Productivity Research Network (PRN)

Fourth Conference – Productivity, financial constraints and labour decisions of SMEs

The University of Sydney, Australia (May 16-17, 2019)

SMEs outnumber large companies by a wide margin and also contribute much more to employment. For example, in Australia, the SME sector is the largest employer, it covers 1.96 million out of 2 million registered businesses, and accounts for one third of total GDP. However, SMEs substantially differ in their access to financial and credit markets, and are often disproportionally affected by financial crises, changes in the business and innovation environment, and the dynamics of equilibrium in the labour market. Despite significant progress in understanding the empirical and theoretical dimensions of these issues, a number of questions remain unanswered. Do SMEs’ financial constraints affect their survival? What are the impacts of SMEs’ financial condition on their productivity and growth? How do firm’s financial resources contribute to employment processes? How does firm’s access to financial resources influence their decisions about workers’ demands in terms of wages? How do firms share the risks associated with employment relations when facing the risk of illiquidity? What are the relationship between SMEs’ financial conditions and decisions about employment, wages and investment in innovative activities?

To explore questions in these emerging areas of academic and policy research, PRN is organising its fourth Conference on May 16-17, 2019 at the University of Sydney in Australia. The Conference – cosponsored by the University of Sydney, Macquarie University, and Business School - National University of Singapore (NUS) – is intended to allow regional researchers to learn about existing applied work focusing particularly on the Asia-Pacific region and generate research spill-overs and potential collaborations. The Conference is expected to provide an opportunity to also discuss how the Productivity Research Network (PRN) can provide an impetus for enhancing data collection within the region, aimed at allowing the development of solid research and policy analyses.

Professor Ms. Lin TIAN, from INSEAD, will be holding a key-note address.
CALL FOR PAPERS

The organisation committee invites selected researchers to submit papers for presentation to the 16-17 May, 2019 Workshop in Sydney, Australia. The papers can be either theoretical or empirically based on firm level data, and address one or more of the following topics. Empirical works using the cross-country (Asia/Pacific) PRN firm-level based dataset will be given priority:

1. Cross-country comparable productivity measures and methodologies
2. Impact of firm’s financial conditions on productivity growth
3. The link between productivity and employment at firm level
4. Firms’ decisions about workers’ demands in terms of wages
5. The relationship between SMEs’ financial condition and decisions about employment and innovative activity
6. The ways firms’ financial resources impact upon employment process
7. Firms’ risk sharing associated with employment relations when facing risk of illiquidity
8. Labour market search and matching process

Papers should be submitted electronically in PDF to BIZLIUZ@NUS.EDU.SG (please indicate in the subject title “Fourth PRN Conference 16-17 May 2019”) by 30 March 2019.

The Organization/Selection Committee is composed by:

Sasan Bakhtiari (Australian Dept. of Industry, Innovation and Science)
Gee Hee Hong (IMF)
Lisa Magnani (Macquarie University)
Filippo di Mauro (NUS)
John Romalis (University of Sydney)
Ben Charoenwong (NUS)
Johan Sulaeman (NUS)
Cris Badarinza (NUS)

The program of the Workshop will be circulated by 15 April 2019. There will be only very limited financing available to attend the Conference, and participants are expected to take care of their own travel and accommodation expenses.