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Introduction

The globalisation and regionalisation processes occurring in the today's global economy are phenomena which are nowadays observable in every world region. They are most dynamic in the Asia and Pacific region despite the huge diversity of the countries located there on multiple planes.

The research related to the Asia and Pacific region conducted by the Wrocław University of Economics yielded the second area-specific volume for Asian Studies as a part of the Economics series, which this time is published in English. This will facilitate spreading the research results among not only Polish but also foreign readers.

This volume is devoted to the socio-cultural, economic and military issues present in the Asia and Pacific region. Seventeen authors with diverse research interests and experience are presenting the results in several subject areas. Here can be found papers dealing with the issues related to the process of economic cooperation in the discussed region, on the example of selected countries and sectors, as well as those discussing problems connected with the economic growth of selected countries. Authors of successive papers write about the effects of the global recession, showing this problem on the example of Singapore, and others – relating its effects to the operation of regional financial markets. Several papers, whose authors do not conceal their fascination with the development of international corporations originating from Asian countries, provide the theoretical bases as well as the trends of development. Finally, the last group of papers comprise texts about the global problems in the Asia and Pacific region, such as: ways to counteract natural disasters, power raw material management, environmental protection policy or official development aid.

The papers composing this publication may serve as a complementary material for the *globalisation and regionalisation* subject (in the regionalisation part), incorporated into the curriculum core of the unique *international economic relations* major. Studies on this major have been conducted at the Wrocław University of Economics since 1 October 2007.

As the editor, I hope that this second area-specific volume for Asian Studies will contribute to further in-depth research on the problems of the Asia and Pacific region, as well as its relations with the countries and business entities from Europe.

Wrocław, December 2010

Bogusława Skulska