ARTNeT / WTO Research Workshop on Emerging Trade Issues in Asia and the Pacific: Meeting contemporary policy challenges

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The role of IP in economic development The case of Thailand

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Outline of the Presentation

Part 1: Environment for Innovation in Developing Economies

- **1.1 Framework Condition**
- **1.2 Innovation Capabilities**
- **1.3 Network Development**
- **1.4 Policy Dilemmas**

Part 2: Innovation Indicators

1.1 Framework condition

- 1. Framework condition in developing countries are different from that of developed countries – i.e., excessive government intervention, burdensome legal procedures, market protection, credit constraints, uncertain government policies, corruption may discourage innovation.
- 2. Weak capabilities (lack of skills and education) hamper domestic innovation and growth.
- **3**. Network connections may help unlock internal constraints for innovation
- What are the implications ?

1.1 Framework condition (2)

– Excessive government intervention:

- i <u>state owned enterprises</u> that carry special privileges may undermine private sector's ability to compete and hence, incentive to innovate.
- Price-based and corruption in <u>government procurement</u> discourage innovation to produce high-quality products and encourage "race-tothe-bottom".

Burdensome legal procedures

- **Lengthy patent registration due to insufficient man power.**
- i <u>Overly generous intellectual property protection</u>. For example, reverse engineering may be prohibited, "patentable subject matter" may be too broad covering, for example, plant and animal breeds, software and business methods that can be rather abstract.

– Credit constraint

Incentives for "<u>venture capital</u>" may not work well.

1.2 Weak capabilities

- Why foreign companies choose not to construct R&D or invest even when strong IPR protection is made available?
- Education, skilled workers, language barriers, infrastructure, supporting industries, etc. ?
- List of "short run measures" that offer "quick gains" to be made from altering or improving the status quo rules or regulation should be clearly declared and advocated -- i.e., overly restrictive immigration rules, distortionary tax incentives, etc.

1.3 Network connection can help promote innovation

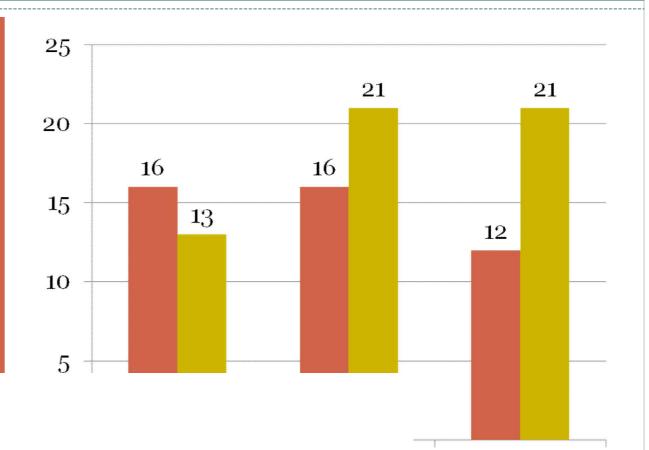
- How to create "industrial clusters" that can support innovation ? Does this require clear policy in promoting specific industry and creating industryspecific "industrial estates" such as "IT towns"?
- How to link industries with local academic institutions?
- How to promote innovation in export-oriented industries where technology is provided from overseas ?

Most firms do not benefit from locational proximity for innovation

Industry	No. of firms interview ed (Firms 1)	No. of firms involved with innovatio n	No. of firms involved with innovatio n that are within 30 km.
Food	27	6	1
%			3.7
Auto	30	8	2
%			6.7
Electronics	31	13	3
%			9.6

Source: Thailand Development Research Institute (2009), A Study on the Linkage between Industry and Service Clusters

Local Industry tend to innovate more than exportoriented



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_7690



Electronics adquarter

stitute (2009), A Service Clusters