

High-Level Meeting:

Achieving Sustainable Graduation for

Least Developed Countries

29-30 November 2017
Dhaka, Bangladesh



Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries

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Defining features of LDCs

- Structural handicaps to growth and sustainable development
- State of STI remains poor
- Vicious circle of poverty and low-equilibrium trap
- Highly vulnerable to external shocks and crises
- Graduation wipes out special and differential treatment and special support measures



Why STI?

- Science, technology and innovation (STI) serves as a crucial driver of rising prosperity and improved national competitiveness
- Technology and innovation driven growth can effectively ease the post-graduation shocks
- Delivering on the full range of SDG agenda (green, clean, carbon neutral), requires access to appropriate technologies
- LDCs need a well-functioning STI ecosystem
- Digital technologies need analog complements

High-tech exports

(% of manufactured exports for 2015)

Country	High-tech export %
Senegal	2
Tonga	2 (2012)
Bangladesh	0.17 (2011)
Barbados	24
Canada	13
Denmark	16
Iceland	23
Ireland	30



Patent applications (residents) 2015

LDCs	
Country	Patents App
Bangladesh	41
Madagascar	3
Malawi	6
Mozambique	24
Nepal	11
Sudan	267
Tanzania	1
Uganda	9
Yemen	5

Other countries	
Country	Patents App
China	968,252
US	288,335
Japan	258,839
ROK	167,275
Germany	47,384



Trade mark application

LDCs	
Country	Application
Bangladesh	11541
Bhutan	578
Cambodia	26366
Haiti	1649
Lesotho	625
Mozambique	1154
Nepal	3950
Sao-Tome and Principe	606

Other countries	
Country	Application
China	2,104,534
Japan	124,602
US	341,902



R&D expenditure as % of GDP (2015)

Country	Expenditure % of GDP
Cambodia	0.12
Lesotho	0.05
China	2.07
Denmark	3.01
Germany	2.88
Japan	3.28
RoK	4.23



Legal framework for tech capacity building

Article 66.2 of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) states:

“Developed Country Members shall provide incentives to enterprises and institutions in their territories for the purpose of promoting and encouraging technology transfer to least-developed country members in order to enable them to create a sound and viable technological base.”

It therefore embodies a positive legal obligation on the part of the developed countries.



Implementation of Article 66.2

- The very concept of tech transfer is still ambiguous
- Lack of institutional apparatus to help LDCs realize the Article
- There are no clearly set standards to assess compliance with this obligation
- Council for TRIPS in February 2003 established a reporting mechanism to monitor the implementation of Article 66.2

Technology Bank is a solution

- In 2011, the Istanbul Programme of Action called for the establishment of a Technology Bank dedicated to Least Developed Countries
- On the 23 of December 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution 71/251 on Establishment of Technology Bank for LDCs
- The host country agreement and the contribution agreement with Turkey was signed on 22 September 2017, which leads to the operationalization of the Technology Bank

The objectives of the Technology Bank

- Strengthen the science, technology and innovation capacity of LDCs
- Promote the development and implementation of national and regional STI strategies;
- Strengthen partnerships among STI-related public entities and with the private sector;
- Promote cooperation among all stakeholders involved in STI,
- Promote and facilitate the identification and utilization of and access to appropriate technologies by LDCs, as well as their transfer to LDCs.



Beneficiary of the Technology Bank

- All Least Developed Countries
- Any least developed country that graduates from the category shall remain a beneficiary of the activities of the Technology Bank for a period of at least five years after the date of graduation.

Organization

The Technology Bank shall consist of:

- A Council, which shall serve as the governing body of the Technology Bank
- A Managing Director, who shall be responsible to the Council for the direction, administration, programming and coordination of the Technology Bank
- A Science, Technology and Innovation Supporting and Enabling Mechanism and an Intellectual Property Bank, as operational units, assisted by a Management Support, Partnerships and Coordination Unit
- Regional centers

Responsibility of the Council

- Consider and approve the **multi-year strategic plan**, the annual work programme, operational principles, policies and guidelines and the budget of the Technology Bank
- **Consult with governmental and non-governmental STI experts** on the activities of the Technology Bank
- **Report annually to the General Assembly** through the Secretary-General on the work of the Technology Bank
- The Council shall **meet at least once a year** and shall be convened by the Managing Director in consultation with the Chairperson of the Council, with the exception of the first meeting, which shall be convened by the Managing Director



The Work Programme for 2018

STI reviews including technology needs assessments:

The Technology Bank will carry out **baseline reviews for several LDCs**, in close collaboration with the relevant UN agencies. These reviews will identify technological gaps and priority needs of LDCs.

It will also focus on options to **strengthen policies and measures aimed at improving national and regional technological capabilities and encourage innovation**. The reviews are intended to provide a blueprint for the STI capacity building programs to guide the Technology Bank and other stakeholders for future activities.



The Work Programme for 2018

Digital access to research and technical knowledge

Under digital access to research the Technology Bank will build on existing initiatives, and focus on **facilitating and increasing online access to scientific journals, books, and databases** at no direct charge. It will provide capacity building for librarians, university teachers, graduate students, researchers, and IT specialists.

This activity is expected to **provide improved access for scientists and researchers to data, publications and STI initiatives**. It is also intended to enhance intra-LDC and international collaboration between research centres and universities.



The Work Programme for 2018

Resource mobilization

An additional ongoing activity will be resource mobilization as there is a clear need to boost the programmatic resources and the staff of the Bank with a view to pursuing the Charter objectives in all the 47 LDCs.

Thank you
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