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ECONOMIC THEORY, APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES

Working Paper No. 44

**The Evolution and Classification
Of the Published Books of Clem Tisdell:
A Brief Overview**

by

Clem Tisdell

July 2007



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The Evolution and Classification of the
Published Books of Clem Tisdell:
A Brief Overview¹

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Clem Tisdell²

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¹ I wish to thank Professor John Lodewijks for prompting me to do this review.

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WORKING PAPERS IN THE SERIES, *Economic Theory, Applications and Issues*, are published by the School of Economics, University of Queensland, 4072, Australia.

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The Evolution and Classification of the Published Books of Clem Tisdell: A Brief Overview

ABSTRACT

This paper outlines the evolution and classification of the major works (published books) of Clem Tisdell. To do this it divides these books into six categories.

1. Those focusing on knowledge limitations and, the presence of uncertainty (information economics). These develop microeconomic theory and apply it to policy issues. Subjects covered include the operation of market systems, the economics of decision-making, managerial economics, science and technology policy, bounded rationality, and evolutionary economics.
2. Textbooks on microeconomics and basic economics.
3. Ecological, natural resource and environmental economics.
4. Tourism economics and leisure studies.
5. Economic development in general and in particular, Asian-Pacific countries or regions.
6. Social policy, which includes coverage of gender issues, social issues associated with globalization, and the investigation of poverty and social disadvantage.

The subject matter of several of these books overlaps and other classifications are also possible. Some of Tisdell's books are co-authored and several are jointly edited. In addition, a collection of his articles (several of which are jointly authored) have not yet appeared in book form. Note that this overview is not intended to provide an in-depth analysis of recurring themes in Tisdell's books and the development of these.

The Evolution and Classification of the Published Books of Clem Tisdell: A Brief Overview

1. Introduction

In July 2007, Professor John Lodewijks came to interview me as a part of a series of interviews he was undertaking with senior Australian economists. He mentioned that because I had written so much and on such diverse topics that it would be difficult to classify my written work. I therefore, thought that others could also have this difficulty and that it might be worthwhile classifying my written work identifying the way in which it has evolved and is interconnected. Therefore, I have prepared this brief account. It could be expanded on later.

It is difficult to know how best to classify my written work because whatever taxonomic scheme is adopted, there is likely to be overlap between the categories and some published items are difficult to pigeon-hole. Nevertheless, most of my published work involves microeconomic applications and there are evolutionary patterns in the development of my work. My books[‡] provide the clearest indication of the development of my economic thought and mainly reflect the coverage of my articles. However, there are many articles not accounted for by books and possibly I shall cover these in a later review. Reviewing my articles is more difficult than doing this for my books because they are so numerous.

My books and many of my articles can be divided into six categories:

[‡] For a list of these visit the following website:
http://www.uq.edu.au/economics/PDF/staff/Clem_Tisdell_Publications.pdf

- (1) Those focused on knowledge limitations (information economics) and which develop microeconomic theory and apply it to policy issues. Areas covered include the operation of market systems, the economics of decision-making, managerial economics, science and technology policy, bounded rationality and evolutionary economics.
- (2) Textbooks on microeconomics and basic economics.
- (3) Ecological, natural resource and environmental economics.
- (4) Tourism economics and leisure economics.
- (5) Economic development, particularly of small states such as Pacific island nations, and the economic development of Bangladesh, China, India and Sri Lanka.
- (6) Social policy, which includes coverage of gender issues, social issues associated with globalization, and the investigation of poverty and social disadvantage.

Even though there is considerable overlap between these categories (in particular between themes involving the environment, development, tourism/leisure and social policy), the above classification is helpful. I will therefore, use it to organize the coverage in this essay.

2. Information Economics

My first book, *The Theory of Price Uncertainty, Production and Profit* was published in 1968 by Princeton University Press. It was a slightly revised version of my PhD thesis in Economics completed in the Research School of Social Sciences of the Australian National University. Professor William J. Baumol of Princeton University

was one of the examiners of my thesis and reported on it favourably. My degree was awarded in 1964.

Princeton University Press agreed in 1966 to publish the manuscript. Possibly, Baumol's support was an important factor in that decision. The manuscript was ready to send to Princeton in 1966. Princeton University Press stressed that it should be sent by air mail. I packed it carefully and personally took it to the mail section of the Australian National University pointing out that it was vital to send it by airmail. Time went by and eventually Princeton University Press wrote to say that they were still waiting on the manuscript. Several months later it arrived having been sent by sea mail! This is why it was not published until 1968.

At the time, the book made some significant contributions to microeconomic theory and was a starting point for other publications of mine focusing on the economics of information and uncertainty. It sold about 2000 copies which was a substantial number for such a specialized book.

My book *Bounded Rationality and Economic Evolution: A Contribution to Decision Making, Economics and Management* published in 2006 by Edward Elgar, to a large extent developed themes and ideas that had their genesis in *The Theory of Price Uncertainty, Production and Profit*. For example, a part of the earlier book gave particular attention to decision theory. *Bounded Rationality and Economic Evolution* was based to a large extent on articles which I published between 1966 and 1995. The 1966 article which appeared in *Kyklos* was already written in 1965 when I was a

