UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Activities Report 2005



Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development

DITE



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Note

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DITE WEBSITES

Division Website

http://www.unctad.org/dite

Programme Websites

Advisory Service on Investment and Training (ASIT): http://www.unctad.org/asit

Enterprise Development and Internationalization: http://www.EMPRETEC.net/

FDI Statistics: http://www.unctad.org/fdistatistics

Global Investment Prospects Assessment: http://www.unctad.org/fdiprospects

Insurance Programme: http://www.unctad.org/insuranceprogramme

International Investment Agreements: http://www.unctad.org/iia

International Gateway: http://www.investway.org/

International Standards on Accounting and Reporting: http://www.unctad.org/isar

Investment Compass: http://compass.unctad.org/

Investment Map: http://www.investmentmap.org/

Investment Policy Reviews: http://www.unctad.org/ipr

LDC Investment Guides: http://www.unctad.org/investmentguides

Science and Technology for Development Network: http://www.unctad.org/stdev

Transnational Corporations Journal: http://www.unctad.org/tnc

UNCTAD-UNCTC Library on FDI and TNCs: http://unctc.unctad.org/

UNCTAD-ICSTD Project on Intellectual Property Rights: http://www.iprsonline.org/

World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA): http://www.waipa.org/

World Investment Report: http://www.unctad.org/wir

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PREFACE

There is today broad recognition that foreign direct investment (FDI) affects the development prospects of individual countries in important ways - but also that the outcome depends crucially on policies applied both domestically and internationally. The international community needs to ensure that developing countries are provided the necessary means to be able to benefit from the opportunities that have emerged as a result of liberalization, technological progress and stiffer international competition.

2005 saw an acceleration in the recovery of global FDI flows, up 29% over 2004 to \$900 billion. This recovery benefited both developed and developing economies. For most developing countries, FDI is now by far the largest component of foreign capital, accounting for around half of such flows on average. In most cases, it is several times larger than development aid.

FDI, however, remains highly geographically concentrated, and a number of developing countries that have not received much FDI are faced with serious challenges to finance their development. In this respect, new initiatives such as those proposed by the Millennium Development Goals by the United Nations and by the Commission for Africa that was set up in 2004 by the Government of the United Kingdom may help boost investment if implemented. Also important is entrepreneurship and enterprise development, as competitive enterprises in prospective host countries attract investment, including FDI.

As the focal point in the United Nations system on investment and technology, and building on 30 years of experience in these areas, UNCTAD, through DITE, promotes understanding of key issues, particularly matters related to foreign direct investment and transfer of technology. DITE also assists developing countries in attracting and benefiting from FDI and in building their productive capacities and international competitiveness.

The three pillars of the Division's work are policy research and analysis, consensus-building and technical assistance. In the course of 2005, in pursuit of the above goals, our staff organized some 100 conferences, meetings and workshops, produced over 100 publications, including the flagship *World Investment Report (WIR)*, and carried out around 120 missions. DITE has also made a substantial contribution to the ongoing debate on how best to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

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