

Emergence of the entrepreneurial university in evolution of the triple helix: The case of Northeastern University in China

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Abstract:

Purpose – The study aims at disclosing the evolution process to an entrepreneurial university in the government-pulled triple helix in China through the analysis of MIT and Stanford model of “university-pushed triple helix” in which academic institutions take the lead in regional innovation.

Design/methodology/approach – The paper is based on a case study of the Northeastern University (NEU), which is located in the Northeast China where there is a dominant government-pulled triple helix and with the establishment of China's first science park in which a highly successful software company (Neusoft) was created.

Findings – The pathway to an entrepreneurial university begins with government-pulled + industry-university collaboration, to university-industry collaboration + interaction triple helix. This may be followed by a gradually developing “university-industry collaboration” in which companies fund academic research with potential industrial use, the beginnings of a university-pushed triple helix.

Originality/value – The analysis of NEU exemplifies the emergence of the entrepreneurial university in China and provides strategic implications for policy makers in terms of designing the appropriate policy to support university enterprising strategy.

Keywords:

Entrepreneurialism, Universities, Innovation, China