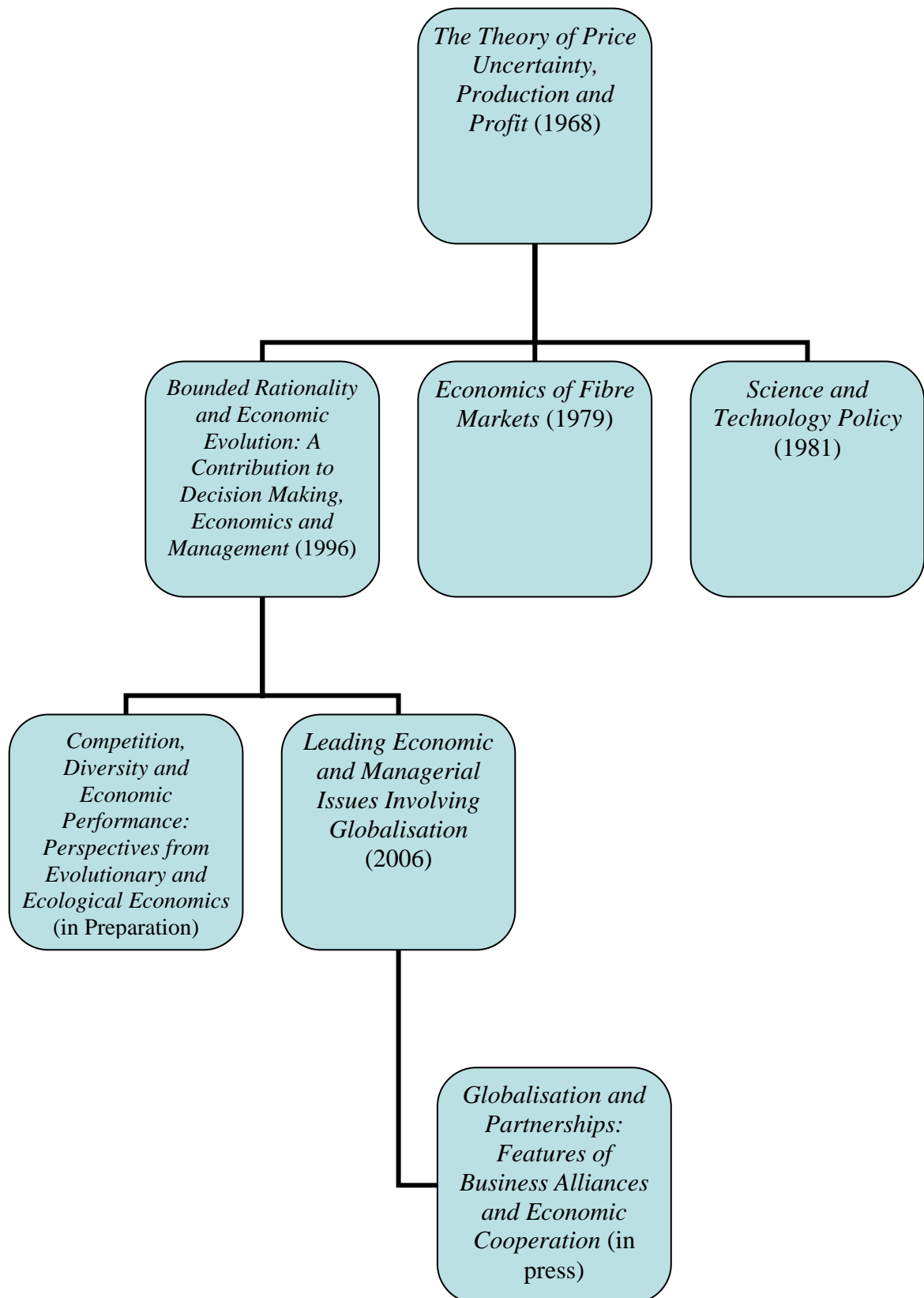
Visiting Fellow at Princeton University. Professor Oskar Morgenstern arranged for it to be included as Research Memo 76 in his Econometric Research Programme.

Further evolution of my earlier ideas (particularly my interest in the economic consequences of diversity) has occurred since 1995. These developments will be published by Edward Elgar in a new book entitled *Competition, Diversity and Economic Performance: Perspectives from Evolutionary and Ecological Economics*. The economic significance of diverse behaviours is stressed in this book, as in the previous two books.

The *Economics of Fibre Markets: Market Interdependence between Man-made Fibres, Wool and Cotton* published in 1979 by Pergamon Press, arose from research funded by an Australian Wool Corporation research grant. Some of the theory in *The Theory of Price Uncertainty, Production and Profit* was further developed for it but there was also considerable emphasis on aspects of marketing and industrial organization.

Science and Technology Policy: Priorities of Governments was published in 1981 by Chapman and Hall. It was developed from a report prepared for the Australian Science and Technology Council (ASTECC). Between 1970 and 1981, I had a number of research grants for studies on industrial R and D, patents and science and technology policy and published many articles in this area. Professor Don Lamberton was very supportive of my work in this area which overlapped with his interest in information economics. It was through this connection that I was appointed to the editorial board of *Prometheus*.

Figure 1: A chart indicating links between my books related to information economics and decision-making



Two recent edited books with French academics can, in part, be related to themes in *Bounded Rationality and Economic Evolution* which cover economic and managerial issues. These books are Aurifeille, J-M., Svizzero, S. and Tisdell, C.A. (eds.) (2006) *Leading Economic and Managerial Issues Involving Globalisation*, Nova Science, New York and by the same editors and publisher, *Globalisation and Partnerships: Features of Business Alliances and International Co-operation* (in press). They arose from international workshops, the first of which I organized in Brisbane. The evolutionary nature of my published books in this area is illustrated by the chart in Figure 1.

3 Textbooks on Microeconomics and Basic Economics

My first text book was *Microeconomics: The Theory of Economic Allocation*. It was published by John Wiley in a Wiley International Edition and was based on my lectures at the Australian National University (ANU). It was widely adopted internationally, particularly outside the United States. It was used in Britain, Nigeria, South Africa, India and so on. It had over 7 printings and was ‘pirated’ in Taiwan. Possibly of the order of 50,000 copies were sold. A Brazilian (Portuguese edition) of this book appeared in 1978. Although *Microeconomics: The Theory of Economic Allocation* is out of print, it is still being photocopied and used for example. in France.

At the request of John Wiley, I subsequently wrote the *Economics of Markets: An Introduction to Economic Analysis* and this was published in 1974. It was especially designed for the Australasian market. It was less advanced than the previous text and included Australasian examples and case studies. It was a success and in 1982, it was

