



Centre for Development Studies Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

**International Conference on
Innovation and Development under Globalization:
BRICS Experience
Trivandrum, 19-21 August 2009**

Background Note

One of the recent developments in the global economy has been the emergence of select developing countries like Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa as the “Southern Engines of Growth”. If the available evidence is any indication these countries are also emerging as the “engines of southern growth” through their increasing role in south-south trade, investment and technology transfer. The emergence of these countries is to be seen in the context of the innovation system that was evolved over the years. Hence, a proper understanding of the dynamics of innovation in these countries under globalization could be of immense policy relevance not only for each of these countries but also for the BRICS as a group and other less developed countries that are aspiring to catch up.

From the perspective of individual countries, it needs to be noted that, while all these countries have experienced an economic turnaround in the recent past, there has been undesirable outcomes like growing inequality, excessive environmental degradation and others. A more nuanced understanding of the innovation systems in these countries in terms of the institutions involved and their interactions could not only help addressing the undesirable outcomes of rapid economic expansion but also to help making growth sustainable and more inclusive. Unfortunately, however, the policy discourse in most of the countries is driven by the narrow and linear perspective of science, technology and innovation (or invention, innovation and diffusion). Hence, the bearing of innovation systems in a broader sense and the role of institutions and their interactions in shaping the innovation process is yet to receive the attention of policy makers that they deserve.

As far as the BRICS as a group is concerned, the available evidence indicates that their economic turnaround has been associated with growing south-south trade and investment. Also almost all of them have emerged as major source of outward FDI. To the extent that each of these countries has significant technological capabilities in a wide range of areas, much could be learned from each other. To the extent that each of these countries have evolved solutions for many of the developmental issues being confronted by the less developed countries, BRICS could play an important role in hastening the catching up by

less developed countries. Such synergies are recognized in the policy circles, as evident from the declarations made by the heads of states of BRICS. However, much remains to be done to exploit these synergies for mutual benefit. The proposed international conference that intends to explore the process of innovation and development under globalization in BRICS by bringing together scholars from BRICS and other countries is an attempt in this direction.

The issues that would be taken up for exploration include but not limited to innovation policy, FDI and innovation system, inequality and innovation, Innovation systems and SMES, and financing of innovation.

Invitation for Young Scholars

We invite young scholars (currently undergoing M Phil/Ph D) and working on issues related to the conference theme to participate in the Conference. Interested scholars may please send their application not later than 18 July 2009 over email to: kjoseph@cds.ac.in. There is no format for the application but it should be accompanied by your research proposal. A letter of recommendation from your supervisor will be highly valued. Travel support (IIAC/AC3tier in case of Rajadhani) and local hospitality will be offered to selected applicants.