Personal strategic alliances: enhancing the scientific and technological contributions of university faculty in Malaysia

V.G.R. Chandran\textsuperscript{a}, Christopher S. Hayter\textsuperscript{b} & Derek Ryan Strong\textsuperscript{c}

\textsuperscript{a} Department of Development Studies, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur 50603, Malaysia
\textsuperscript{b} Center for Organization Research and Design, School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ 85004, USA
\textsuperscript{c} Department of Economics, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC 27402, USA

Published online: 18 Dec 2014.

To cite this article: V.G.R. Chandran, Christopher S. Hayter & Derek Ryan Strong (2014): Personal strategic alliances: enhancing the scientific and technological contributions of university faculty in Malaysia, Economics of Innovation and New Technology

To link to this article: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10438599.2014.988501

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the “Content”) contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing,
Personal strategic alliances: enhancing the scientific and technological contributions of university faculty in Malaysia

V.G.R. Chandran, Christopher S. Hayter and Derek Ryan Strong

aDepartment of Development Studies, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur 50603, Malaysia; bCenter for Organization Research and Design, School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ 85004, USA; cDepartment of Economics, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC 27402, USA

(Received 8 September 2014; final version received 26 October 2014)

Scientific and technological human capital is a critical element for the economic and social advancement of countries in the developing world. Using Malaysia as an example, this paper examines the relationship between the research productivity of university faculty and human capital development with a specific focus on personal strategic alliances. The results show that educational attainment, location at a designated research university, and consulting experience positively influence faculty publication productivity. Furthermore, alliances established through consulting, applied research, and entrepreneurial experiences are critical for the development of new technologies stemming from university research. Malaysia’s experience may hold lessons for developing countries: the full development potential of human capital investments may only be realized by simultaneously strengthening and supporting personal strategic alliances with communities outside academia.

Keywords: strategic alliances; social networks; human capital; science and technology policy; universities; research productivity; Malaysia

1. Introduction

While Malaysia has enjoyed rapid and sustained growth for at least the past 40 years, a recent economic slowdown has ignited fears that the country is sliding toward a so-called ‘middle-income trap’ whereby developing countries fail to achieve high levels of productivity growth. In response to these concerns, Prime Minister YAB Dato’ Sri Mohammed Najib introduced an ambitious plan in 2010 to double Malaysia’s per capita income in eight years, placing much emphasis on the role of Science and Technology (S&T). In the words of Dato’ Sri Dr Zakri, Malaysia’s Science Advisor:

It is increasingly realized that innovation, underpinned by science and technology is a major key to any country’s economic prosperity and social wellbeing. Countries that spend less on research and development (R&D) risk relegation to the backwaters of under-development. (NSRC 2013)

The Prime Minister’s S&T strategy has included substantial investments in human capital, including efforts to expand the number of PhDs educated in Malaysia and to increase R&D spending.

*Corresponding author. Email: chayter@asu.edu

© 2014 Taylor & Francis