

Assessment of Master Thesis – Opponent



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

Field of study: **International Trade**

Academic year: **2015/2016**

Master Thesis Topic: **The Competitiveness of China in the 21st Century: Analysing China's Human Capital**

Author's name: **Bc. Markéta Dvořáková**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **doc. Ing. Zuzana Stuchlíková, Ph.D.**

Opponent: **doc. Ing. Pavel Hnát, Ph.D.**

	Criterion	Mark (1–4)
1.	Overall objective achievement	1
2.	Logical structure	1
3.	Using of literature, citations	1
4.	Adequacy of methods used	2
5.	Depth of analysis	2
6.	Self-reliance of author	2
7.	Formal requirements: text, graphs, tables	1
8.	Language and stylistics	1

Comments and Questions:

Master thesis by Markéta Dvořáková is an interesting and thorough case study of selected aspects of Chinese competitiveness. It offers many interesting conclusions and insights and put the special emphasis on the role of human capital. Even though its objective is clear, the four hypotheses are not truly tested throughout the thesis; it would thus be better to state them as partial aims of individual chapters or parts of the thesis. Also the logic and structure of the thesis is clear even though the quality and depth of analysis improves namely in later parts of the thesis. Especially the first (general) and partially also the second chapter are too broad and offer numerous drawbacks and rash conclusions that would require much deeper analysis. Should they serve as an introduction to the final part on human capital, the author should have concentrated on human capital role in the competitiveness concepts in stead of their shallow and general description.

The more emphasis is given to the human capital and its developments in the later parts, the better the thesis becomes. Namely the third chapter offers many valuable contributions and even though it mostly interprets quoted sources, it offers an innovative and detailed picture of the recent developments of this important aspects of the Chinese society and economy.

Overall I assess the thesis as very good and appreciate author's input and dedication which is apparent from the form as well as thorough work. Connection between competitiveness and human capital could have been better studied, which would probably also lead to less optimistic conclusions about the Chinese economic model and role of government (see e.g. WEF GCR assessment of the institutional quality).

Based upon the thesis defense, I do recommend it to be evaluated as very good or excellent.

Following question could clarify the neglected aspects of Chinese economic model:

1. You highly appreciate government's role in driving Chinese competitiveness. Does it also apply to external part of competitiveness and namely to internationalization of yuan? Is it more driven by global market forces and Chinese demography or by Chinese government action?
2. Improvements in human capital should reflect themselves in the structure of Chinese exports, both in relation to services and higher value-added in manufactured exports. Do data on services trade and trade in value added (for instance the TiVA database) support your optimistic assessments on Chinese external competitiveness?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **1**

Date: 12/28/2015

doc. Ing. Pavel Hnát, Ph.D.
Opponent