

defining piracy in Southeast Asia as a security threat rather than a crime. He argues that the initial attempts of the IMB that addressed the Malaysian government were limited and that it was only when the Singaporean government linked piracy and terrorism that securitization succeeded. Securitizing through the piracy-terrorism frame occurred against the explicit preferences of the IMB, which had initially started the process. Priyanka Upadhyaya pursues a similar line of argument when the author shows how illegal immigrants become the focus of attention of media but are then exploited by governments to pursue their own state-centred and nationalist agendas. Joseph Chinyong Low points to some of the paradoxes that arise from securitization. Attempts by the Malaysian government to respond to the securitization of illegal Indonesian workers through better enforcement of existing immigration laws demonstrated the Malaysian economy's dependence on Indonesian workers.

The framework of securitization gives the volume a unifying concept that intuitively makes sense to many challenges that Asian states and individuals face. Yet, in the context of the edited volume, one is left with the question of why precisely these cases have been chosen as issues of securitization and not others. The securitization framework essentially explores successful and unsuccessful securitization moves in a sector or issue area. Through this move actors try to dramatize an issue a matter of life and death to subsequently justify emergency measures. Key to securitization is that it is real-world actors themselves, not the author, who decide what is being securitized. This fine distinction sometimes gets sometimes blurred in the empirical analysis. Here, issues that can be considered by definition a matter of life and death (such as health) are introduced as being securitized, when in fact they appear pretty much in the realm of normal politics. As a result, the reader is left with the impression that securitization provides merely a convenient frame for bundling scholarly works that have been roaming

around in scientific debates in Asia for some time. This point of criticism should be rather taken as encouragement to further explore those points that have been rightly highlighted by the editors: the potentially Eurocentric bias of the securitization literature and its political dynamics.

(Anja Jetschke)

Ostasiatischer Verein e.V.:
Wirtschaftshandbuch Asien-Pazifik
2007/2008

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Das Wirtschaftshandbuch Asien-Pazifik 2007/2008 des Ostasiatischen Vereins widmet sich der dynamischen Wirtschaftsentwicklung in der asiatisch-pazifischen Region. In ihrem Leitartikel „Asien und Europa – Technologie- und Handelspartner mit Zukunft“ hebt Margot Schüller die wirtschaftliche Bedeutung Asiens hervor. Im Jahr 2006 wiesen die asiatischen Entwicklungs- und Schwellenländer (Asien ohne Japan) die höchste Wachstumsrate in den letzten elf Jahren auf. Den größten Anteil daran hatten China und Indien, die im Jahr 2006 mit fast 70 Prozent zum Wachstum in der Region beitrugen. Margot Schüller beleuchtet ferner Asiens Weg vom Low-Tech- zum High-Tech-Standort. So trugen Unternehmen mit Auslandskapital mit rund 90 Prozent zu den gesamten High-Tech-Ausfuhren bei. Margot Schüller betont die positive globale Handelsbilanz für Europa, das Asiens wichtigster Handels- und Technologiepartner ist. Zwar weise der Handel mit China nach wie vor ein hohes Defizit auf, dieses konnte die EU aber durch Überschüsse im Handel mit anderen Regionen und Ländern wettmachen. Insgesamt entwirft Margot Schüller eine optimistische Prognose: da die asiatischen Länder weiterhin die Chancen der Globalisierung nutzen werden, werden die Länder in Asien stärker als bisher als Technologie- und Handelspartner an Bedeutung gewinnen.

Die zahlreichen Beiträge von fachkundigen Autoren aus dem GIGA-Institut für Asien-Studien sowie aus anderen Instituten untermauern die wirtschaftliche Bedeutung der Asien-Pazifik-Region für die Weltwirtschaft. Neben Fachartikeln zur regionalen Zusammenarbeit und zum deutschen und europäischen Außenhandel bietet das Wirtschaftshandbuch eine Fülle von Einzelländerdarstellungen aus der Asien-Pazifik-Region sowie ausführliche Statistiken und Informationen zu den Marktzugangsbedingungen von Rödl & Partner. Das Wirtschaftshandbuch verfügt außerdem über hilfreiche Hinweise zur Außenwirtschaftsförderung und enthält einen Adressteil. Alles in allem stellt das Handbuch ein unerlässliches Hilfsmittel für Unternehmen im Asiengeschäft dar.

(Maria Rohrer)

Malte C. Boecker (ed.): *Asia - Changing the World*

Gütersloh: Verlag Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2007, 237 S., EUR 20,00

The Bertelsmann Foundation, much like similar institutions in the US, has a reputation of embracing topical issues, engaging big names in the field, yet treading fairly safe political and intellectual ground and then, given its media power, pushing its products aggressively into the limelight¹. Prima vista this volume confirms this suspicion. Bertelsmann has discovered Asia (which is good and surely overdue), and has invited big names to a seminar in Salzburg in 2006 to spell out what the rise of the continent means for the rest of the world. While this endeavour is no longer very original, yet the quality and concise intellectual rigor of most of the 16 essays harvested at the seminar manages to dispel one's initial scepticism and makes reading both instructive and pleasurable. Even discounting for the likeliness of occasional ghost writing the

level of contributions is consistently high with an unexpectedly strong share of original thought.

"Asia Rising" – meaning mostly China plus India - is covered in its consequences for Asia's demographic future, her competitive prospects, effects on global power, but also on intra-Asian conflicts, sustainability problems and on relations with Europe, notably on migration patterns and on cultural and intellectual exchanges. Finally there is also a concluding section with programmatic designs of European answers to the Asian challenge: for Europe's competitiveness, her trade policy and for a European Asian strategy in general.

The demographer Carl Haub forecasts Asia's current population of 4 billion grow to 5,3 billion by 2050 – while Africa will double to 2 billion (p. 22), thus dooming herself to live in poverty: "Asia did recognize the dilemma and did react, while Africa largely did not" (p. 23). Like all authors Professor Horst Siebert sees Asia rising further. In 1970 it accounted for 15% of world GDP, in 1996 for 22%. With a gross savings rate of 30%, it by far exceeds the OECD countries average of 20%, thus guaranteeing further sustained growth and modernization. Yet Siebert also enumerates the constraints facing China: Her labour supply cannot expand much further in the long term, resulting in upward pressure on wages and eroding the competitiveness of labour intensive exports. Bottlenecks remain in transport infrastructure and energy supply. Investment in safety at the workplace, in environmental protection and for social security will require higher expenditures. Banks flush with cash from depositors may some day see these supplies drying off and in view of reckless lending policies may face a crisis. Underdeveloped property rights equally do not support long term oriented private real estate and industrial investments. Thus in Siebert's view China's growth will not exceed 6% growth rates during the next decade (p. 38) (and thus be similar to India's rates).

¹ See for instance: Frankfurter Allgemeine 31.10.2007