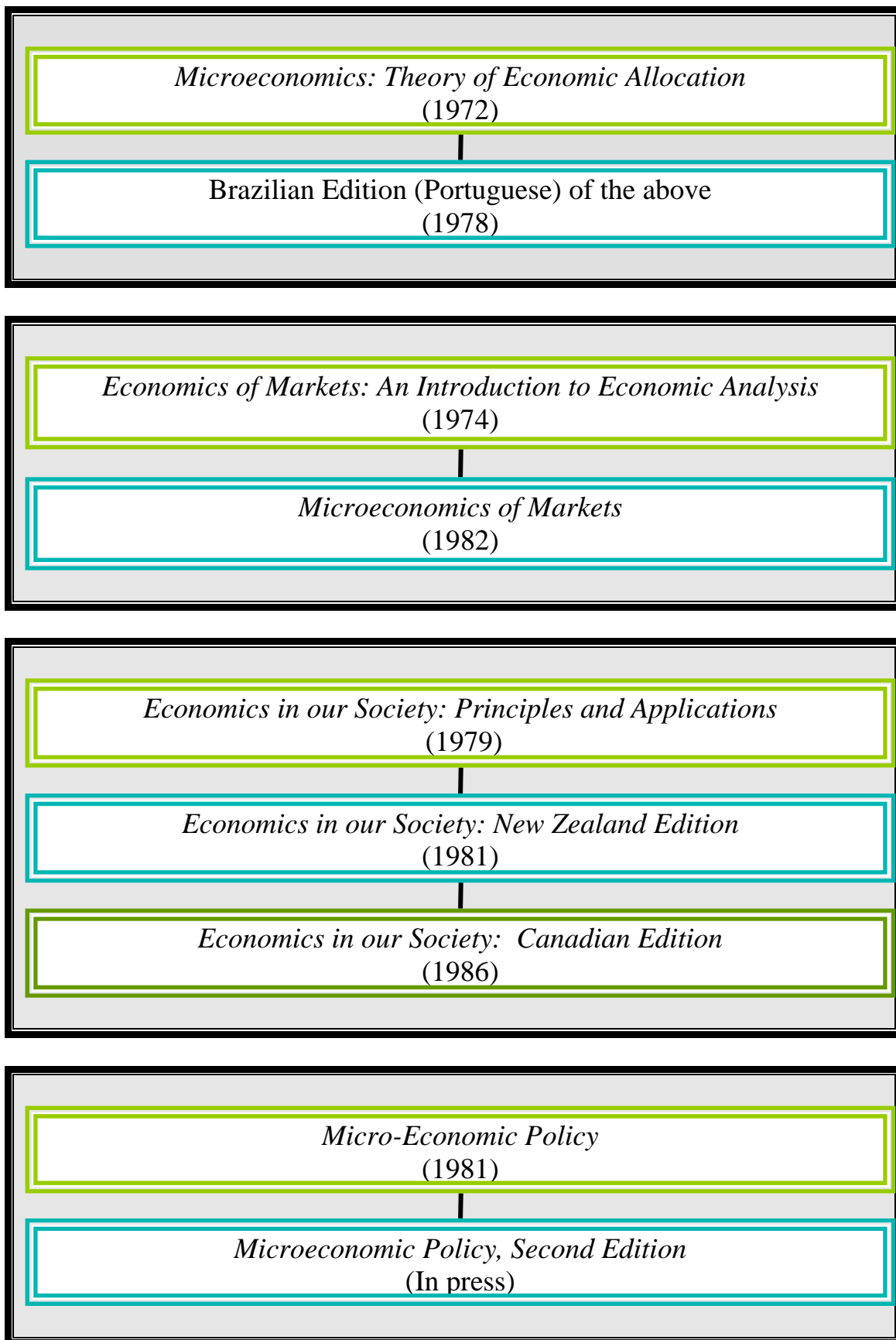
replaced by *Microeconomics of Markets* which was even more widely used as a text in Australasia.

In the latter part of 1970s, the Jacaranda Press, a division of John Wiley, requested me to produce a text suitable for Australian schools. The outcome was *Economics in Our Society: Principles and Applications*. Professor John Ward produced a New Zealand edition of this which was published in 1981. Professor Bruce Forster produced a Canadian edition in 1986 which was entitled *Economics in Canadian Society*.

During two study leaves, I visited the University of York in the UK. On the second visit in 1979, Keith Hartley and I agreed to produce a book entitled *Microeconomic Policy* and this was published by the UK division of John Wiley in 1981. I am not quite sure now how the idea emerged of publishing this book. However, Keith and I have just finished the manuscript for *Microeconomic Policy, Second Edition* which will be published by Edward Elgar and should appear in about April of 2008.

A summary overview of how my text books evolved and are related to one another can be obtained by considering Figure 2

Figure 2: Chart of textbooks on microeconomics and basic economics



4 Ecological, Natural Resource and Environmental Economics

My first articles on ecological economics and related themes appeared in the early 1970s but it was a while before I started to publish entire books in this area. However, a whole chapter (a long one), Chapter 15 entitled “Resources, Ecology and Environmental Economics”, was included in 1974 in the *Economics of Markets*. This was a forerunner of my expanding interest in this subject and I guess, I was a pioneer of this subject. This theme was strengthened in the *Microeconomics of Markets* in 1982.

Relatively specialized books on this theme

Wild Pigs: Environmental Pest or Economic Resource? (1982) was my first book entirely on ecological economics. I began my research for it after coming to Newcastle in New South Wales. I had already written some papers dealing with ecological subjects in Canberra for example. about kangaroos, but these looked at the species mostly as assets. When I came to Newcastle, I wanted to do some research on vertebrate pest species. I spoke to a senior officer of the NSW Department of Agriculture in the Hunter Valley about this. He said that feral pigs were becoming a problem and that it would be useful to consider the economic impacts of these.

I obtained a small research grant from the Reserve Bank of Australia and wrote a rather theoretical paper on the subject which I presented at a seminar at the University of New South Wales. I thought that would be the end of the matter. However, the Reserve Bank expressed interest in me continuing my research on this subject and a larger grant for more sustained and in-depth research followed. As a result the

interdisciplinary book, *Wild Pigs: Environmental Pest or Economic Resource?*, emerged.

It was written at Newcastle University. It was typed by Elaine Sheehan as a copy-ready document using an IBM 'golf-ball' typewriter. My colleague Barry Gordon expressed his concern to me that a professor of economics should write on such a subject. While there were times that I wondered if I could successfully manage to complete such a multidisciplinary effort, I said to Barry: "Do not worry. It will bring home the bacon". In unexpected ways, it did.

A diverse group found this book of interest such as agriculturalists, hunters and naturalists, mammalogists with a particular interest in wild pigs as well as agricultural scientists and agricultural economists studying pest control. It resulted in an interesting chain of events.

First, I was invited to attend the International Theriological (Mammology) Conference in Edmonton, Canada, to present a paper on wild pigs. I was also invited to become a member of the IUCN Specialist Group on Pigs and Peccaries, but never took up this offer. Furthermore, it resulted in many contacts with research scientists in the New South Wales Department of Agriculture.

In addition, I was approached by Dr. Bruce Auld, Senior Agricultural Research Scientist with the New South Wales Department of Agriculture in Orange to do some collaborative research in the economics of weed control. He had noticed parallels between the spread of feral pigs as pests and that of weeds after reading my work.

This collaboration resulted in the publication in 1987 of Auld, Menz and Tisdell, *Weed Control Economics* by Academic Press. It appeared in their Applied Botany and Crop Science Series and was well received.

Further direct consequences of the book on *Wild Pigs* was that it resulted in contacts with Dr. Daryl Mason at Kruger National Park (who was researching warthogs) and also research collaboration with Dr. Shunjo Takahashi in Japan. I visited Dr. Mason at Kruger National Park in 1984 and in 1991, I was awarded a Japan Society for Promotion of Science Fellowship to foster my collaboration with Dr. Takahashi (a geographer) in studying feral animals. As extraordinary as it may appear, my book on *Wild Pigs* also led to my involvement in aquaculture economics and resulted in books dealing with the economics of the culture of giant clams.

