

Newly Independent Landlocked Asian Countries: Challenges for Connecting to World Economies

Jay Nathan (Thailand 1991, Poland 1998, Kazakhstan 2002)

Biography

Jay Nathan, a tenured full professor of business administration, has been teaching at St. John's University, New York City, for the past sixteen years; prior to that, he was a tenured professor at the University of Scranton, Pennsylvania. He has business experience besides teaching, and has worked for and consulted with various U.S. companies that include responsibilities for strategic planning, forecasting, total quality management (TQM), corporate planning for international markets. He has traveled and lectured in Central Asian Countries. He was awarded Honorable professorship by the Karaganda University of Economics in Kazakhstan. He has published over one-hundred articles that include internationalization and global engagement. He earned his Ph.D. degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1980 in the field of Industrial Organization with the minor in International Business. He is elected to Sigma Iota Epsilon and member of the Academy of Management, International Academy of Business, Decision Sciences Institute, and American Society for Quality Control.

Background

Poor and developing countries of the world are facing many issues that prevent them to fully enjoy the benefits of the interconnected world economies and globalization; there are several factors: history, climate, proximity to market economies, education, healthcare, political stability, and infrastructure to name just a few. Landlocked countries have no direct access to ocean or sea ports; some of them do not even have modern international airports; these countries are doubly disadvantaged since they have to depend on neighboring countries for the transportation of their exports and imports.

This roundtable discussion focuses on such Asian countries as Nepal, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and others. Why are these countries unable to engage actively in international business? What are their obstacles to receiving foreign direct investments? Nepal, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan have a huge land mass and natural resources. What might be the priorities these countries can pursue?

Discussions Questions

1. What is a landlocked country?
2. What are the challenges for a landlocked country for global engagement?
3. Do climate and bordering countries matter? How?
4. What are their obstacles to receive foreign direct investments?
5. Nepal, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan have a huge land mass and natural resources; what might be the priorities these countries can pursue to internationalize their businesses?