

Proceedings of the China-India-US Workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy

Co-Chairs' Statement

Much has been written about India and China as emerging or, better, re-emerging powers on the world scene, and it is often stated that science, technology and innovation are essential keys to their re-emergence. Yet few if any detailed comparative studies exist about their science policies, capabilities, or likely future trajectories. There are few U.S. experts on science and technology policies in both India and China. Additionally, relatively few Indian scientists and scholars have in depth familiarity with science, technology, and innovation policies and trends in China nor, reciprocally, are there Chinese scientists and scholars with in depth familiarity with science, technology and innovation policies and trends in India. This is unfortunate given that both countries have large research systems and well established science, engineering, and technological communities, and both are attempting – with considerable success - to strengthen and reorient their science, technology and innovation systems to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

As a partner in research, a source of advanced training for Indian and Chinese students, as a frequent host at universities to visiting scholars from the two countries, and as a model of a successful national innovation system which both countries have studied and selectively emulated, the United States has a vital interest in these attempts to further develop the national capabilities of the two countries. An enhanced understanding of the science, technology, and innovation policies, the dynamics of the technical communities, and the changing nature of institutions for research and innovation in the two countries will therefore become increasingly important to the United States. India and China likewise have shown increased interest in each other's innovation systems.

As a means for introducing experts from each of these three countries to the science, technology, and innovation policies of the other two, a Workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy was held at the National Institute for Advanced Study in Bangalore, India, from July 7-9, 2008. We three co-chairs for the workshop determined that issues associated with science, technology, and innovation policy could best be introduced and their commonalities and dissimilarities identified by focusing on case studies from three sectors in which all three countries have a significant level of capability and interest, namely:

- Power Generation by Coal,
- Information Technology,
- Pharmaceuticals

Accordingly, the core of the workshop consisted of three sessions in which experts on each of these topics summarized prepared presentations distributed in advance to all workshop participants, followed by comments by two discussants, and open discussion. During the course of the three-day workshop, four-distinguished speakers made presentations on broader aspects of the relations between R&D and innovation beyond the three specific sectors considered in the core sessions.

A principal objective of the workshop was to acquaint a handful of experts from each of the three countries with science, technology, and innovation policies in the other two, identifying commonalities that might lead to subsequent cooperative activities. There seemed to be a general consensus among workshop participants that this objective had been achieved.

A second, almost corollary objective was to identify areas in which bi- and tri-national cooperation would be fruitful. It is still too early to assess the extent to which this objective has been realized, since participants would, of necessity, need to discuss such possibilities with colleagues in their own institutions and countries about such cooperative projects. However, by the close of the workshop, at least two sets of participants from more than one country were already discussing the specifics of further cooperation.

To those who were fortunate enough to have participated in the Bangalore workshop, the experience appears to have been both productive and enjoyable. We hope that by producing and disseminating these proceedings, others will be able to inform themselves about science, technology, and innovation policies in China India, and the United States, be stimulated to learn more and, building on the findings reported here, develop cooperative research projects in those areas.

Mu Rongping

Dilip Ahuja

Richard P. Suttmeier

September 2008