In about 1986, I was approached by Dr. Joseph Remenyi to do some research on the economics of cultivating giant clams. He had been seconded from Deakin University to the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and was involved in the management of some of its research projects. ACIAR had been supporting scientific research at James Cook University into the culture of giant clams with a view to making their aquaculture possible (as was possible for many species of oysters) and to restock coral reefs. Many of the species of giant clams were endangered in the wild. ACIAR thought that it was about time that someone was involved in the project to assess its economic prospects. Joe Remenyi said that ACIAR were looking for an 'outdoor-type' of economist to do this. Someone remembered that I had written the book on *Wild Pigs*. I was, therefore, approached by

Joe to participate in the giant clam project. Two edited books resulted from my involvement and were published by ACIAR. These are:

1. Tisdell, C. (ed.) (1992) *Giant Clams in the Sustainable Development of the South Pacific: Socio-Economic Issues in Mariculture and Conservation*, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Canberra; and
2. Tisdell, C., Shang, Y.C. and Leung, P.S. (eds.) (1994), *Economics of Commercial Giant Clam Culture*, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Canberra.

During the course of this research, I began collaborating with Professors Shang and Leung of the University of Hawaii who had also begun to explore the economics of culturing giant clams. This collaboration resulted in me attending a meeting and conference at the International Fishing Research Institute in Taiwan in 1993 in which several international scholars interested in aquaculture economics participated. It was decided to form the International Association of Aquaculture Economics and Management (IAAEM) at this meeting and to publish the journal *Aquaculture Economics and Management*. I was appointed as co-editor of the journal. It was originally published by Blackwell Science but they discontinued it after a few years and then it was published at The University of Queensland for several years before it was taken over by Routledge. I was President of IAAEM in the period 1999-2004. It was a considerable effort for me to secure the future of *Aquaculture Economics and Management*, (AEM) after Blackwell Science abandoned the project because I had to manage the production distribution promotion and printing of the journal from Brisbane. The idea was to secure it so it would have a future. This eventually worked out.

More general books on the natural resources, ecological and environment

My first relatively general book in this area was published in 1990 by Praeger Publishers, New York and was entitled *Natural Resources, Growth and Development: Economics and Ecology of Resource Scarcity*. It was based on my lectures, presentations and research while I was William Evans Visiting Professor at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. It was primarily through my connection with Dr. Priyatosh Maitra that I established my connection with the Department of Economics at Otago University, Dunedin, New Zealand.

This book was followed in 1991 by *Economics of Environmental Conservation: Economics for Environmental and Ecological Management* which was No.1 in Elsevier's series 'Developments in Environmental Economics'. It was to a large extent based on my lectures at the University of Newcastle in Environmental Economics. However, I was disappointed by the high price that Elsevier put on the book. Its high price meant that students could not afford to buy it. Nevertheless, over 2000 copies were sold. I established Environmental Economics as a subject soon after joining the University of Newcastle in 1972. This was probably the first course on environmental economics in Australia and one of the first worldwide.

In 1993, Edward Elgar published my *Environmental Economics, Policies for Environmental Management and Sustainable Development*. It was based on articles I had written on the subject in the period 1970-1991 and which I found to be useful, amongst other things, as references for my lectures on environmental and ecological economics.

In 1991, as a result of my involvement in the foundation of the International Institute of Development Economics (IIDS) located in Calcutta, I participated in its first conference and jointly edited *Economic Development of Poor Countries: Experiences, Obstacles and Sustainability in Global Perspective*, World Press, Calcutta. Dr. Kartik Roy (after joining the Economics Department at The University of Queensland) was active in encouraging me to be involved in IIDS. In 1996, I also jointly edited another volume with an environmental focus based on the proceedings of an IIDS conference. It was entitled, *Environment and Sustainable Agricultural Development: Concepts, General Issues and Strategies* and was published by New Age Publishers, New Delhi.

In 1992, my developing 'Indian connection' resulted in the publication of a jointly authored book entitled *Economic Development and the Environment: A Case Study of India*. This was published by Oxford University Press, Calcutta and came out as a paperback in 1995. A further addition to my published work on the environment and economic development in South Asia was achieved in 1998 when Dr. Mohammad Alauddin, (a former PhD student of mine) and myself published the co-authored book, *The Environment and Economic Development in South Asia: An Overview Concentrating on Bangladesh* with Macmillan, Basingstoke, UK.

I visited Sweden a couple of times primarily at the invitation of Professor Andrew Dragun who was then at the Swedish University of Agricultural Science in Uppsala. On my second visit, it was decided we should jointly edit a book. I had some suitable articles as a result of my presentations during my visit to Uppsala and Andrew also had some and we were able to convince others to contribute. The result was the publication by Edward Elgar in 1999 of *Sustainable Agriculture and Environment:*

Globalization and the Impact of Trade Liberalisation. A Japanese edition of this was also produced in 2001 by the Food and Agriculture Policy Research Center in Tokyo.

In 1999, my book *Biodiversity, Conservation and Sustainable Development: Principles and Practices with Asian Examples* was published by Edward Elgar. It was mostly, but not entirely, based on articles published by me in the period 1994-1996. A portion of it drew on my experiences in China, particularly in Yunnan Province. I had a small grant from ACIAR to undertake joint research with Dr. Zhu Xiang of the Southwest Forestry College in Kunming on nature conservation and economic development in Xishuangbanna Prefecture in Yunnan. This book was well received and was reprinted. It includes coverage of some important general issues involving biodiversity conservation.

I still had many published articles on the environment and ecology that had not been put together in an integrated collection. Three books were published by Edward Elgar in the period 2002-2003 to fill these gaps. These were (1) in 2002, *The Economics of Conserving Wildlife and Natural Areas*, and in 2003, (2) *Economics in Ecology in Agriculture and Marine Production: Bioeconomics and Resource Use* and (3) *Ecological and Environmental Economics: Selected Issues and Policy Reforms*.

The next major development for me in this area was when Edward Elgar expressed an interest in publishing a second edition of the *Economics of Environmental Conservation*. This came out in Britain towards the end of 2005 and was released in America in 2006. In early 2007, the American Libraries Association selected it for

their Choice Award. This was a great honour because it meant that it was rated as one of the best texts published in 2006 in *all* fields.

Figure 3 provides an overview of the pattern of publication of my more specialised books on natural resource, ecological and environmental economics whereas Figure 4 does that for my less specialised books in this area. However, those that relate most specifically to developing countries are not listed in Figure 4 but have been added to Figure 6.

Figure 3: Chart of Tisdell's main books on ecological, natural resource and environmental economics. The set on relatively specialized topics.

