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POLICIES FOR COMPETITIVENESS:**

**Review of successful country experiences**



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## **PREFACE**

This paper discusses the role of foreign direct investment in transferring technology, building technological capabilities and enhancing competitiveness. It highlights the important role that foreign direct investment can play in the transfer of technology, but also emphasizes that the latter should be maximized and complemented by appropriate country policies. The paper examines competitiveness in its contextual setting of globalization, growing integration and rapid technical change, before developing an analytical framework with which to consider technology and capacity building. On the basis of its evaluation of the case studies of South-East Asian countries, the paper considers the strategies used successfully to build domestic capabilities, providing a broad set of policy options from which to choose.

This paper was prepared for the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development by Sanjaya Lall, Professor of Development Economics, Oxford University. Comments were received from Mr. Mongi Hamdi, Mr. Shin Ohinata, Ms. Philippa Biggs and Ms. Dong Wu of the UNCTAD Secretariat. Production assistance was provided by Ms. Laila Sède. The cover page was designed by Mr. Diego Oyarzun-Reyes. It draws on and synthesizes work carried for UNCTAD and other United Nations entities.

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## CONTENTS

PREFACE .....	iii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	ix
INTRODUCTION .....	3
I. THE GROWING SIGNIFICANCE OF COMPETITIVENESS .....	3
II. TECHNOLOGY AND CAPABILITY BUILDING: ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK.....	6
III. ROLE OF FDI IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND LEARNING.....	9
IV. CURRENT TRENDS IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY .....	12
V. RATIONALE FOR TECHNOLOGY POLICY .....	29
VI. STRATEGIES FOR INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS .....	21
VII. FDI, R&D AND OTHER DRIVERS OF INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS.....	24
VIII. FDI TARGETING STRATEGIES.....	28
IX. STRATEGIES TO BUILD DOMESTIC CAPABILITIES .....	31
X. CONCLUSIONS.....	32
ANNEX: FDI AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN SOUTH- EAST ASIA .....	35
1. FDI AND TECHNOLOGY POLICIES IN THREE MATURE TIGERS	35
A. REPUBLIC OF KOREA.....	35
B. TAIWAN PROVINCE OF CHINA.....	41
C. SINGAPORE.....	47
2. FDI AND TECHNOLOGY POLICIES IN THREE NEW TIGERS .....	52
A. MALAYSIA .....	52
B. THAILAND.....	55
C. PHILIPPINES.....	59
3. CONCLUSIONS .....	62
REFERENCES .....	64

SELECTED UNCTAD PUBLICATIONS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY .....	67
QUESTIONNAIRE .....	70

**Boxes**

1. Ten features of technological learning in developing countries .....	8
2. Salient features of recent FDI .....	10
3. Republic of Korea government subsidies for technology development.....	38
4. Taiwan Province of China's R&D consortia .....	44
5. Singapore's FDI strategy.....	48
6. Skill development for technology-based industrialization in Singapore.....	48

**Figures**

1. Shares for foreign affiliates in R&D .....	13
2. Shares of manufactured products in world exports by technology .....	15
3. Annual growth rates of exports by developed and developing countries, 1985-2000 .....	15
4. Regional shares of developing country manufactures exports, 1998.....	16
5. Manufactured exports by 10 leading developing countries, 1985, 1998 and 2000 .....	17
6. Leading exporters of RB manufactures .....	18
7. Leading exporters of LT manufactures .....	18
8. Leading exporters of MT manufactures .....	19
9. Leading exporters of HT manufactures .....	19
10. Foreign direct investment as a percentage of gross domestic investment, 1997 .....	24
11. Share of TNCs in exports, most recent year .....	25
12. R&D by productive enterprises as a percentage of GDP, most recent year .....	26
13. Tertiary enrolments in technical subjects as a percentage of population, 1995 .....	27

**Tables**

1. Rates of growth of high technology and other manufacturing, 1985– 1997 .....	13
2. Structure of world exports, 1985–2000.....	14

3.	Illustrative list of transaction costs related to the legal and regulatory environment .....	30
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## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
CETRA	China External Trade Development Council
CPC	China Productivity Centre
CSTD	Commission on Science and Technology for Development
ERSO	Electronic Research and Service Organization (Taiwan Province of China)
FDI	foreign direct investment
GDP	gross domestic product
HAN	Highly Advanced National Project (Republic of Korea)
HT	high-technology (exports)
ICTs	information and communication technologies
ISI	import substituting industry
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITRI	Industrial Technology Research Institute (Taiwan Province of China)
KDB	Korea Development Bank
KIST	Korea Institute of Science and Technology
KOTRA	Korean Overseas Trade Agency
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LT	low-technology (exports)
M&A	merger and acquisition
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MIMOS	Malaysian Institute of Microelectronics Systems
MT	medium-technology (exports)
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Area
NIEs	newly industrialized economies
NSF	National Science Foundation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OEM	original equipment manufacture
PC	personal computer
RB	resource-based (exports)
R&D	research and development
SMEs	small and medium-sized enterprises
TNC	transnational corporation
TSMC	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization

VCR	video cassette recorder
VSLI	very large integrated circuits
WTO	World Trade Organization

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