

SUMMARY OF MASTER'S DISSERTATION

Student Identification Number	81234552	Name	Taro Okamura
Title			
Qualitative Research on Competitive Factors of Switzerland			
Abstract			
<p>This study conducted a qualitative study on the competitiveness factors of Switzerland with particular focus on the industrial goods export. Firstly, the relationship between the strong export growth of industrial goods and the country's unique position in international relations has been studied. Secondly, the relationship between the low number of Swiss R&D labor and the increase of highly skilled foreign nationals has been studied.</p> <p>1) Switzerland's export of packed medicaments to the US have dramatically increased during the middle of 2000-2012. In 2002, Switzerland establishes the federal agency for therapeutic products which was controlled by cantons before the year and the MOU contract was signed between Swiss agency and the US FDA in the following year. This study examined the influence of such independent movement by Switzerland and the export of packed medicaments to the US. The result was that no clear influence was found on the export of packed medicaments to the USA. However this case indicates a possibility of a country to have an outstanding competitiveness by selectively focusing on a certain special sector upon the right market growth.</p> <p>2) Secondly, the relationship between the low number of Swiss nationals in the R&D and the increasing number of highly-educated foreigners has been studied. The result indicates that both the number of foreigners in R&D and the number of highly-educated foreigners migrating to Switzerland have increased. Since the high ratio of highly-educated foreigners come from Germany, it is also highly probable that the R&D jobs in Switzerland have been filled by them. The biggest factor is the significantly high salary level of Switzerland compared to Germany. Due to the fact that 70% of the country's R&D investment is spent by private industries, particularly by the pharmaceutical sector, the Swiss pharmaceutical industry is highly R&D intensive by using foreign professionals.</p> <p>In sum, despite being a non-EU member, Switzerland has gained a strong export competitiveness for the pharmaceutical products in addition to the traditionally strong machinery sector. This success has been largely due to the R&D capability of many highly skilled foreign professionals, particularly from Germany.</p>			
Key Word(5 words)			
Switzerland, Export Competitiveness, EFTA/Bilateral, R&D, Highly-skilled foreign labor			