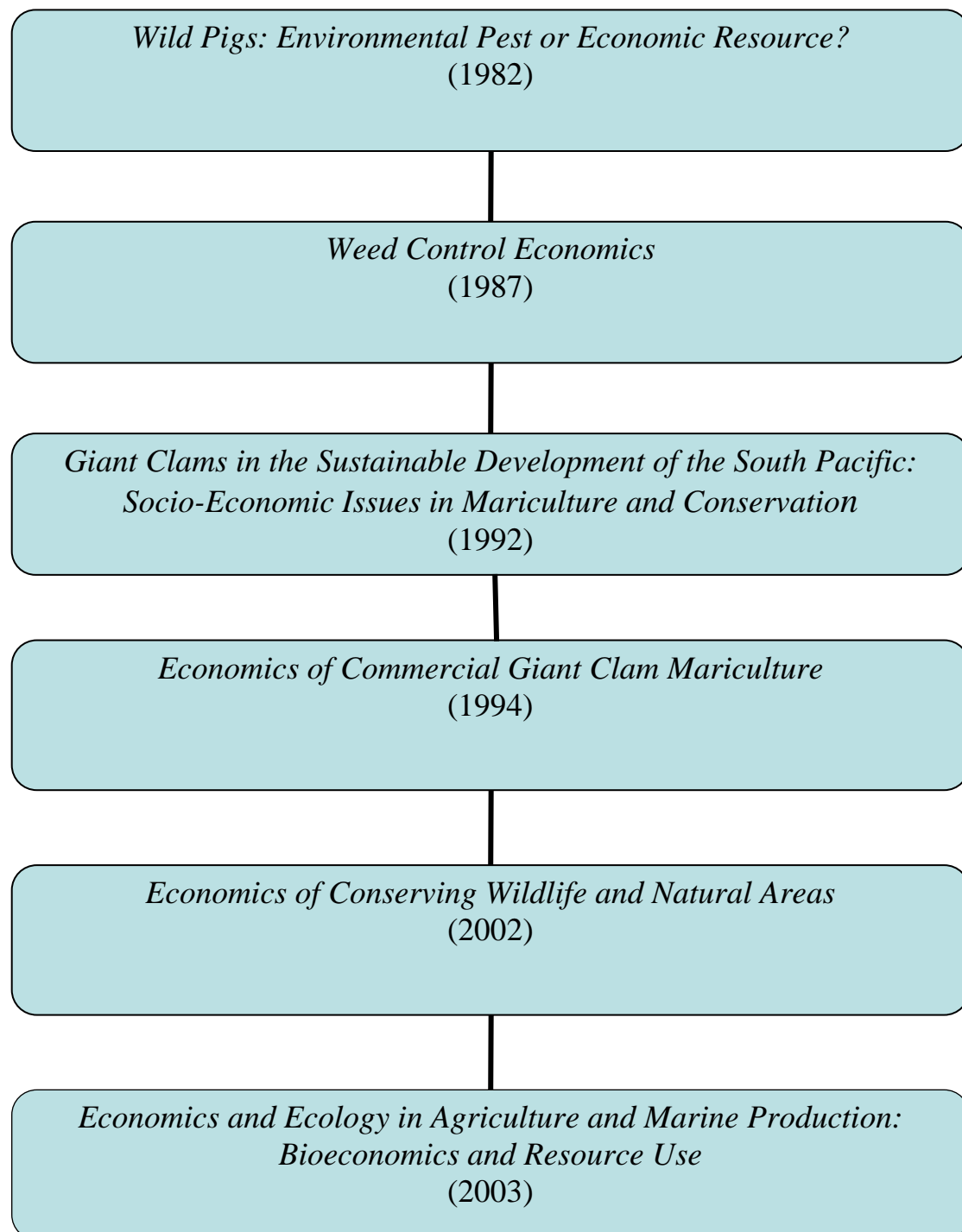
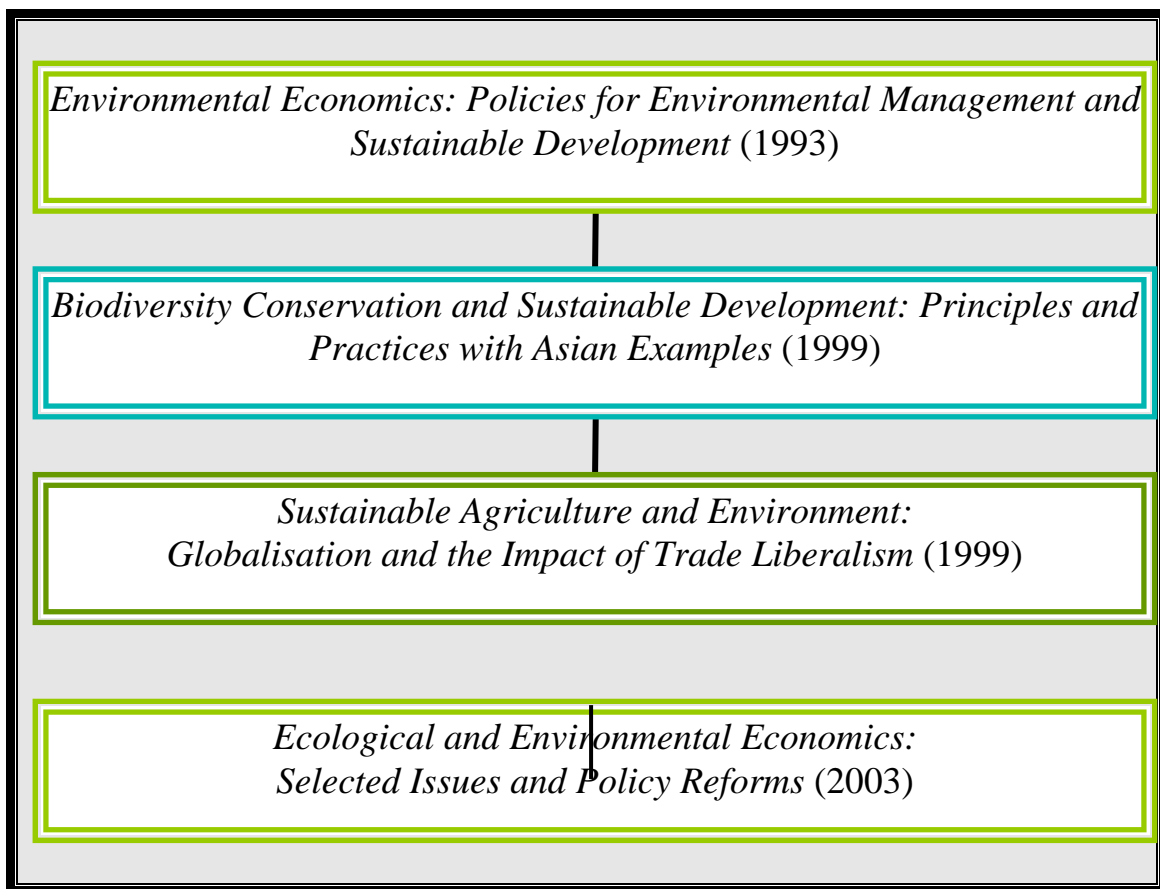
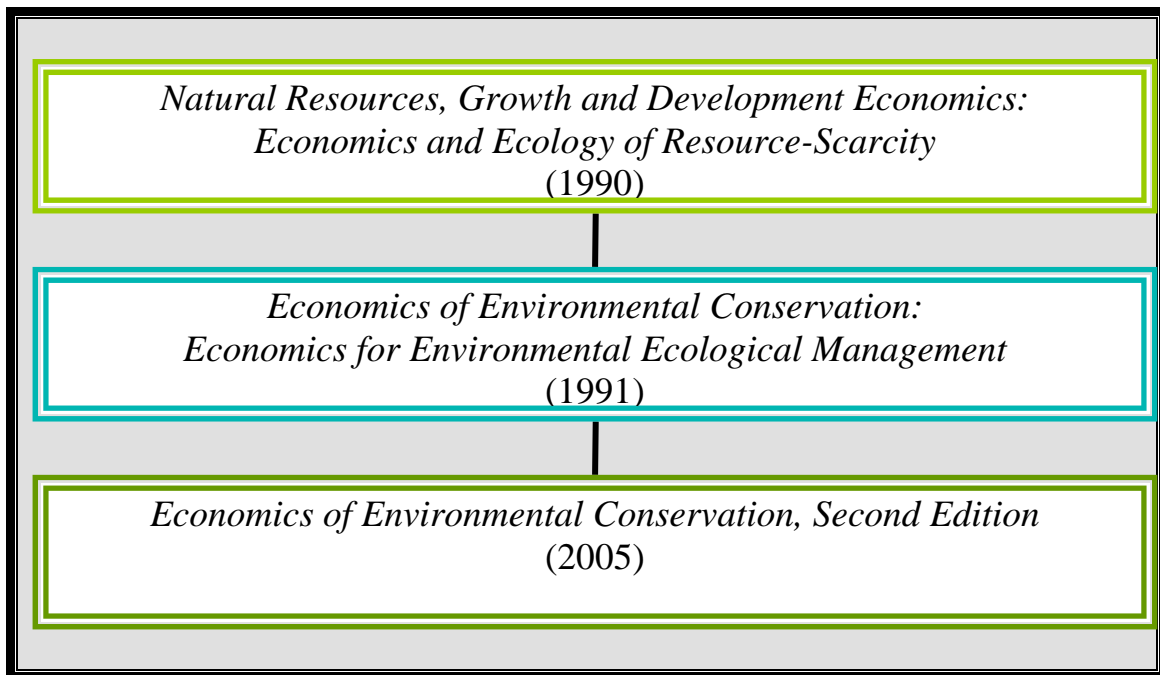


