

Transfer of Technology for Successful Integration into the Global Economy

**A Case Study of the Electronics Industry in
Thailand**



United Nations

New York and Geneva, 2005

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UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2005/6

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Preface

UNCTAD's series on *Transfer of Technology for the Successful Integration into the Global Economy* consists of case studies on transfer of technology issues in individual industries in selected developing countries. These studies draw lessons from national experiences with the transfer and diffusion of technology through various channels.

The studies highlight the crucial role that successful transfer of technology can play in the integration of countries into the global economy. They focus on the modes of technology transfer, and the adaptation, diffusion and further development of the acquired technology in the wider economy.

The studies also look at the interplay between technology transfer and development. They focus on the contribution of technology transfer to employment creation, export competitiveness and national innovative capacity. Thus, they provide lessons to other developing countries on building technological capacity and promoting development.

The studies deal with sectors where the selected developing countries have demonstrated their ability to create new productive capacities and successfully integrate into the world economy. They provide examples of cases in which a country's factor endowments were modified through investment in physical capital, human resources and the building up of capacities required to develop and use new technologies.

The present study is part of the second round of case studies in this series. The first round included a case study of Embraer in Brazil, a case study of the pharmaceutical industry in India and a case study of the automotive industry in South Africa. The second round will also include case studies on the automobile components industry in Tunisia and the salmon fish industry in Chile.

The identification of firm-level factors as well as government policies and institutions that enable firms to thrive, grow and compete in the world market is vital to understanding the catch-up process and the building of technological capacity. These case studies seek to identify conditions under which industries developed and some of the key institutions that played a role in this process.

Acknowledgements

The UNCTAD's series on *Transfer of Technology for the Successful Integration into the Global Economy* is produced by a team led by James Zhan comprising Maria Susan Arano, Fulvia Farinelli, Victor Konde, Prasada Reddy and Christoph Spennemann.

Khalil Hamdani provides overall direction.

The case study on the electronics industry in Thailand was based on a manuscript prepared by Chanin Mephokee and Kaipichit Ruengsrichaiya, and finalized by Victor Konde and Prasada Reddy. Josephine Ayiku provided administrative support.

Peter Brimble, Jörg Weber and participants in the expert meeting on technology transfer and diffusion provided valuable comments. The study was also submitted to the WTO Working Group on Trade and Transfer of Technology (WGTTT) at its 11th session on 11 April 2005, and benefited from the comments by members of WGTTT.

The views expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect those of UNCTAD.

Contents

Executive summary	1
Introduction	3
Chapter I Policies and strategies supporting a competitive electronics industry.....	5
1 Overall national development policies	5
2 Investment promotion policies	6
3. Science and technology policies.....	7
4 Intellectual property rights.....	8
5 The electronics industry and the NESDPs: Policy shift from import-substitution to export promotion	10
Chapter II Performance of the electronics industry.....	13
1 Foreign direct investment	13
2 Export performance	15
3 Employment and firm ownership	17
Chapter III Technology capacity-building.....	19
1 Technology transfer and innovative capacity	19
2 Successful technology transfer cases.....	23
A Technology transfer through licensing: The case of Siam United Hi-Tech Limited	23
B Technology transfer through subcontracting: The case of Hana Microelectronics Group	24
C Success factors.....	25
Conclusions.....	27
References and bibliography	29

Tables

Table 1.1	BOI-promoted investment in the electronics industry.....	7
Table 1.2	Electronics industry development and the NESDPs.....	10
Table 2.1	Net FDI flow in Thailand by country or region of origin.....	13
Table 2.2	Percentage of investment projects granted incentives, by sectors.....	15
Table 3.1	R&D expenditure as percentage of GDP by sector of performance....	22
Table 3.2	The Hana Group	25

Figures

Figure 2.1	Cumulative FDI stock in the electronics industry.....	14
Figure 2.2	Top five exports of Thailand.....	16
Figure 2.3	Electronics industry exports structure in 2000.....	16
Figure 2.4	Employment forecast for the electronics industry.....	17
Figure 2.5	Firm size and ownership.....	18

Abbreviations

ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
BOI	Board of Investment
EU	European Union
FDI	foreign direct investment
GDP	gross domestic product
GNP	gross national product
HDD	hard disk drives
IC	integrated circuits
NESDPs	National Economic and Social Development Plans
NIEs	newly industrialized economies
NITC	National Information Technology Committee
NSTDA	National Science and Technology Development Agency
PCB	printed circuit boards
R&D	research and development
S&T	science and technology
SMEs	small and medium-sized enterprises
TNC	transnational corporation
TOT	transfer of technology
TRIPS	trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WDI	World Development Indicators
WIR	World Investment Report
WTO	World Trade Organization

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