Book Reviews

Reviewed by Patricia Ordóñez de Pablos, Universidad de Oviedo, Spain

INNOVATION IN CHINA: THE CHINESE SOFTWARE INDUSTRY

Author: Shang-Ling Jui
Year of publication: 2010
Routledge. Taylor &Francis Group

Early 2010 a new book on innovation in China has been released: Innovation in China. The Chinese software industry. The author of the book, Shang-Ling Jui, is Senior Vice President of Spa, Managing Director of SAP Labs China and SAP R&D Center, Korea. He is also Guest Professor at Peking University in China. With his broad industry and academic experience, he writes an innovative book on Chinese software industry and focuses on whether China can move from being a traditional center of manufacturing (the factory of the world) to a center for innovation. With more 170 pages and illustrative figures and table, the book is structured into 5 main chapters that address several topics regarding to software industry in China: the last 20 years of software development, industrialization and globalization, examples of SAP Labs China, macroeconomic factors needed to progress from manufacturing to innovation and the impact of education and intellectual property policies on the transition from being a manufacturing center to an innovation center. The author argues that China has all the international and domestic prerequisites to achieve such transformation.

The book offers interesting readings on China’s software industry both for the academic world (academics, students) and business world.

RECONCILIING STATE, MARKEY AND SOCIETY IN CHINA: THE LONG MARCH TOWARD PROSPERITY

Author: Paolo Urio
Routledge Contemporary China Series
ISBN10: 0-415-56446-8

DOI: 10.4018/jabim.2010040105
Another new book early in 2010 is “Reconciling State, Markey and Society in China. The long march toward prosperity.”

Mao Zedong, in his writing “On Practice” in 1937 (collected in the “Selected Works of Mao Zedong, Vol. 1, 1951) stated that “There is an old Chinese saying, “how can you catch tiger cubs without entering the tiger’s lair?” To get a full and deep knowledge into Chinese society today a person need to be more than a simple China Observer. The author tries to differentiate his books from other books in the market offering an in-depth view on major factors related to the 30 years of reform process in China: economic, legal, political, cultural, social and environmental as well as showing the interconnections between them. In the last three decades of China’s modern history, the country has experience key social and economic transitions during these years of reform (among others, a transition from a planned economic system to a socialist market economic system; from agriculture-based rural society to a non-agriculture-based modern metropolitan society; from centralized political system to a socialist democratic political system. The country was able to avoid violent political turmoil as well as sabotage of social productivity during the years of multiple transitions.

The author avoids using too technical approach in the book, therefore making it accessible not only to academic world but also to a wider public.

The book has 4 chapters that address these key issues in more than 170 pages. The book describes Chinese political culture today and in the past and compares it with Western culture; it analyses Deng Xiaoping’s strategy for economic development; the book also offers readings on how to balance the negative consequences of economic development in China; and finally the author offers insights to understand China after Mao Zedong.

CHINA’S DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES: ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM

Author: Richard Schiere
Year of publication: 2010
ISBN10: 0-415-47865-0
Publisher: Routledge

Another new book released in January 2010 is “China’s Development Challenges. Economic vulnerability and public sector reform” by Richard Schiere (African Development Bank Group). The main idea of the book is that vulnerability to poverty (not poverty as such) is an important source of social tension in developing countries and transitions. The author focuses his analysis in the many reforms since the beginning of transition in 1978 that have made many households in China very vulnerable to poverty. In order to become less vulnerable to macroeconomic shocks (trade, resource imports, financial volatility), the country needs to shift to a domestic consumer demand-driven development strategy which has to be supported by public sector reforms.

As a result of the 2008 financial crisis and the associated economic downturn, public sector reform and vulnerability are key issues in the policy debate in China. Additionally the Chinese society needs a stable and harmonious development.

The book is structured into 3 parts (developmental challenges of China, vulnerability and increasing livelihood opportunities, and public reforms, fiscal decentralization and social security) and has 8 chapters (reforms, evolutions of poverty and inequality since the opening-up period, macroeconomic vulnerability, household vulnerability, regional vulnerability, fiscal decentralization and public service reforms, social security and the impact of public sector reforms on vulnerability).
Patricia Ordóñez de Pablos is a professor in the Department of Business Administration and Accountability at the Faculty of Economics of The University of Oviedo (Spain). Her teaching and research interests focus on the areas of strategic management, knowledge management, intellectual capital measuring and reporting, organizational learning, and human resources management. She is Executive Editor of the International Journal of Learning and Intellectual, the International Journal of Strategic Change Management and Co-Executive Editor of the International Journal of Chinese Culture and Management.