Figure 4: A Chart of Tisdell's main books on ecological, natural resource and environmental economics. The set of more general ones.



5. Tourism Economics and Leisure Studies

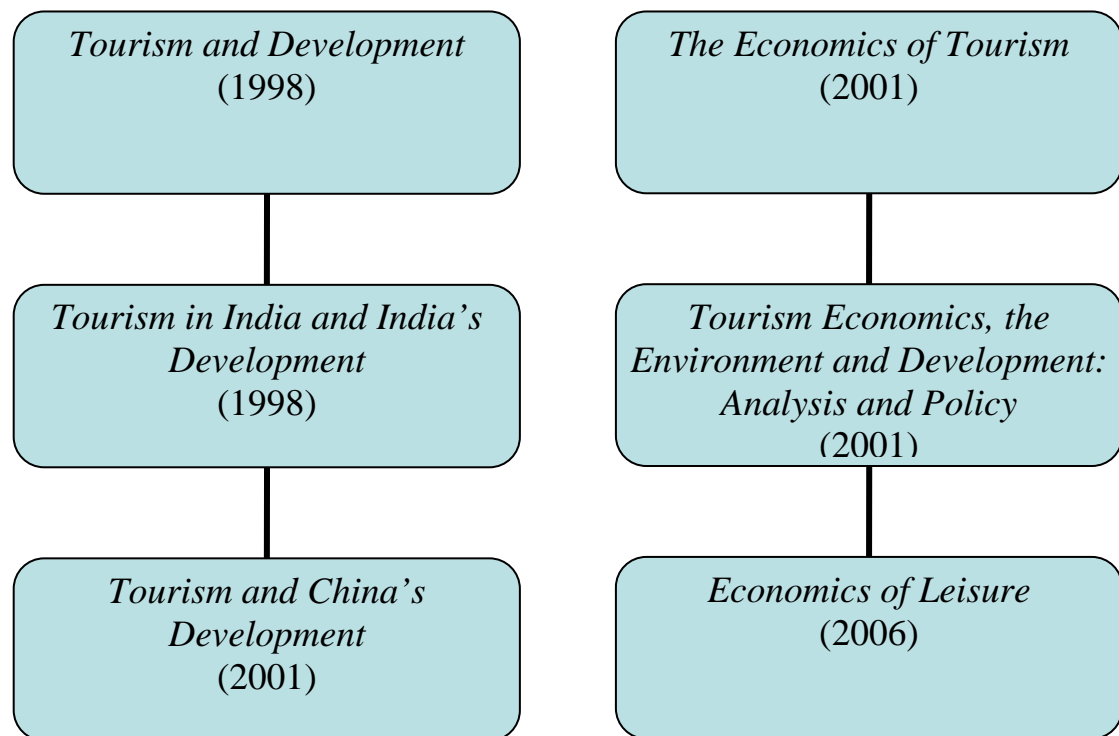
My interest in tourism economics evolved from my interest in natural resources and the environment. Professor Ken Tucker invited me in the early 1980s to become involved in the ASEAN – Australian Joint Project and suggested that I concentrate on R&D services. Although I had a solid track record by then on the economics of R&D, I suggested to him that I would like to try something different but still in the services field. Therefore, I opted to do research and write a paper on ‘Tourism, the environment and international trade, and public economics’ which appeared as *ASEAN – Australian Economic Papers* No. 6 in 1984. Between 1983 and 1998, I published several articles dealing with tourism economics, the environment and development. These were integrated into a book, *Tourism Economics, the Environment and Development: Analysis and Policy* which was published by Edward Elgar in 2001. This was well received and reprinted.

Prior to this, I edited two books with K. Roy based on an IIDS Conference held in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, in 1987 with tourism and development as their theme. These books are (1) *Tourism in India and India’s Economic Development* and (2) *Tourism and Development: Economic, Social, Political and Environmental Trends*. They were published by Nova Science Publishers, New York.

While I was working on the manuscript for *Tourism Economics, the Environment and Development* Edward Elgar invited me to prepare a contribution to his Critical Writings in Economics series. This resulted in the *Economics of Tourism* which he published two volumes in 2000. Collecting the relevant articles and writing the overview was a major challenge, but I learnt a lot from it. It was a major challenge

because contributions to tourism economics are often multidisciplinary in nature and scattered across varied sources. Considerable search was needed.

Figure 5: Chart of Tisdell's books on Tourism Economics and Leisure Economics



Because tourism and leisure studies are often linked, Edward Elgar subsequently suggested that I might like to consider editing another book in his Critical Writings series dealing with leisure economics. This was even more challenging but eventually resulted in the publication in 2006 in two volumes on the *Economics of Leisure*. Once again, a multidisciplinary approach was required, particularly because of the overlap of the subject with sociology and to some extent, psychology.

