

Sustainable Business Development in Regional Australia SRA

Program Leaders Professor John Hicks and A/Prof P. K. Basu

A highlight for this SRA in 2011 and 2012 would be its success in obtaining consecutive AusAid Australian Leadership Award Fellowships which saw two groups of Chinese academics visit Australia to study and work with members of this SRA.

The fellowships were the result of ongoing research on China-Australia business relations and on regional issues carried out by Professor John Hicks, Professor Kishor Sharma, Associate Professor P K Basu and Dr Richard Sappey over the last ten years.

For the \$158,000 fellowship in 2011 called 'Sustaining Economic Growth in China' which involved Professors Kishor Sharma, John Hicks and Dr Yapa Bandara, four Chinese scholars from Jilin University of Finance and Economics, Tiajin University and Yunnan University of Finance and Economics spent a month at CSU at its Bathurst and Wagga campuses. (CSU's Faculty of Business has had long teaching and research relations with these universities). While here the visitors received training from the Western Research Institute on Input-Output technique and data analysis, and completed research in the areas of:

- Sustainability and rationality of China's fast export growth
- Vertical specialisation of China's exports
- Impact on regional tourism on Chinese economic growth

For the second \$136,000 (plus \$27,000 from CSU) fellowship in 2012 called 'Achieving Balanced Growth in Domestic and External Markets in China', which involved Professors Kishor Sharma and John Hicks, A/Prof PK Basu and Dr Yapa Bandara, six Chinese scholars from three provinces spent six weeks in Australia. While here they also did a month-long training course on the use of Input-Output technique and other related techniques and how they can be used for policy-making purposes.

Outputs from these fellowships have been a number of papers, (published, accepted and in review) and conferences presentations which members of the SRA have co-authored with their Chinese colleagues. Examples include:

- Shi, Y., Sharma, K, Murphy, T., Hicks, J., Arthur, L. (2012) Exports, energy and the environment in China: an input-output perspective *Interdisciplinary Environmental Review* 13(4) pp. 279-293
- Basu, P.K., Hicks, J. and Sherley C., (2012) 'The Role of Education in Determining Growth in Total Factor Productivity: Evidence from the provinces of China'. Paper presented to the 41st Annual

Conference of Regional Science Association International: British and Irish Section, J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland, 28-30 August

- Shi, Y., Sharma, K, Murphy, T., Hicks, J., Arthur, L. (2013) 'Trade and Environment in China: An Input-Output Perspective on the Pollution-haven Hypothesis', *International Journal of Economics and Business Research*, 5(4), pp.420-432.
- Hicks, J. Basu, P. K. Sappey, R. (2012) 'Regional diversity in growth performance in China', *International Journal of Value Chain Management*. 6(1), pp.35-46

Another major project for this SRA during 2011/12 is the ARC Linkage project, 'Determining the factors influencing the success of Indigenous business in urban, regional and remote areas of Australia', with partners the Cultural and Indigenous Research Centre Australia and Indigenous Business Australia (\$254,682). This project, which began in 2011 and will run for three years, involves Prof Mark Morrison, Dr Branka Krivokapic-Skoko, A/Prof P K Basu and Prof Jock Collins from the University of Technology, Sydney.

A three year project funded by Rural Industries Research and Development Corporations (RIRDC) (\$224,000) called New Immigrants in the 'Bush': Attraction and Retention of New Immigrants in Regional and Rural Australia with Dr Branka Krivokapic-Skoko and Prof Jock Collins (UTS) was completed in 2011 with the final report submitted.

This has led to a second three-year project (2012-2015), also funded by RIRDC (\$436,932), for Prof Collins and Dr Branka Krivokapic-Skoko called 'New Immigrants Improving Productivity in Australian Agriculture' which has just begun.

In 2011 three members of the SRA (Dr Krivokapic-skoko, A/Prof Gary O'Neill and Dr David Dowell) received a small grant from the Institute for a research project titled 'An exploratory study of the psychological contract in the mining sector: Can employee attraction, retention and outcomes be enhanced by better understanding of the written contract?' A further foray into research on the mining sector by members of this SRA (Prof Hicks, Dr Krivopic-skoko and Christopher Sherley) resulted in a conference presentation in 2012 called 'Friend or foe: Newcrest Mining Limited and its impact on regional development in Australia' which was presented to the XIII World Congress of Rural Sociology, July 29-August 4, 2012, Lisbon. Further research on this project called 'Mining and corporate citizenship: Newcrest and the communities in the Central West (NSW)' is planned.

Other research undertaken by members of this SRA during 2011/12 included:

- research on regional labor market comparisons, using Census data from 2001 to 2006 to look at industry specialisation (over 50 industries) and whether or not it has increased or decreased, how it has changed, if drought has had an impact, and what effect changes in industry specialisation has had on labor market outcomes. A regional labor studies research group, operating within the SRA, has been formed. Members consist of Prof Hicks, Ms Dierdre Keogh, A/Prof P.K. Basu, Dr Richard Sappey (all Faculty of Business), Dr Jennifer Sappey, Faculty of Arts,

A/Prof Rakesh Gupta, Griffith University and Dr Girijasankar Mallik, University of Western Sydney.

