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**Review of doctoral dissertation written by Adewale
Otukoyi, MSc entitled: *The role of entrepreneurship in the
economic development of Nigeria***

Overall evaluation

The formal basis for the preparation of the review was the decision of the of the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Economics of the University of Gdańsk to appoint reviewers for the doctoral dissertation by Adewale Otukoyi, entitled: *The role of entrepreneurship in the economic development of Nigeria*. Doctoral thesis was written in English.

The doctoral dissertation consists of: introduction, six chapters, bibliography, list of figures, list of tables and seventeen appendices presented for review. The thesis containing of total 253 pages. The reviewed dissertation was prepared at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Gdańsk under supervision of professor Anna Maria Nikodemska-Wołowik and assisted by Tomasz Bieliński, PhD.

The title of the work *The role of entrepreneurship in the economic development of Nigeria* is defined correctly and is consistent with the objectives of the work and corresponds to the content of the reviewed doctoral dissertation.

The reviewed doctoral dissertation deals with issues important for the science of economics, i.e. the role of entrepreneurship in the economic development of developing nation like Nigeria. The starting point is the assumption that there is a positive impact of entrepreneurship on the economic growth of more advanced and transition economies. The author of the doctoral dissertation identified a research gap, related to the lack of empirical research defining the relationship with entrepreneurship and economic development in sub-



Sahara Africa. The problem of the doctoral dissertation is related to five research goals (research attempts), which were defined as follows (pages 21-22):

- *“Whether there are relationships between entrepreneurial activities and economic development?”*
- *“What processes can be development to help in the selection of the most qualified entrepreneurs for the schemes being sponsored by different government organisations in Nigeria?”*
- *“What policies can the Nigeria government implement to create an entrepreneurial environment that will facilitate economic development in Nigeria?”*
- *“What are the roles of factors such as culture, religion, innovation and other environmental factors in economic development and their effect on entrepreneurship?”*
- *“What are the critical barriers and enablers for entrepreneurs in Nigeria?”*

The theoretical basis is the following theories: selected theories of economic development, selected theories of entrepreneurship and selected theories of innovation. The choice of such theoretical foundations is a strong point of the reviewed work. One remark can be made to the theoretical basis. The theories presented did not include the institutional theory of economics and social sciences. Institutional theory emphasizes the relationship between organizations (entrepreneurs) and the environment (Scott, 1995). Institutions can be ordered in three dimensions: cognitive, normative and regulatory (Scott 1995; Huang, Sternquist 2007). The cognitive dimension is related to the assumption that decisions and actions of entities are related to past decisions taken by a given entity and its competitors. This means that decisions (actions) that have had positive effects are replicated, and decisions (actions) that have not produced the desired effects are not acceptable (Forest, Mehier 2001, Huang, Sternquist 2007). The normative dimension means that the decisions and actions of the subject are determined by moral beliefs and internalized commitments based on social and cultural values in a given society (Scott, Christensen 1995, Huang, Sternquist 2007). The regulatory dimension emphasizes that the decisions and actions of entities are determined by the political and legal environment in a given country (Scott 1995; Huang, Sternquist 2007). Adoption of the institutional theory would make the determination of a different research perspective and the preparation of another set of questions for the research questionnaire for entrepreneurs.

The analysis of the literature and the collected empirical material based on quantitative research (survey), qualitative research and secondary data created the author the basis for

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answering the five research questions. Theoretical considerations and own research conducted by the PhD Student and the logical structure of this thesis made it possible to explain the goals of the doctoral thesis.

The theoretical part of every doctoral dissertation in the field of social sciences (including economics ones) is a closely related analysis of the subject literature. In his doctoral dissertation, the author relied on 142 books, 129 articles for scientific journals and 159 internet sources. Selection of literature sources should be assessed positively.

The structure of the doctoral thesis should be different and adapted to world standards. The doctorate thesis consists of three parts: theoretical, methodical and results of own research (analytical). In this case, the structure of the doctoral thesis should be presented in the following way:

