

Book review

Yifei Sun, Max Von Zedtwitz and Denis Fred Simon, eds, *Global R&D in China*, Routledge/Taylor and Francis, London and New York, 2007, hardback, £60.00, 184 pp.

A timely new work, just out, is edited by Professor Yifei Sun (California State University) and colleagues with the title '*Global R&D in China*'; it may help to answer questions concerning China's progress in the technology race. The book is a collection of papers from a learned conference held in Nanjing originally and the list of contributors is impressive. If you wish to be up to date with the advances in this field, the book can be recommended.

China has quickly become the first choice of R&D for multinational corporations (MNCs). Many of these, such as *General Motors*, *Lucent*, *Microsoft*, *Motorola* and so, among hundreds of others, have established R&D facilities there. Western labs are setting up shop in the equivalent 'silicon valleys', such as those in Hangzhou and elsewhere. The universities now produce massive numbers of engineers and scientists a year vis a vis our own. Western-style business schools are also flourishing, some seen as centres of excel-

lence, whether in Beijing or Shanghai. Whilst China's exports have been historically lower in the value-chain than Western ones, the tide is now turning and they are beginning to turn their attention to more sophisticated goods to sell to overseas markets, just as Japan did in the second half of the last century. Chinese patent applications are burgeoning by the day. The country now has its own indigenous MNCs, such as *Legend*, for example, buying up Western brand-names, such as *IBM* for their PCs. These will no doubt make their mark in the globalized economy over the coming decades.

A worldwide recession might of course curb the economy's ascent, its exports might be curtailed, its growth-rates trimmed; but some say the odds are still on China's further progress to eventual hegemony in the region and possibly even beyond. This edited book is certainly of considerable potential interest to HSM readers.

Malcolm Warner
Judge Business School
University of Cambridge
Cambridge, CB2 1AG, UK