



Institute for Economic Research on Innovation

Institute for Economic Research on Innovation
Faculty of Economics and Finance
Tshwane University of Technology



BRICS Innovation Panel 29th January 2010

The BRICS Project is a comparative research study on the National Innovation Systems of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. It is a project conducted by the Global Network for Learning, Innovation and Competence Building Systems – Globelics (see www.globelics.org) and is coordinated by RedeSist – the Research Network on Local Productive and Innovative Systems – at the Economics Institute of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro Brazil.

Conceptually, the project is structured around the Systems of Innovation framework. The central focus of the study is the national system of innovation (NSI) of the five BRICS. The notion of innovation system has in its centre the industrial, S&T and education sub-systems; but includes also the legal and political frameworks, investment and financial sub-system, as well as other spheres relating to the national and international contexts where knowledge is generated, used and diffused. The objective is to characterize and compare the NSI of the five countries pointing out convergences, divergences, and synergies, as well as identifying current and potential connections. Particular attention will be given to policy implications. Therefore, the project aims at involving, not only researchers, but also policy-makers working in national and international agencies.

Specifically the project aimed at:

- (a) Stimulating interactions and the exchange of experiences between researchers and policy-makers interested in innovation in BRICS aiming at creating capabilities and finding joint workable solutions;
- (b) Characterising the structure of BRICS' national innovation systems, their recent evolution and perspectives;
- (c) Comparing the five countries innovation systems, identifying differences and similarities, common bottlenecks and complementarities;
- (d) Developing and using concepts and information capable of representing the Innovation Systems of BRICS;
- (e) Discussing policy implications and put forward policy recommendations, extracting lessons that can be useful not only for these countries but also for other developing countries.

The outcome of the project consists of five reports on each of the BRICS national systems of innovation and five books which address specific themes utilising a comparative analysis of each of the BRICS' national systems of innovation. The thematic areas are: (a) the State and the NSI, (b) Financing Innovation, (c) Transnational Corporations and the NSI, (d) SMEs and the NSI, and (e) Inequality and the NSI. This four year project is now reaching completion and the Institute for Economic Research on Innovation (IERI) would like to share its South Africa specific research findings with a wider South African community. For this purpose we invite you to an innovation panel set of presentations on the 29th January, 2010 at the IERI premises in 159 Skinner Str., Pretoria. The planned programme is outlined below:

Draft Programme

10:00-10:30	Welcome & Introduction	Rasigan Maharajh
10:30-11:15	An Overview of the SA NSI	Rasigan Maharajh
11:15-11:45	The State	Mario Scerri
11:45-12:15	Finance	Michael Kahn
12:15-12:45	TNCs	Glenn Robbins
12:45-13:30	LUNCH	
13:30-14:00	SMEs	Lindile Ndabeni
14:00-14:30	Inequality	Luci Abrahams
14:30-15:30	Future Agenda for the BRICS project	Panel