



Committee for Development Policy

Committee for Development Policy Briefing

Science, technology and innovation for achieving sustainable development

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Conference Room A (NLB)

A nation's capacity in science, technology and innovation (STI) and its effective application in economic activities are essential factors for improving people's well-being and achieving sustainable development. For developing countries, the underlying strategic objective in STI policies is to *catch-up* with the technological leaders – most often the developed countries but also the other more advanced developing countries. This catch-up process involves acquiring, mastering and adapting new production processes, products and management styles developed by the leaders and, eventually, breaking into international markets, expanding and consolidating participation.

Committee members Professors Lee, Sheinbaum and Najam will discuss the role of national policies and of international cooperation for technological catch up in developing countries by taking into account particular emerging challenges brought about by the evolving international economic environment. Globalization has increased competition among nations in product, service and labour markets and further stressed the importance of STI for the dynamic transformation of the economic structure. Moreover, in today's context, policies aiming at economic structural change need to be increasingly consistent with the introduction of technologies that rely on clean energy, facilitate adaptation to climate change and preserve the physical environment. At the same time technology is changing at a much faster rate, while protection of intellectual property rights has been strengthened at the global level.

For additional information on the Committee and its work:
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/index.shtml>