LOCALIZATION OF TAIWAN-BASED FOOTWEAR BUSINESS IN THE EXPATRIATION STATE

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ABSTRACT

Since 1980s, Taiwan investment setting has been deteriorated owing to the rising cost in labor and land, the higher standard in environmental protection and the appreciation of its currency. Many manufacturing factories have moved out of the island. For the past ten plus years, most Taiwanese footwear companies have manufactured goods at their subsidiary factories in Mainland China and South Eastern Asian countries. Facing the commonly known 20-year life span of footwear industry, Taiwan-based footwear companies should devise strategies to maintain competitiveness. Case study and interview are the methods for this study. The finding is that one of the biggest issues of overseas investment for Taiwan-based footwear industry is lacking competent professionals to solve the adjustment problems such as the increasingly changing economic environment and legal regulations. It is advised that entrepreneurs make the best use of the resources in the target nation and promote localization. To promote localization, the following four guidelines should be helpful: a. Be aware of the necessity of localization b. Clarify corporate objectives and value the willingness and competence of expatriate CEOs c. Localize step by step according to the corporate objectives and the degree of acquired resources d. Finally, localize the human resources. Digitization and transformation toward capital- and tech-intensive footwear industry are relevant objectives in order to front the competition vis-?-vis the local industry in the target nation.

Keywords: localization; footwear industry; overseas investment

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