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TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION REPORT 2012

Innovation, Technology and South-South Collaboration

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PREFACE

There is no doubt about the potential of rapid technological progress to help the world meet the defining challenges of our time. Yet for many individuals in the developing world, access is still a major challenge, hindering their ability to learn

how to use technologies that would improve their lives and promote enterprise development. That challenge is multiplied many times over for national policymakers seeking to use technologies to address energy poverty, food insecurity, environmental threats and job creation.

Bridging the technological divide has become a core concern of the

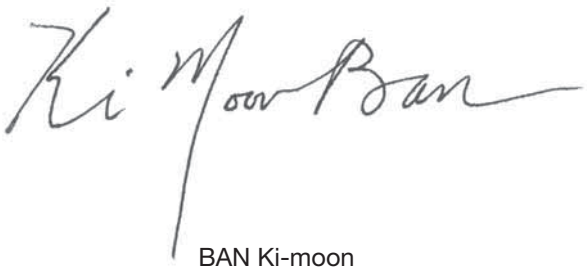
United Nations. If we are to build on and expand the progress that has been made towards the Millennium Development Goals, the international community will need to find innovative ways of closing this gap.

The increasing capacity of a growing number of countries in the South is a promising dynamic that signals the beginning of a new era in global development.

As more and more developing countries embark on the process of industrial catch-up, South-South cooperation can help to address the technological divide.

The UNCTAD *Technology and Innovation Report 2012* focuses on how South-South collaboration can help address key capacity questions faced by developing countries. The information and analysis contained in this report mark a welcome contribution to the efforts now getting under way to establish a set of Sustainable Development Goals and to outline a post-2015 development agenda.

I encourage governments and development partners to carefully consider the report's recommendations as we consider how best to promote equitable, sustainable and inclusive development for all.



BAN Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations

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Inputs were provided by Biswajit Dhar (Director General, Research and Information Allied Systems, New Delhi), Dic Lo (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London) and Professor Nicholas Vonortas (Georgetown University). The contribution of Mongi Hamdi, Former Head of Science, Technology and ICT branch, UNCTAD is acknowledged.

An ad hoc expert group meeting was organized in Geneva to peer review the initial draft of the Report. The comments and suggestions provided by the following experts at the meeting are gratefully acknowledged: Carlos Eduardo Fernandez da Silveira (Director of Studies on Innovation and Sectoral Policies, Regulation and Infrastructure Department IPEA, Brazil), Dic Lo (Senior lecturer in Economics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London), Emmanuel Nnadozie (Director, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa), J.R. Bangera (President, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry), Kevin McCarthy (Policy Coordinator, DG Development and Cooperation – Europe-Aid, European Commission), Banji Oyeyinka (Director, UN-HABITAT), Ken Shadlen (Political Scientist, Department of International Development, London School of Economics), Alfredo Saad-Filho (UNCTAD) and Kiyoshi Adachi (UNCTAD). Comments were also received from Carlos Correa (Director, Centre for Law and Economics, University of Buenos Aires, and Advisor, South Centre), Richard Kozul-Wright (UNCTAD) and Torbjorn Fredriksson (UNCTAD).

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