Title:
Port Cluster Development in the Victorian, South Australian and Tasmanian Region

Type:
2017 John Bicknell Scholarship

Value & Duration:
The John Bicknell Scholarship is equivalent to a University of Tasmania Elite scholarship (current APA rate + $7,500 top-up per annum), with additional operational funds of up to $5,000 per annum) for a term of 3 years (with a possible 6 month extension). The scholarship is available to domestic and international applicants, and the awardee must meet or exceed the criteria of a University of Tasmania Elite award. It is awarded on an annual basis, subject to funds being available.

Closing date:
11:59pm (AEST), Tuesday 31 January 2017

The Research Project:
The term cluster is defined as a regional concentration of related economic activities, and the concept has been embraced by many social scientists and regional policy makers. Clusters of economic activity can result in economies of agglomeration and supply chain network effects. Without these economies and network effects, clusters would not have a competitive advantage over businesses that are not in a cluster. However, few studies pay much attention to the emerging and potential cluster of ports in Victoria (VIC), South Australia (SA) and Tasmania (TAS). The potential VIC-TAS-SA port cluster is benefited with the emerging submarine industry in SA, the heavy dependence of Tasmanian exports and imports on maritime transport, and the Port of Melbourne as the main Australian container shipping hub. As such, to some extent, the Port of Melbourne behaves as a regional hub and the ports in SA and TAS are spokes. They all have their typical industrial cluster and supply chain network.

This study aims to develop the regional port cluster framework to analyse the interactions and coordination among key port cluster actors with respect to the internal and external perspectives, which extends the framework developed by Zhang and Lam (2014) and Zhang (2015). The project aims to work out the economic impact of the proposed port cluster using the Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) framework and analyse the economics of agglomeration and network effects quantitatively. It also identifies the role policy plays in being a main driver for cluster evolution. In particular, it provides specific suggestions for policy makers across the region with regards to the collaborative path of development for the port and logistics industry in VIC, SA and TAS.

Eligibility:
The following eligibility criteria apply to this scholarship:

- The scholarship is open to Australian (domestic) candidates & to International candidates.
- The PhD must be undertaken on a full-time basis.
- Applicants must already have been awarded a first class Honours degree or Research Masters degree with at least a Distinction result.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate strong research and analytical skills.
**Funding:**
This PhD scholarship is funded by the commemorative John Bicknell Scholarship.

**Application Process:**
Applicants requiring more information or who are interested in this specific project should contact the Primary Supervisor listed below.

To determine eligibility, applicants should visit the [Apply Now](#) website and complete an Expression of Interest, which may be found [here](#). Please ensure that a complete list of any publications and awards are included, as well as details of relevant industry experience (including employer name, type of business, employment dates and principal responsibilities). International applications will also need to provide evidence of their English proficiency (such as an IELTS certificate). It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain supervisor agreement prior to submitting an Expression of Interest, and to ensure that all supporting documentation is submitted prior to the closing date.

Please specify the name of the project advertised into the Project Title field, and indicate under Scholarship Support that you wish to be considered for a living allowance scholarship.

**More information:**
Please contact Dr Wei (Vera) Zhang ([Vera.Zhang@utas.edu.au](mailto:Vera.Zhang@utas.edu.au)) for more information.