

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

Program:	Master in International Business
Student:	Ivan Iuzhakov
Title of thesis:	Russian and Chinese OFDI. Drivers and determinants for FDI exchange

<p>Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis. Justification of the topic choice; accuracy in defining the aim and tasks of the thesis; originality of the topic and the extent to which it was covered; alignment of the thesis' topic, aim and objectives.</p>
<p>The master thesis by Ivan Iuzhakov is devoted to the study of determinants for FDI exchange between China and Russia. The topic relevance is high due to the rising trend of outward internationalization of BRIC firms, with the increase in focus on these two countries' economies. The aim of the paper is focused on uncovering the drivers and determinants of Russian and Chinese FDI mutually and on investigating the motives for these countries' FDI exchange. The topic was covered absolutely, being aligned with the aim and objectives of the thesis.</p>
<p>Structure and logic of the text flow. Logic of research; full scope of the thesis; alignment of thesis' structural parts, i.e. theoretical and empirical parts.</p>
<p>The thesis is well-structured and logical. The report consists of 10 sections, including introduction and conclusion, in which the structure of the research is reflected. Both theoretical and empirical components are presented and balanced in the thesis.</p>
<p>Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives. Adequacy of objectives coverage; ability to formulate and convey the research problem; ability to offer options for its solution; application of the latest trends in relevant research are for the set objectives.</p>
<p>The objectives are covered fully and successfully. The research problem was formulated and explored properly. The relevant research sources were involved and the analytical capability while doing the own study was well demonstrated. In his thesis author synthesized the data on the OFDI from China and Russia and analyzed the major issues of OFDI exchange between these two countries.</p>
<p>Quality of data gathering and description. Quality of selecting research tools and methods; data validity adequacy; adequacy of used data for chosen research tools and methods; completeness and relevance of the list of references.</p>
<p>The data gathered meets the requirements of the thesis's aim. Author has collected the wide data on foreign direct investments in Russia and China and professionally analysed it. Data is valid and fits the thesis objectives. The list of references is provided in the end of the paper.</p>
<p>Scientific aspect of the thesis. Independent scientific thinking in solving the set problem/objectives; the extent to which the student contributed to selecting and justifying the research model (conceptual and/or quantitative), developing methodology/approach to set objectives.</p>
<p>Author has demonstrated the independent scientific thinking in solving the goal and objectives. The extent of author contribution to the research content and quality is high. The development of the methodology for the research is valid.</p>
<p>Practical/applied nature of research. Extent to which the theoretical background is related to the international or Russian managerial practice; development of applied recommendations; justification and interpretation of the empirical/applied results.</p>
<p>The research validity is evident and the practical orientation of the thesis is obvious. The results of the thesis can be applied in the process of the development of international projects by Russian and Chinese firms in the counterpart markets. The specifics of the OFDI revealed by author may be of interest when shaping the strategies by these countries' firms.</p>
<p>Quality of thesis layout. Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence, correct layout of tables, figures, references.</p>
<p>The layout of thesis, including tables, figures, and references, is correct. Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence.</p>

The Master thesis of Ivan Iuzhakov meets the requirements for master thesis of MIB program, thus the author of the thesis can be awarded the required degree.

Andrei Yu. Panibratov
 Professor, GSOM
 June 14, 2012