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Journal Name:	Journal of Economics, Management and Trade
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JEMT_35784
Title of the Manuscript:	THE ENVIRONMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISE (SME) OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: VECTOR OR INHIBITOR FOR THEIR INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE?
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments		
Minor REVISION comments	1) it is not really clear, at least for me: is "the performance of Cameroonian SMEs abroad" the same meaning as "the performance of Cameroonian SMEs' export"? If yes, why not the title of the paper is more clear like: Factors affecting export of SMEs in a developing country: the case of Cameroon". Because these 'factors' can be considered as "an environment" affecting export of Cameroon SMEs. Moreover developing countries are huge, consists of different countries with different levels of development, including development of SMEs (and their export capability), which means that SMEs in developing countries with different levels of development may face different problems/constraints/environment in their exports. Although they are still considered as developing countries, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, for instance, has higher levels of development than that of Cameroon. So we may expect that SMEs in these first countries are much better in doing exports than Cameroonian SMEs and the problems they faced may also different. 2) This paper can be enriched with more papers from more recent years (beyond 2000) on SMEs' exports and their capability to be engaged in global value chains. The papers include Julien and Ramangalahy (2003), Valodia and Velia (2004); Larsen and Lewis (2007), Tambunan (2008, 2015), Perry and Tambunan, (2009), Li and Wilson's (2009), Amornkitvikai, <i>et.al.</i> (2012), Cardoza, <i>et al.</i> (2012), Petrit, <i>et al.</i> (2012), Wignaraja (2012), Hoekman and Shepherd (2013), Mupemhi, <i>et al.</i> (2013), Duval and Utoktham's (2014), Nyatwongi (2015), Harchegani, <i>et al.</i> (2015), Michaela, <i>et al.</i> (2016), Mpunga (2016), Alam's (2017). These papers may provide more detailed information about factors which effect export of SMEs. 3) why the author does not give number (no.1) for Introduction. 4) Section 2 (THE ENVIRONMENT AS AN EXPLANATORY FACTOR FOR THE 187 INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF SMEs) is much relevant related to the topic/aim of this paper than Section 1 (THE PERFORMANCE OF SMEs: AN AMBIGUOUS AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL 86 CONCEPT). So, section 1 can be deleted, and started right away with section 2. 5) I have a little problem with the hypothesis; at least it is not really clear: HG- The environment positively influences the performance of SMEs abroad. This hypothesis is divided into two sub-hypotheses: H1- The local / national environment positively influences the performance of SMEs internationally. H2- Environmental constraints in the host country have a negative impact on the performance of SMEs abroad. Environment can be positive ('good' environment such as monetary stability, friendly business environment, efficient logistics, etc.), or negative ('distorted' environment such as not business friendly regulations, bad infrastructure and inefficient logistics, corruption, etc.) So, my question is: is local/national environment (at least in Cameroon) always 'good', and that is way as stated in H1, positively influences the performance of Cameroonian SMEs internationally, and is the host country environment always 'bad' or considered as constraints (H2) such as the problem of the language and cultural distance, as mentioned in this paper? Logically, 'good' environment (locally as well as in host country) is always positive (<i>ceteris paribus</i>) and 'bad'	Ok Corrected



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	environment is always negative. Especially the author said that "When the company is able to adapt to the constraints of the environment and take advantage of the opportunities it offers, it becomes competitive and improves its performance". So, it means if H2 is not proved (the sign is not as expected) then it will say that it is because the company is able to adapt.....? It is too logic, the same as I say: if somebody shoot me in my head I will certainly die; but if not, it is because I can dodge quickly. Why, as alternatively, the author does not run the model with all national and host environment as independent variables without mentioned explicitly the host environment as 'constraints'. 6) some questions with the variables; a) The author measured the performance of Cameroonian SMEs abroad by using such as quality/price ratio, price level, quality of products, quality of customer service, etc. Why the author did not (also) use data on export value (if not export quantity)? Because the key variable usually used in studies on export performance is volume or value of export. If data are not available, or other reasons/author's considerations, the author should explain this in the paper. Moreover, some indicators used by the author such as quality of products, quality of customer services and price as a matter of fact are factors affecting the export performance (e.g. the better the quality of customer services or the better the quality of product, <i>ceteris paribus</i>, the more foreign demand, and thus export increases). b) Also the author should explain or define what he/she meant with 'social constraints', 'political constraints' and 'culture distance' with clear examples. 7) since this paper is about export of SMEs from a country, namely Cameroon, the readers would like to have a general picture about the export performance/information of Cameroonian SMEs in international market. So, before the analysis section, the paper should provide information (in the form of tables) on export performance of Cameroonian SMEs (e.g. their total annual export value in US dollar or their share in Cameroon total/national export), their countries of destinations, their key exported products (e.g. garments or footwear or handicraft or others), and if possible to have a table with export data of Cameroonian SMEs compared to some other African countries.	
Optional/General comments		