Chapter 1. Theoretical foundations - entrepreneurship and economic development

1.1. Measures of economic development - definition and discussion

1.2. Theories of economic development

1.3. Theories of entrepreneurship

1.4. Theories of innovation

1.5. The institutional theory - the starting point for research

Chapter 2. The context of own research - Nigeria

2.1. Basic characteristics of Africa

2.2. Economic history of Nigeria

2.3. Economic development of Nigeria

2.4. Factors determining economic development in Nigeria

2.5. Entrepreneurship in Nigeria

2.6. Some directions for Nigeria - experiences of some emerging economies

Chapter 3. Methodology and analysis of the result, that of own research

3.1. Own research methodology

3.2. Cross-sectional research - the first research goal

3.2. Qualitative research - the second research goal

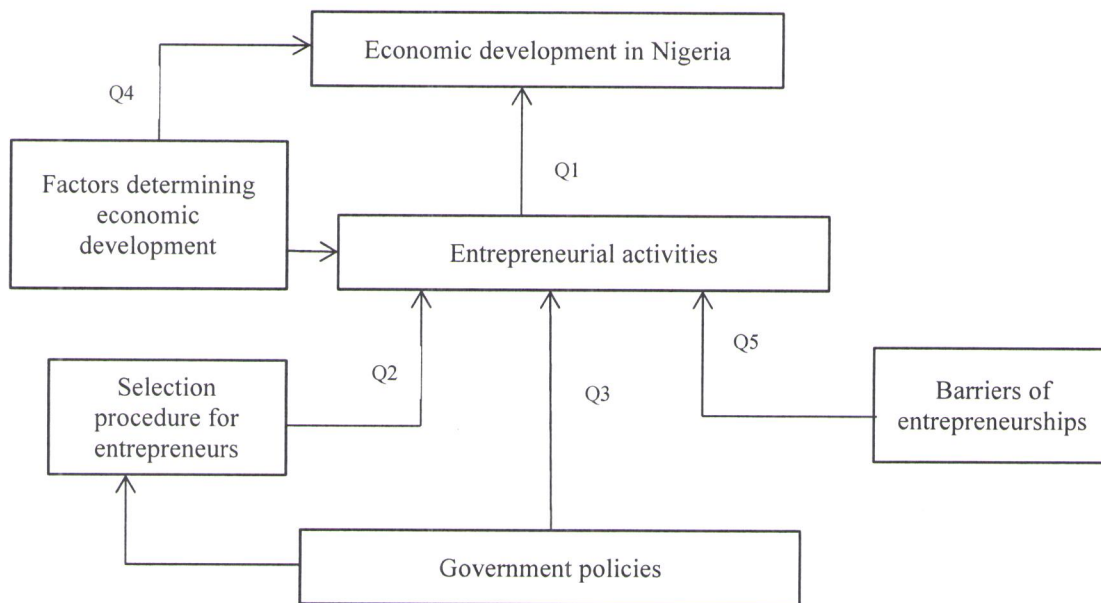
3.3. Quantitative research (survey) - the third, fourth and fifth research goal



The assessment of linguistic correctness, correct compilation of a table of contents, bibliography, list of tables and figures allows for a positive evaluation of the formal side of the reviewed doctoral dissertation.

Specific comments – Introduction

Introduction to the doctoral dissertation contains key information constitute a description of the doctoral dissertation, i.e. significance of study, the research aims, the research questions, theoretical implications, and limitations of the study, content of the chapters. You can submit two comments to Introduction. First, the theories underlying the theoretical dissertation should be directly pointed out. Second, there is no representation of a research model that would illustrate research objectives. Based on the defined research goals, you can design the following research model:



Specific comments - first chapter

The first chapter presents the context of our own research, i.e. the social-economic and historical overview of Nigeria. Conducted considerations are based on statistical data, which give a description of the current economic situation in Nigeria. Particularly noteworthy considerations concern, some directions for Nigeria - experiences of some emerging

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economies. One remark may be made to these considerations. The criteria for the selection of countries should be outlined explicitly.

Specific comments - second chapter

The second chapter presents a review of the literature on the theory of economic development. It is carried out in a logical manner and key theories have been described in a legible way. All that is missing is the identification and definition of key measures of economic development. In my opinion, it is necessary to discuss whether the GDP per capita is a good measure of the economic development, is the HDI (Human Development Index) able to replace it?

Specific comments – third chapter

The third chapter is a characteristic of theories of entrepreneurship. As part of this discussion were presented considerations regarding: history of entrepreneurship, definitions and typology entrepreneurship, common characteristics of entrepreneurship, concepts of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial spirit. This is a good basis for describing entrepreneurial activities and designing your own research.

Specific comments – fourth chapter

The fourth chapter presents considerations regarding selected factors determining economic development. The description applies to such factors as: culture, religion, demography (population), immigration, corruption. Considering the logic of the conducted considerations. Fourth chapter should be preceded by the third chapter. Factors determining economic development have a direct impact on entrepreneurship. One may note these considerations that there were no considerations about an important factor affecting economic development, i.e. education.

Specific comments – fifth chapter

The fifth chapter describes the importance of innovation for entrepreneurship and economic development. I fully agree that innovations are crucial for the development of



entrepreneurship and that the task of the state is to create a favorable climate for the development of innovative behavior.

Specific comments – sixth chapter

The chapter contains discussions on methodology and research results. The results of the research have been presented in relation to all research questions.

The answer to the first research question (*whether there are relationships between entrepreneurial activities and economic development?*) was carried out by presenting the results of two studies describing the relationship between economic development and entrepreneurship (Farayibi 2015 and Adusei 2016). The results of these studies allow to formulate the statement that there is a positive relation between economic development and entrepreneurship.

The answer to the second research question (*what processes can be development to help in the selection of the most qualified entrepreneurs for the schemes being sponsored by different government organisations in Nigeria?*) was given on the basis of the results of quantitative research that would allow to determine the critical factor for the success of entrepreneurs. Based on these results, the model Entrepreneurship Selection Process was designed. This is the strength of the reviewed doctoral dissertation.

Answers to the next three research questions (*what policies can the Nigeria government implement to create an entrepreneurial environment that will facilitate economic development in Nigeria?; what are the roles of factors such as culture, religion, innovation and other environmental factors in economic development and their effect on entrepreneurship?; what are the critical barriers and enablers for entrepreneurs in Nigeria?*) are related to quantitative and qualitative research. However, quantitative research has played a key role. These researches have been designed and carried out correctly. This demonstrates the high methodological skills of the doctoral student.

Summary

The reviewed doctoral thesis is a useful and valuable scientific study. The author presented in achievements of economics science relating primarily to the relation of economic development with entrepreneurship. The research task were carried out in a correct manner, and the conducted analysis proves the Author's ability to conduct scientific research with use

of quantitative and qualitative methods. The reviewed thesis is characterized by high cognitive value and practical usefulness.

Despite the criticisms raised, some of which are of a polemical nature, I would like to say that I positively appraise the reviewed dissertation and express my view that it meets the requirements set in the promotional thesis for the PhD degree in economics. Therefore, I recommend reviewed doctoral dissertation to be accepted and allowed to defend in the Faculty of Economics of the University of Gdańsk

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