Figure 5 provides an overview of books on tourism economics or leisure studies in which I have been involved as an author or editor. Those on the left hand side were jointly edited or co-authored whereas for those on the right hand side, I was sole author or editor.

6. Economic Development

My interest in writing on economic development evolved when I was at the University of Newcastle. My first papers in this area were written with Teo Ian Fairbairn and then I had several PhD students from developing countries. The presence of these students provided ongoing stimulus for me to engage in development studies. Some books combined environment and development themes.

My first two books having a focus on developing countries were published in 1990. One was written with Dr. David McKee of Kent State University, Ohio. It was entitled *Development Issues in Small Island Economies* and was published by Praeger, New York. It was written as a result of David's suggestion. The other, also published by Praeger in 1990, was entitled *Natural Resources, Growth and Development* and was based on various presentations that I made while I was William Evans Visiting

Professor at the University of Otago in New Zealand. It contained some interesting chapters on development economics. After coming to Brisbane, my publications of authored books or edited books dealing with economic development or with developing countries became more frequent.

In 1991, M. Alauddin and myself published *The Green Revolution and Economic Development: The Process and its Impact in Bangladesh*. This was based on joint research while Mohammad was doing his PhD at Newcastle University and on our subsequent research. Books with a development focus on India began to appear as a result of connections with the Institute of International Economics in Calcutta. For example in 1992, Oxford University Press published *Economic Development and the Environment: A Case Study of India*, a paperback version of this appeared in 1995. Further edited books with focus on India followed. My interest in China also developed.

In 1993, Macmillan published my book on *Economic Development in the Context of China: Policy Issues and Analysis*. It was based on my lectures and presentations in China in 1989. A Chinese edition was published in 1995 by the Development Publishing House in Beijing. This was followed by two jointly edited books in 1997 based on a conference held at The University of Queensland. One was entitled *China's Economic Growth and Transition* and the other *China and the Asian-Pacific Economy*. In 2001, Julie Wen and myself published *Tourism and China's Development*. Two edited books related to tourism in India had already appeared in 1988 and were jointly edited by Kartik Roy and myself. These were the product of an

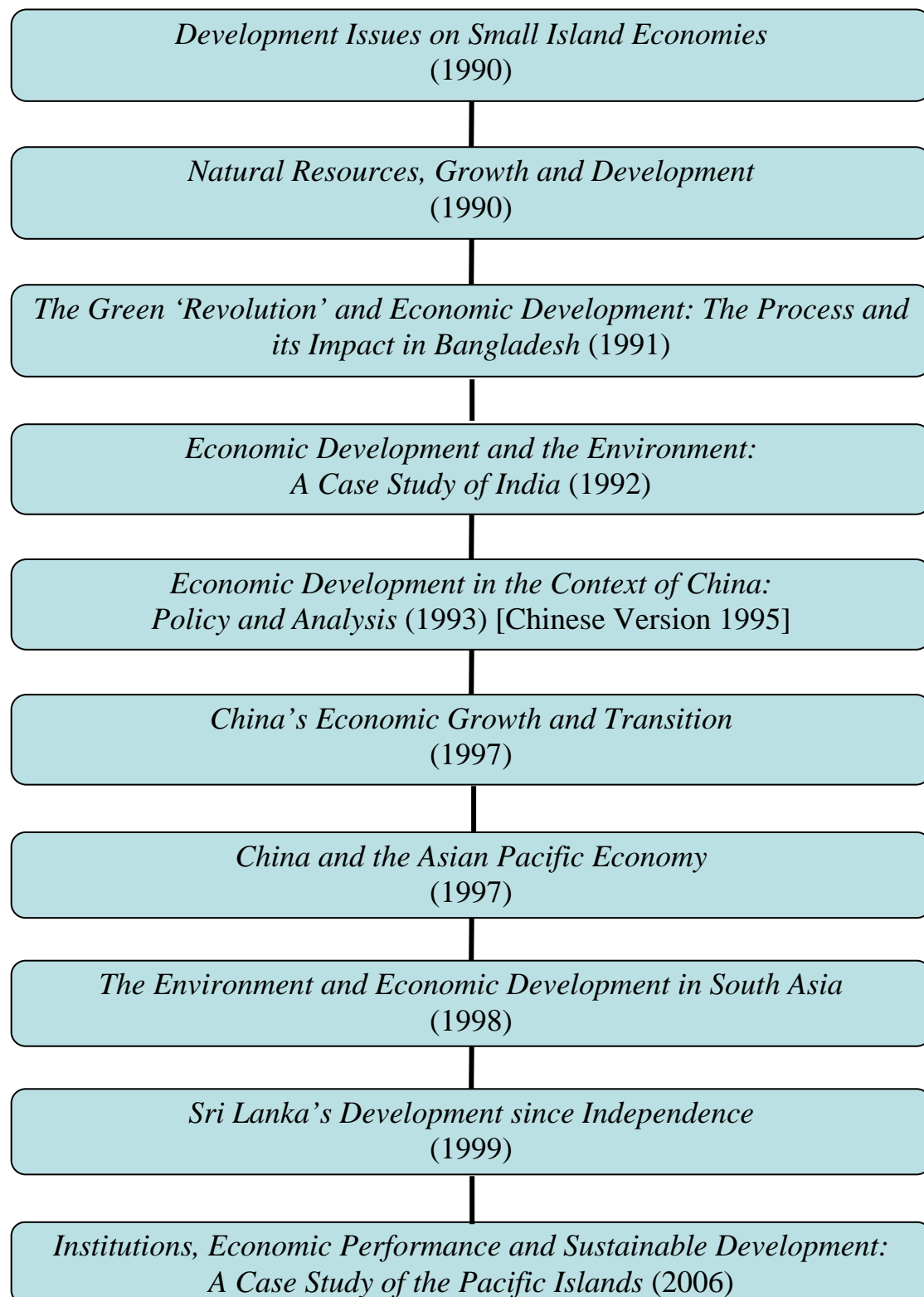
IIDS conference held in Bhubaneswar in Orissa, India and were entitled *Tourism in India and India's Economic Development* and *Tourism and Development Economics*.

In 1999, Professor W D Lakshman, who was the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, requested that I should cooperate with him in editing a book focused on Sri Lanka's economic development. Our initial contact was made through Dr. Neil Karunaratne, a colleague at The University of Queensland who was originally from Sri Lanka. This helped to strengthen my contacts with Sri Lanka and resulted in the publication in 2000 of *Sri Lanka's Development since Independence*.

