Asian Tigers, African Lions: Comparing the Development Performance of Southeast Asia and Africa, published by Brill in 2013 and coordinated by the African Studies Centre and the Royal Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), Leiden, has won a Choice Outstanding Academic Title Award 2014!

Asian Tigers, African Lions is an anthology of contributions by scholars and (former) diplomats related to the ‘Tracking Development’ research project, in collaboration with scholars based in Africa and Asia. The project compared the performance of growth and development of four pairs of countries in Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa during the last sixty years. The research project was funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and some of the findings were presented in the Policy Research Seminar “Achieving inclusive development in Africa: Politics, processes and political settlement” in May 2014, that was jointly organised by ODI, UNECA and INCLUDE.

From the review that appeared in Choice in May 2014: 'As a one-volume, evidence-based response to why Asia has done so well and Africa so poorly, this book has no peer.' The book is not only interesting for an academic audience, but also addresses relevant policy questions. Without trivialising the importance of good governance, the researchers conclude from their comparison of sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia that policy decisions are more important than good governance as an explanation of development.

The main elements of successful development policy, in other words, of policy that results in economic growth and poverty alleviation: (1) adequate macro-economic management; (2) pro-poor, pro-rural public spending and (3) economic freedom for peasant farmers and small entrepreneurs. The book also proposes three implementation principles underlying both these policy decisions and the successful implementation of that policy in Southeast Asia: (1) outreach; (2) urgency and (3) expediency.

See also:

http://hdl.handle.net/1887/20579

About the project Tracking Development (with relevant links):
http://www.ascleiden.nl/research/projects/tracking-development
http://vimeo.com/33602308

Abstract: This collective volume is the outcome of the ‘Tracking development research project, which was coordinated by the African Studies Centre and the KITLV (Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies), both in Leiden. The project compared the performance of growth and development in four pairs of countries in Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa during the last sixty years. It tried to answer the question as to how two regions with comparable levels of income per capita in the 1950s could diverge so rapidly. Why are there so many Asian tigers and not yet so many African lions? What could Africa learn from Southeast Asian development trajectories? Following introductory chapters by Bernard Berendsen & Roel van der Veen, David Henley & Jan Kees van Donge, Peter Lewis, and Ton Dietz, the chapters are grouped into four parts comparing, respectively, Indonesia and Nigeria (Riwanto Tirtosudarmo, Ahmad Helmy Fuady, Akinyinka Akinyoade, and David U. Enweremadu), Malaysia and Kenya (Joseph M. Fernando, Othieno Nyanjom, Bethuel K. Kinuthia & Ton Dietz, and Bethuel K. Kinuthia & Syed Mansoob Murshed), Vietnam and Tanzania (Jan Kees van Donge, Blandina Kilama, and Jamal Msami), and Cambodia and Uganda (André Leliveld & Han ten Brummelhuis, Kheang Un, and Leang Un). In the final chapter, David Booth reflects on the results and draws conclusions for Africa’s economic transformation.

Buy e-book: http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/books/9789004260009 (EUR 59)

Contents

Part I Introduction

1. Tracking Development: Design, process, organization, and results/Bernard Berendsen & Roel van der Veen

2. Diverging paths: Explanations and implications / David Henley & Jan Kees van Donge

3. Cross-regional comparisons in development: Questions, approaches, and challenges/Peter Lewis

4. Comparing the agricultural performance of Africa and Southeast Asia over the last fifty years

Part II Comparing Indonesia and Nigeria

5. Technocracy and the institutionalization of economic development in Indonesia and Nigeria (1967-1990)/Riwanto Tirtosudarmo

6. Elites and exchange rate policy in Indonesia and Nigeria/Ahmad Helmy Fuady

8. The impact of corruption on economic development: Comparing the experience of Nigeria and Indonesia (1967-1998)/David U. Enweremadu

(related: Anti-corruption campaign in Nigeria, 1999-2007 http://hdl.handle.net/1887/20102)

Part III Comparing Malaysia and Kenya

9. Agricultural and rural development in Malaysia and Kenya and the politics of policy/ Joseph Fernando

10. The politics of policy for poverty reduction: Comparing Malaysia with Kenya/ Othieno Nyanjom

11. A comparison of the industrial policies and outcomes in Kenya and Malaysia/ Bethuel K. Kinuthia & Ton Dietz

See also Kinuthia's dissertation: http://hdl.handle.net/1887/20601

12. Foreign direct investment in Kenya and Malaysia/ Bethuel K. Kinuthia & Mansoob Murshed

See also Kinuthia’s dissertation: http://hdl.handle.net/1887/20601

Part IV Comparing Vietnam and Tanzania

13. Differential supply responses to liberalization, and resultant poverty alleviation in Vietnam and Tanzania/Jan Kees van Donge

14. The variation in output and marketing of cashew in Tanzania and Vietnam/ Blandina Kilama

See also Kilama’s dissertation: http://hdl.handle.net/1887/20600

15. The textile industry in Vietnam and Tanzania/ Jamal Msami

Part V Comparing Cambodia and Uganda

16. Agricultural policies and performance in an African and Asian poor agrarian society: Uganda and Cambodia compared/ André Leliveld & Han ten Brummelhuis

17. Rhetoric and reality of rural road building: Two tales from Cambodia and Uganda/Kheang Un

18. (Re-)building educational systems as a contribution to growth and well-being: Comparing Uganda and Cambodia/Leang Un

Part VI Some afterthoughts

19. Policy and governance in Africa’s economic transformation: Firm findings and remaining questions/David Booth