to all strata of society, the authors seek lessons that can help shape development policy to effect the greatest good. Thus, they focus on the essential ingredients of the most broadly successful globalization strategies—strategies that can most optimally respond to the economic, social, and technological challenges that lay ahead.

Dennis A. Rondinelli is senior research scholar at Duke University's Center for International Development and director of the Pacific Basin Research Center at Soka University of America.

John M. Heffron is professor of history at Soka University and associate director of the Pacific Basin Research Center.

### **CONTENTS:**

1. Adjusting to Globalization: Change and Transformation in Asia- D.A. Rondinelli and J.M. Heffron.

2. Global Crossroads: A Shared History of Globalization in the Asia Pacific Region- J.M. Heffron.

#### **ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION.**

3. Globalization and the Asian Economic Response-D.A. Rondinelli.

4. Regional Economic Integration in East Asia-K.G. Cai.

5. Globalizing Asian Business: Dynamics of Change and Adjustment-H.W.-C. Yeung.

6. Information Technology and Economic Development Strategy-S.M. Lee.

7. Adjusting to Globalization Through Skills Development Strategies-S. Kuruvilla.

#### **POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ADAPTATION.**

8. Inclusive Governance and Democracy in Asia: Transition and Challenges-G.S. Cheema.

9. E-Government: Applications of Technology to Government Services-C.G. Wescott.

10. Mobilizing Social Capital: Community Responses to Globalization-A. Krishna.

11. Social Protection Policies: Making Globalization Work for All-I. Ortiz.

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE.

12. Sustaining Progress in a Globalizing Society: Lessons from Asia-D.A. Rondinelli and J.M. Heffron

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G. Shabbir Cheema and Dennis A. Rondinelli, eds.

The trend toward greater decentralization of governance activities, now accepted as commonplace in the West, has become a worldwide movement. This international development, largely a product of globalization and democratization, is clearly one of the key factors reshaping economic, political, and social conditions throughout the world. Rather than the top-down, centralized decisionmaking that characterized communist economies and Third World dictatorships in the twentieth century, today's world demands flexibility, adaptability, and the autonomy to bring those qualities to bear.

In this thought-provoking book, the first in a new series on Innovations in Governance, experts in government and public management trace the evolution and performance of decentralization concepts, from the transfer of authority within government to the sharing of power, authority, and responsibilities among broader governance institutions. This movement is not limited to national government - it also affects subnational governments, NGOs, private corporations, and even civil associations.

The contributors assess the emerging concepts of decentralization (e.g., devolution, empowerment, capacity building, and democratic governance). They detail the factors driving the movement, including political changes such as the fall of the Iron Curtain and the ascendance of democracy; economic factors such as globalization and outsourcing; and technological advances (e.g. increased information technology and electronic commerce).

Their analysis covers many different contexts and regions. For example, William Ascher of Claremont McKenna College chronicles how decentralization concepts are playing out in natural resources policy, while Kadmeil Wekwete (United Nations) outlines the specific challenges to

decentralizing governance in sub-Saharan Africa. In each case, contributors explore the objectives of a decentralizing strategy as well as the benefits and difficulties that will likely result.

G. Shabbir Cheema is the principal adviser on governance in the Department of Public Administration and Development Management, within the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. His most recent book is *Building Democratic Institutions: Governance Reform in Developing Countries* (Kumarian Press, 2005).

Dennis A. Rondinelli is senior research scholar of public policy studies at Duke University's Center for International Development. His previous books include *Beyond Reconstruction in Afghanistan: Lessons from Development Experience*, coedited with John D. Montgomery (Palgrave, 2004).

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