Further book publication dealing with less developed regions included Alauddin, M. and Tisdell, C.A. (1998) *The Environment and Economic Development in South Asia*, Macmillan, and Prasad, B.C. and Tisdell, C. (2006) *Institutions, Economic Performance and Sustainable Development: A Case Study of the Fiji Islands*, Nova Science, New York. The former was a follow-on publication from the earlier jointly authored book with Dr. Alauddin. The latter evolved from joint research completed while Biman Prasad was completing his PhD at University of Queensland and our subsequent research.

An overview of the pattern of my book publications in relation to developing economies can be obtained from Figure 6.

Figure 6: Chart of Tisdell's main books on developing countries and related issues, including those focused on tourism (see Figure 5) and some edited books.



7. Social Policy

Much of my work on social policy has not yet been presented in book form. However, there are social policy themes in most of the books in which I have been an author or an editor, and as I mentioned earlier, most of my themes overlap. Books with a strong social theme include:

Tisdell, C. and Maitra, P (eds.) (1988) *Technological Change, Development and the Environment: Socio-Economic Perspectives*, Routledge, London and New York.

Roy, K.C., Tisdell, C.A. and Blomquist, H.C. (eds.) (1999) *Economic Development and Women in the World Community*, Praeger, New York.

Tisdell, C. and Sen, R.K. (eds.) (2004) *Economic Globalisation: Social Conflicts, Labour and Environmental Issues*, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, UK.

Tisdell, C. (2005) *Globalisation and World Economic Policies*, Serials Publications, New Delhi.

Tisdell, C. (ed.) (in press) *Poverty, Poverty Alleviation and Social Disadvantage*, Serials Publications, New Delhi.

My first book with Serials Publications arose from a request of a representative of this publisher when I came to Kolhapur, Maharashtra, India in 2003 to give a keynote address to the 86th Conference of the Indian Economic Association, and this then led on to a subsequent request from the same publisher for a second edited book. Scholars

from many different countries have contributed to these books, even though a large number of contributors are from the Indian sub-continent.

Figure 7 contains a chart which provides an overview of the social policy areas in which I have jointly or solely edited books.

Figure 7: A chart of Tisdell's books with a significant social policy focus



8. Joint Publications

A few of my books have been co-authored and many have been jointly edited. Co-authored books have usually been written with former students but a couple were written with overseas co-authors. Most (but not all) of the edited books arose from jointly organized workshops or conferences and often involved colleagues in the Department where I was located. This only started to happen after I returned to

Newcastle University in 1972 and accelerated after I came to the University of Queensland in 1989.

I have a long list of contributors to joint articles. Many (but not all) of these articles have not found their way into book form. Joint authors of these articles include: Cliff Walsh, Teo Ian Fairbairn, N.T.M.H. De Silva, Bruce Auld, Ken Menz, M.G. Kibria, M. Alauddin, R. Sathiendrakumar, David McKee, Glyn Edwards, Shunjo Takahashi, Colin Aislabie, P.J. Stanton, James Broadus, Julie Wen, Carunia Firdausy, Luca Tacconi, Cao Yang, Kartik Roy, M.K. Mujeri, Yoshihiro Kuronuma, Drajad Wibowo, Yang Ruilong, Andreas Hohl, John Lucas, Dale Squires, Jane Hall, Steve Harrison, Y.C. Shang, P.S. Leung, Liqun Jia, Zhu Xiang, Derrin Davis, J. Kirkley, Biman Prasad, Tim Purcell, Pramod Sharma, Gavin Ramsay, Ron Duncan, Tom Murphy, F.J. Mlay, Zhuge Ren, Neil Karunaratne, Neil Byron, Joseph Chai, Zhicun Gao, H.I. Duraman, Bernard Poirine, Dayuan Xue, Clevo Wilson, Serge Svizzero, Laurence Lasselle, Gopal Regmi, Rex Davis, Ranjith Bandara, Tabitha Kiriti, H. Swarna Nantha and others. How, why and in what way we cooperated in writing articles could be the subject of another essay. Such cooperation was always worthwhile and provides an academic stimulus.

9. A Digression – Books versus Articles

Today there is much more emphasis (compared to the past) on research articles rather than books as a sign of academic merit. Weightings of academic research output of universities used in Britain and Australia are slanted in favour of research articles rather than books. This is rather unfortunate in my view because it suggests that articles make a greater contribution to knowledge than books. Books are able to

provide a much more comprehensive and integrated contribution to knowledge than articles. In practice, both are valuable. However, I feel that articles are best appreciated and make a greater contribution to knowledge when they are integrated into a book.

There are also many risks involved in a selective approach to weighting journal articles by peer-ranking of journals as a measure of academic merit. This tends to favour well established journals and may discriminate against new ideas. It may encourage orthodoxy rather than diversity in academic output. Furthermore, it provides a degree of monopoly-power to those who own or control journals that are designated as being academically superior.

Again, the current practice of downgrading the value of text books is regrettable. To write a good text book is not an easy task; it is probably more difficult than writing a research book. Furthermore, authors of text books do learn a lot as a result of their effort and they can, up to a point, convey original ideas. In jointly revising *Microeconomic Policy* for a second edition, I have noticed a decline in the number of microeconomic texts by British authors. This may be a result of the UK's academic incentive system. As a result, British universities have become more dependent on American texts. This is not necessarily a bad thing but it does mean that British students are missing out on British or European institutional background and views. A similar situation may also have emerged in Australia.

10. Concluding Comments

While dividing my published books into six categories makes it easier to fit the jigsaw of these publications together, the division is to some extent arbitrary. As is apparent from the above exposition, there is considerable overlap in the areas addressed by several of my books. For example, many of my books on the environment, tourism, development and social policy overlap. Furthermore, other classifications are possible. For example, several of my books have a focus on agricultural economics and a few on economic globalisation.

It is difficult to know how and to what extent my future publications will progress. It is likely that I will expand my interests in examining economic and environmental problems from various (diverse) points of view, as I did recently in a set of lectures given at Humboldt University of Berlin on natural resource and environmental economics. Topics were considered from the point of view of neoclassical economics, new institutional economics, behavioural economics, traditional institutionalism and also some aspects of Austrian economics were introduced, including game theory and other viewpoints. Oskar Morgenstern can be classified as belonging to the third generation of Austrian economists and this is why game theory can be linked to the Austrian School of Economics.

The second edition of *Microeconomic Policy* (co-authored with Keith Hartley) which is now in press also assesses microeconomic policies from a greater range of perspectives than the earlier edition. In my textbooks, I have always tried to make readers aware of different points of view and have tried to convey the impression that economic theory is not settled but evolves. It involves shades of grey rather than being

black-and-white. I have tried to adopt a constructively critical approach and combine it with rational scepticism, of which Bertrand Russell was so fond. To me it is very dangerous to teach economics (or any other discipline) as though it has reached its pinnacle and consists of one settled set of absolute truths bound to be relevant forever. Humility and progress depend on the presence of questioning attitudes.

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