

***UNU-MERIT workshop on Multinationals and Emerging Economies: The Quest for Innovation and Sustainability***

The UNU-MERIT research workshop on 27th November on the topic, “Multinationals and Emerging Economies: The Quest for Innovation and Sustainability,” was convened by the Institute’s research group on innovation, global business strategies and host country development, led by Prof. Geert Duysters. With the active participation of leading international business researchers, the meeting explored the diverse ways in which multinational corporations and the emerging economies of Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe are interlinked, and how these relationships are shaping the global economy.

The ten papers presented at the workshop provided different perspectives on the nexus between multinationals, emerging economies and innovation, and demonstrated how innovation, as a core driving force in today’s global economy, may both clash with and encourage sustainability of economic processes in an environmental and social sense. Specific issues discussed included: the implications of the Kyoto protocol; sources of alternative energy and sustainability; how best to serve low-income markets; life sciences in emerging economies; innovativeness of firms; internationalization of firms from emerging economies; international strategic alliances; and the impact of culture on multinationals.

In addition to members of the research group, a number of international scholars participated in the discussions, including Anabel Marin (University of Sussex, SPRU), Ludovico Alcorta (Maastricht School of Management), Rajesh Kumar (University of Aarhus), Rajneesh Narula (University of Reading), Sarianna Lundan (Maastricht University and the Research Institute of the Finnish Economy – ETLA), Wilfred Dolfsma (Utrecht School of Economics).

The outcome of the discussions will be incorporated in an edited volume containing the ten papers presented at the workshop. The volume is due to be published by Edward Elgar in 2008.