

Trade Openness and Wage Inequality: Evidence for Malaysia

Associate Professor Dr. Rusmawati Said - University Putra - Malaysia



Mercredi 6 mai 12h00-13h30
IEDES, 45 bis, av. de la Belle Gabrielle, Nogent-sur-Marne
salle 14 du bâtiment principal



Séminaire Développement et sociétés - UMR 201

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This study examines the impact of trade openness on wage inequality in Malaysia during the period 1984–1997. Malaysia has operated a very open trade regime since the 1960s and has pursued aggressive import substitution and export supporting policies. This development strategy is very different to that adopted in many other emerging economies where trade liberalisation has been associated with greater wage inequality. The aim of the present study is to examine whether Malaysia's more open approach to international trade has had a similar effect on wage inequality. The results of the study suggest, in fact, that this is not the case. This study adapt a methodology employed in a number of previous study where the approach basically involves estimating wage functions, which include some measure of the level of trade-related competitiveness and/or technology in addition to the standard measures of human capital and other personal attributes, using datasets from Household Income Survey (HIS) obtained from Departments of Statistics of Malaysia and other datasets obtained from same source. Inevitably, the final conclusions that can be drawn from the study are constrained by the data available.

Dr. Rusmawati Said is an associate professor at Economics Department in University Putra Malaysia, graduated from Cardiff School of Business, United Kingdom with a Master Degree holder in Economics. Currently, Asc. Prof. Dr. is well-known in labour economics field and currently is developing carrier towards green jobs field. Asc. Prof Dr. have involved in many researches related to labour markets. Her recent consultation works involves many aspects of labour market which are as follows :

- i) Human Resources Development (HRD) Modelling ; Manpower Economic Development Integrated Systems
- ii) Intergrating Studies on Manpower Planning in Multisectoral Framewrok
- iii) Study on Supply and Demand for Professional Occupations in Meeting the Need of a High Income Economy in 2020.

Recently, Asc. Prof. Dr. is involved in a Knowledge Transfer Programme with an association of Ministry of Eduction, Malaysia which entitled 'Integrated Economic and Green Training Programme. This project attempts to introduce green technology in handling the labour market information for related research area.

Asc. Prof. Dr. has been appointed as consultants for many project under the association of Ministry of Human Resources and currently, is playing her role actively as the fellow advisor for one of the sub-unit in this Ministry known as Institute of Labour Market Information and Analysis (ILMIA).

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