



Regional Workshop SMEs and R&D: Collaboration for Commercialization

22 - 23 December 2015 Colombo

Lessons learnt and Shared



Two days of listening ..Observations

- Some countries have advanced significantly
- Krugman economics – Asian Miracle
- We appear to ask for more money, some say money are there but no takers
- Issues of procurement, technocracy really different in different countries
- Prof Kondo's statement really valid

Korea

- Significance of national R&D spend – technical progress and economic growth
- Importance of having **National** R&D programs
- Knowledge based innovation occurs when univ, ind and govt R&D institutes interact
- Value is in **Formal** R&D projects – not co-authorship and co-patenting networks (in THM)
- SME's supported to build their own R&D , use Uni resources

Malaysia

- Innovation Agency chaired by PM with 17 member governance council
- Industry academic facilitation via Steinbeis mechanism (model that give global outreach)
- National corporate innovation index and dashboard
- PlaTCOM – High Impact programs and commercialisation
- Genovasi Innovation Ambassadors

Taiwan

- Entrepreneurs have better chance to realize value through accelerators
- Incubators – operating via universities, Non profits
- Accelerators – operated by private parties
- Min of Education – Entrepreneurship education
- Min of S&T – Innovation Program
- Min of Economic Planning – Incubators and Accelerators

Japan

- Inter industry exchange plazas – ind connecting to industry
- Functional excellence – SME's servicing specific needs of a group and growing
- Certified SME consultants
- Grand design concept of PRI's
- Unique longevity aspect of Japanese companies – how to learn from that ?! - organic affiliation to the system

New Zealand

- Material Accelerator to a Product Accelerator
- Central office and actors connected (supply chains) Uni's and CRI's
- PA bring industry universities together – Joint technology planning, cooperative research strategy
- Govt program funds Postgraduate positions to support the program
- Success stories including from Sri Lanka
- Broad IP policy in managing IP

China

- Provincial and Regional innovation program
- IC coffee concept – educating and transfer of information, market research initiation
- Service organisation for IP rights
- STI governance program (as China is managing a transformation)
- Research centre – in-house incubator, accelerator and Technology Platforms

Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka Innovation Dashboard
- National Innovation Program Concept – PPP based

Sri Lankan Session

- Success through sheer effort of individuals
- Importance of domestic markets via govt support
- Regulatory issues – restrictive
- Regulatory inconsistency with today's technology
- IP plays a minimum role in the process (except Hygia)
- So much potential so little understanding of the possibilities at decision making level
- DFCC's Special Project Window – more awareness and a tie up

Innovation Accelerator – Sri Lanka

Honourable Speaker, in order to execute the above, I propose to set up a **National Innovation Centre** in the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research which will manage the **Innovation Accelerator Fund** set up as a revolving fund. It is proposed to allocate Rs 100 million as seed capital to this Centre while another Rs.3,000 million will also be provided within a period of 3 years.

Additional thoughts ...

- Country's need to have data for decision making (eg Tax incentive in Sri Lanka)
- R&D promotion policy for SME's through subsidy (China comment: waiting for death!)
- GERD is not available in Sri Lanka from 2010 (compare the Korean data set of for event at firm level presented!)
- Innovation cluster model

Table Points

- InnovationStart from young age ...
- Eco system via this – if low enrolment ?
- Education System reforms (aligning S&T Policy and Higher Education Policy)
- Identify SME's with export potential and sector specific implementations via a unit
- All Postgraduates should do Research not a simple project
- Create a center for SME's
- Government must take the risk

The Nation which does not Create New Things will not Rise

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Cumaratunga Munidasa

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குமாரதுங்க முனிதாச
(1887-1944)