- succession planning in farming with a literature search conducted to gather information on the economics of succession planning in farming in Australia. One of the outputs from this research has been the paper Sappey, R., Hicks, J., Basu, P., Keogh, D., Gupta, R. (2012) 'Succession planning in Australian farming', *The Australasian Accounting Business and Finance Journal*, 6(4), pp. 94-110.
- on-going research on aged-care services in Australia with a paper Sappey, J. and Hicks, J. (2012) 'The economic and social impact of ageing in rural and regional Australia', Paper presented to the XIII World Congress of Rural Sociology, July 29 to August 4, 2012, Lisbon – Portugal.

As part of CSUs involvement in the Murray-Darling Basin Futures Collaborative Research Network (MDB *futures*) led by the University of Canberra, Prof Hicks and A/Prof Basu are involved in a project called 'Modelling community adjustment to water trading in the Murray-Darling Basin', which has just started and will run for three years. The project sits under the CRNs theme of "Drivers of change- understanding and integrating the economic, social, health and environmental drivers of change in the Murray-Darling Basin."

A/Prof Basu, Dr Glen Duncan and Dr Pat Bradbury are also working with an emerging regional engineering business network called RENWELD based in Orange and have secured government and member funding (\$23, 456) to carry out an action research project in 2013.

Members

These include A/Prof P K Basu, Professor John Hicks, Prof Mark Morrison, A/Prof Grant Bamberry, Dr Richard Sappey, Dr Branka Krivokapic-Skoko, Dr Roderick Duncan, and Dr Glen Duncan and ILWS adjunct Professor Jock Collins from the University of Technology, Sydney.

Visitors

Prof Srikkanta Chatterjee from Massey University, New Zealand visited CSU's Bathurst campus in September 2012 for one week to work with Professors John Hicks and Kishor Sharma, A/Professor P.K. Basu, Dr Yapa Bandara and visiting Chinese academics on a paper which seeks to analyse the changing trade patterns between Australia, on the one hand, and separately, China and India and the other.

Another visitor for a week in September, 2012 was Professor Clem Tisdell of Queensland University who joined the CSU staff listed above to work on a research project which seeks to analyse the changing culture of China and the business implications this may have. Both research projects build on the AusAid funded project 'Achieving Balanced Growth in Domestic and External Markets in China.'

Current Projects

Achieving Balanced Growth in Domestic and External Markets in China. Hicks, J., Sharma, K., Basu, P.K. & Bandara, Y. (2012-ongoing) Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship grant from AusAID, \$136,606 & CSU \$26,930

New Immigrants Improving Productivity in Australian Agriculture, Collins, J. & Krivokapic-Skoko, B. (2012-2015) RIRDC, \$436,932

Determining the factors influencing the success of private and community-owned Indigenous businesses across remote, regional and urban Australia. M. Morrison, D.L. Foley, J.H. Collins, B. Krivokapic-Skoko, P.K. Basu, D.K. Brudenall, A.M. Redman ARC Linkage grant with partners Cultural and Indigenous Research Centre Australia, Indigenous Business Australia. (2011 to 2013) \$258,642 [Project Site](#)

Strategies to promote community resilience in disaster management: The case of flooding in selected communities in Bangladesh and Australia. Hicks, J., Ingham, V., & Islam, R., Sappey, R., Mannock, I., CSU (2010 on-going)

Evaluating Major Events in the Region, Hicks, J., Murphy, T., Basu, P.K., Arthur, L., Keigh, D., & West, G. ILWS (2011-ongoing)

Newcrest Mines, Hicks, J., Krivokapic-Skoko, B., Basu, P.K., & Sherley, C. CSU & ILWS, (2011-ongoing)

Regional Labour Market Comparisons, Hicks, J., Basu, P.K., & Sherley, C. CSU & ILWS (2010-ongoing)

The Impact of Education in China, Hicks, J., Basu, P.K. & Sherley, C. CSU. (2011-ongoing)

Completed Projects

Sustaining Economic Growth in China. Sharma, K. Hicks, J & Bandara, Y. Funded by AusAid's Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) Fellowships Program. (2010-2013) \$158,000

Attraction and Retention of New Immigrants in Regional and Rural Australia. Collins, J. & Krivokapic-Skoko, B., RIRDC, (2008-2011), \$224,000

Attraction and Retention of Skills for Businesses in Rural Areas. G. Bamberly, R. Macklin, A. Smith & K. Stone, RIRDC.

Economic and Social Implications of Ageing in Central West NSW. J. Sappey, Z. Bone & R. Duncan (2008) ILWS, Bathurst Regional Council, Blayney Council & DADHC

The impact of innovation in regional manufacturing in the Riverina Region of New South Wales.. G. Bamberly & R. Wickramesekera, Riverina Regional Development Board (2009)

The Role of Work Organisation in a Regional Labour Market for Nursing. Basu, P.K., and Sappey, R., Hicks, J., Latham-Sappey, H., (2007-2009) [\[Summary Sheet PDF\]](#)