

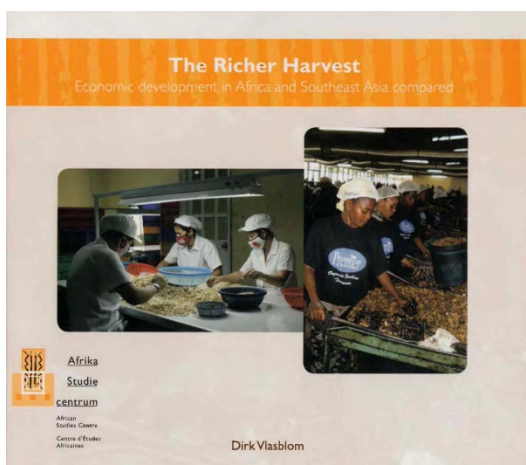
Asian Tigers, African Lions: Comparing the Development Performance of Southeast Asia and Africa, published by Brill in 2013 and coordinated by the African Studies Centre and the Royal Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), Leiden, has won a Choice Outstanding Academic Title Award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



For a non-academic summary: Dirk Vlasblom: *The richer harvest : economic development in Africa and Southeast Asia compared : the 'Tracking Development' study 2006-2011*. Leiden, 2013.

<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>

Asian Tigers, African Lions: Comparing the Development Performance of Southeast Asia and Africa
(Bernard Berendsen, Ton Dietz, Henk Schulte Nordholt & Roel van der Veen, eds)
Leiden, Brill, 2013. ISBN 9789004256538

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.

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