

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY REVIEWS

FACTORIZING IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION



GLOBAL CONTEXT

Building national capacities in science, technology and innovation is essential for local industries in developing countries to compete in today's global, knowledge-based economy. This can generate better paying jobs, increase living standards, reduce poverty and promote a Government's growth and export diversification strategy. Making effective use of innovation requires factoring scientific and technological knowledge into national development strategies and plans.

Assimilating, disseminating and applying scientific and technological knowledge and building capacities in these areas, though, require investment in human capital and infrastructure. National systems to retrieve, use and apply relevant knowledge should be in place. Systematic efforts are also needed to encourage the productive sectors of developing countries to thrive in a knowledge-based society – and economy.

UNCTAD developed the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews to assist developing countries in building those capacities at the national level. The starting point for the Reviews is that science, technology and innovation are essential to the policies that sustain the national innovation systems which can promote development. The long-term aim of the Reviews is for national science, technology and innovation plans and programmes to support a country's broader national sustainable development agenda.

HOW CAN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION BE FACTORED IN?

The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews are undertaken at the request of Governments. The Reviews include an analysis of the national innovation system and an assessment of the science, technology and innovation policies in place. They are usually complemented by in-depth studies of specific sectors, institutions or problems related to science, technology and innovation that are particularly relevant to the country that requested the Review. Recommendations are designed to increase national capacity to take in and make use of the value of science, technology and innovation, including at the policymaking level, to better respond to the challenges of a knowledge-based economy.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- After the 2010 Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Review in Peru, the national budget dedicated to science, technology and innovation increased 20 times in one year.
- The Review in Oman in 2014 led to the establishment two consultative bodies in the country. One such body at a strategic level consists of five ministers and several senior advisers. The other, at an operational level, includes the executive directors of over 20 stakeholder institutions focused on science, technology and innovation.

- The Review in Thailand was completed in early 2015. A first draft of the review identified nine sets of recommendations. The diagnosis and recommendations of the report have begun feeding into public policy design processes. This is seen already, for example, in the current proposal on science, technology and innovation policy reform being discussed as a part of the national reform process.

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Science, Technology and Innovation
Policy Review programme scope: all regions
Programme start date:
2008, current series (1998–2005, first series)
Reviews per year: 1 or 2
Number of Reviews to date: 9 (current series)
Upcoming Review:
Islamic Republic of Iran
Programme website:
unctad.org/STIPreviews

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current: United Nations
Development Account

Past: Finland,
Switzerland





Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews completed to date

