

World Investment Report Series: An Expanding Storehouse of FDI-related Knowledge

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Abstract

Over the past few decades, the United Nations and its various agencies have contributed in myriad ways to a fuller and better understanding of the phenomena of foreign direct investment (FDI) and transnational corporations (TNCs), significantly through the annual publication the *World Investment Report (WIR)*, which began in 1991 and has been published annually since. A 2008 book by the present author, in collaboration with the late John H. Dunning has traced the work of the UN on TNCs that had begun in New York as the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC) and moved to Geneva under the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Because of its importance as a source of knowledge and analyses concerning FDI, *WIR* warrants a closer examination. This is true particularly in the fields of international business and strategy which are in constant search for new information and analysis. Regrettably his source remains relatively overlooked and under IB scholars' radar.

The importance of *WIR* is threefold. First, it is the annual chronicle of all work related to TNCs and FDI within the enterprise, first begun in New York and now at UNCTAD in Geneva. Second, it contains data on the most significant trends, developments, and major forms of international business activity by TNCs, policy changes, and of a multitude of other pertinent developments. Third, the series canvasses the literature and extracts the most significant and relevant scholarly contributions on TNC-FDI-host country relations, and focuses on a special topic each year. The contribution of the series is also threefold: knowledge-creation, capacity-building, and policy development. This paper analyzes the contributions of the series and suggests ways in which scholars can benefit from it in their teaching and research.