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The World Investment Report 1994 is the fourth in an annual series designed to present up-to-date, comprehensive information about foreign direct investment and transnational corporations. The Report documents the continuing growth of foreign direct investment to developing countries, which occurred in the midst of a continued decline in world-wide investment flows, especially in developed countries. It analyses in particular the wide range of effects of the activities of transnational corporations on employment and industrial relations.

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(Sales No. E.94.II.A.12) ($50)

Banks and financial institutions have been at the forefront in the application of new technologies to the delivery of their services. As a result, the world's major financial institutions have undergone a profound transformation over the past few decades. More recently, with the application of information and telecommunication technologies, banks are able to deliver a range of services to customers far removed from the location of the production facility. The purpose of this study is to examine the tradability of banking products, particularly as regards its technical feasibility and the implications of this for both banking enterprises and national economies, including, particularly developing countries. The analysis suggested that the benefits that may be expected from increased tradability will become available to countries where the necessary information and telecommunication technology infrastructures have been created and where the labour force is qualified to maintain it. The study identifies some policy options for enhancing the opportunities for developing countries to benefit from the tradability of banking services and outlines some practical measures that could be initiated through international or bilateral assistance to help developing countries exploit potential opportunities.
International Accounting and Reporting Issues: 1994 Review

(Sales No. E.95.II.A.3) ($27.50)

This annual publication reports the activities of the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR). The session concentrated on the harmonization of accounting standards. The experts formulated recommendations to promote the harmonization of standards between the developed and the developing countries. Topics covered in this report also include environmental accounting disclosure, accounting for leases and government grants and new financial instruments.

Transnational Corporations and the International Trade in Primary Commodities

(ST/ESCAP/1413)

The Asia-Pacific region is the largest producer and exporter of several important primary commodities in the world. In the past, TNCs were significantly involved in the production of primary commodities in developing countries. Today, particularly in Asia and the Pacific, although the involvement of TNCs in the production of primary commodities has declined, their presence and importance in downstream activities, including trading, have dramatically increased. The purpose of this study is to examine the trading activities of TNCs in selected primary commodities in Asia and the Pacific. The study discusses policy measures to enhance the transfer of marketing know-how by TNCs to developing countries in Asia and the Pacific in areas such as international marketing.

Transnationals, vol. 6, No. 3 (October-December)

A quarterly newsletter available free of charge.
Books received on foreign direct investment and transnational corporations since August 1994


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