

Rethinking Institutions of Development: Transformation of Quality Infrastructure

Ad-hoc Expert Meeting Program

Room XXV (Building E), Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

9-10 May 2024

Organizers

Richard Doner, Emory University, rdoner@emory.edu

Gerald McDermott, University of South Carolina, gerald.mcdermott@moore.sc.edu

Carlo Pietrobelli, UNU-MERIT and Roma Tre University, carlo.pietrobelli@uniroma3.it

Antonio Vezzani, UNCTAD, antonio.vezzani@unctad.org

Notes: most panels will involve one or two presentations (15-20 minutes each) followed by open discussion.

Thursday, May 9

12:30-1pm Arrival and Registration

1 – 1:15pm *Welcome and Introduction to the Workshop*
Shamika Sirimanne, Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD
Gerald A. McDermott, DMSB, University of South Carolina
Carlo Pietrobelli, Roma Tre University

1:15 – 2:15pm *Rethinking Industrial Policy for Development: The Political Economy of Quality Infrastructure*
Richard Doner, Emory University
Gerald A. McDermott, DMSB, University of South Carolina

A Quantitative Approach to QI Ecosystems: Evidence from Country-Level Comparisons
Carlo Pietrobelli, Roma Tre University
Francesco Salustri, Roma Tre University
Ulrich Harmes-Liedtke, Mesopartner
Ann Ramkissoon, University of Florence

Moderator: Marion Stoldt, PTB

2:15 – 3:15pm

Impact Evaluation of QI Systems: Lessons from IDB Work
Gustavo Crespi, IDB

The dark side of QI: when standardization and certification produce more rents than real welfare
Florentin Blanc, EPLO

Moderator: Alberto Fuentes, Georgia Tech University

3:15 – 3:30pm

Break – Coffee and Beverage Service

3:30 – 4:30pm

Public-Private Collaboration and QI: the Peruvian Experience
Piero Ghezzi, Hacer Peru

Alliances for Action: Public Private Partnerships for more sustainable Value Chain Ecosystems
Hernan Manson, ITC
Ben Morrison, ITC

Commentator: Ken Shadlen, LSE

4:30- 4:45

Break

4:45 – 5:45

Stability without Certainties: Firm R&D Choices in the Midst of Military Coups: The Case of Thailand
Daniel Armanios, Oxford University

Policies for Entrepreneurship Ecosystems in Korea: Detours and Linkages from Big Business to SMEs in S. Korea
Keun Lee, Seoul National University

Moderator: Julio Raffo, WIPO

7 – 9pm

Workshop Dinner
[Le Jules-Edouard](#)
Rue du Grand-Pré 2
1202 Genève

Friday, May 10

- 8:30-9am Registration, Overview of the Day
- 9 – 10am *Standards as Infrastructure for Development: Beyond the Technology Frontier*
Michael Murphree, University of Sydney
- Finding Unity within Fragmentation: Coalitional Continuity and Diversity in the Construction of QI in Queretaro, Mexico*
Alberto Fuentes, Georgia Tech University
Seth Pipkin, University of California, Irvine
- Moderator: Ken Shadlen, LSE
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- 10 – 11 *Bridging Impact Investing Supply and SME Demand for Environmental Quality through Collaborative Learning*
Paola Perez-Aleman, McGill University
Tommaso Ferretti, University of Ottawa
- Does Fossil Fuel Industry Foster QI and Innovation*
Antonio Botelho, IUPERI Brazil
- Moderator: Gustavo Crespi, IADB
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- 11 – 11:15 Break – Coffee and Beverage Service
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- 11:15 – 12:15 *Governance and Politics in Thailand's QI*
Richard Doner, Emory University;
Anittha Jutarosaga, KMUTT Thailand
- Learning by Monitoring in the Global South: Evidence from the Pharmaceutical Industry*
Andrew Schrank, Brown University
- Moderator: Ulrich Harnes-Liedtke, Mesopartner
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- 12:30 – 1:30 *Workshop Lunch -- UNCTAD Dining*
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- 1:45 – 3:15 *The Roles of International Organizations in Linking QI to Development*

Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development - UNIDO's Contribution in Advancing Solutions to Developing Countries

Alejandro Rivera-Rojas, UNIDO

David Tomlinson, UNIDO

Global standards, local impact: FDI and SME linkages as a catalyst for quality infrastructure

Stratos Kamenis, OECD

Commentator: Antonio Vezzani, UNCTAD

3:15 – 3:30pm Break – Coffee and Beverage Service

3:30 – 4:45 *Roundtable Wrap-up*

Rick Doner, Emory University

Piero Ghezzi,, Hacer Peru

Hernan Manson, ITC

Marion Stoldt, PTB

Andrew Schrank, Brown University

4:45 – 5:15pm *Next steps and Instructions*

List of Participants

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Guidelines for Papers and Presentations

Drawing on the Geneva's workshop's impressive and diverse set of participants, our goal is to advance our understanding of quality infrastructure beyond an emphasis on QI's general importance for issues such as trade, investment, and development. To that end, we encourage presenters (and also the rest of us during Q&A), to the extent feasible, to address one or possibly a couple of the following questions.

Firm Needs: How can QI promote incremental, as well as radical innovation in both processes and products. For instance, to meet basic quality standards and to take advantage of FDI, firms in LMICs often need experiential, applied knowledge to convert their existing production systems into more sophisticated capabilities. Specifying such firm needs can help in the design of QI institutions.

The Nature of QI Institutions: Assuming that QI agencies must "fit" the particular kinds of innovations attempted by firms, what specific characteristics and strengths might we see in agencies responsible for standards, quality assurance, conformity assessments, as well as technical-vocational training? What specific mechanisms, for example, might a testing center adopt to work with a firm attempting to increase automation in its production process? Do we find cross-national variation in sequences of QI agencies?

Governance: QI operates within a broader institutional context involving, for example, ministries, universities, and associations. This raises questions such as: How important is inter-ministerial coordination? Should QI come under the purview of one ministry? What are the impacts of cabinet shifts and coalitional instability? What are useful ways of incorporating the private sector, such as business associations?

Political Origins: Despite extensive awareness of QI's benefits, the effectiveness of QI varies across countries and sectors. Explaining this variation requires an understanding of socio-political factors that affect the willingness and capacity of political leaders to support QI. For example, do key QI "consumers," such as local SMEs, have political voice? What have been the roles of foreign development organizations, foreign MSTQ agencies (e.g. PTB)? Finally, under what political contexts do we find QI operating as a source of rents for officials and political leaders as opposed to upgrading mechanisms for domestic firms?

Given the large number of participants, we ask that presentations run between 15-20 minutes.