

UNU-MERIT Participation at GLOBELICS India, 2006

A strong UNU-MERIT contingent descended on the fifth GLOBELICS (Global Network for Economics of Learning, Innovation, and Competence Building Systems) Conference on 4-7 October. This year's theme was on innovation systems for competitiveness and shared prosperity in developing countries. The conference took place at the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, in Kerala, India.

GLOBELICS is an international network of scholars dedicated to applying the concept of "learning, innovation, and competence building systems" as an analytical framework and promoting its use in developing countries. A central theme this year was to explore ways of building new technological bridges in South-South cooperation, especially between the rapidly emerging economies commonly referred to as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and developing countries.

Opening ceremony proceedings got started with inaugural speeches by the CDS President, Prof.



N.R. Madhava Menon and the Indian Minister for Commerce, Shri Jairam Ramesh.

UNU-MERIT Director Luc Soete inaugurated the new Sanjaya Lall Collection at CDS.



Day two opened with a panel session on innovation policy, competitiveness and economic development during which UNU-MERIT's Banji Oyelaran Oyeyinka gave a passionate speech on the need for South-South cooperation and more relevant innovation research for developing countries with a move away from the focus on China, India and Brazil. Ionara Costa and former UNU-MERIT interns Anabel Marin and Subash Sashidaran presented papers on the role played by

multinational companies in technology diffusion within host developing countries. PhD candidate Phillip Schmidt presented a joint paper on open source software for microfinance whilst Mamata Parhi spoke on the adoption of advanced technologies by India's automotive sector. Finally, Padmashree Gehl Sampath explored the linkages between patent rights and biomedical innovation.



Day three saw further UNU-MERIT contributions to the panel discussion on the urban-rural divide. Andy Hall, coordinator of UNU-MERIT's rural innovation network, LINK – which promotes

Learning, Innovation and Knowledge within the agricultural and rural sector in developing countries - asserted that 'development alone' is not sufficient. He called on GLOBELICS to develop a new generation of students from the South to help move away from the predominant development models which are based on high-tech industrialization. He later presented a paper on a recently completed UNU-MERIT/World Bank project on new approaches to agricultural research. Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka presented a second paper on an institutional typology for Innovation Systems in developing countries.

On the final day two more PhD researchers: Fernando Rodriguez and Evans Mupela made presentations. Rodriguez presented two papers on science, technology and innovation policy – incentive and agent behaviour, and on demand factors conditioning human resources for innovation, respectively. Mupela spoke on the potential of satellite Technologies to fuel the “fifth long wave” of development in Africa. Micheline Goedhuys presented a paper on productivity differences among manufacturing firms in Tanzania.

One of the final sessions was run by a group of researchers involved in UNU-MERIT's LINK network in South Asia and Eastern Africa. Expounding on how innovation systems concepts could be adopted in thinking about rural transformation, the presentations showcased examples of “pro-poor” rural innovation, emphasising the importance of capacity building and good linkages between various stakeholders.

At the end of a long but interesting day Luc Soete contributed to the closing ceremony by summing up the needs of the conference as one of moving from considering more advanced economic growth and innovation to one where innovation for real development and the development of innovation system in poorer countries should take preference.

The innovation research agenda needs to shift from the “easy” high tech industrial “western” research towards designing innovation system policies for developing countries and further towards innovation and developing issues.

UNU-MERIT researchers were out in force during the social activities too and were spotted participating in heated debates on innovation, development and economic growth at the bar.

The following is a list of presentations made by UNU-MERIT Researchers and Alumni

(154) **Evans N Mupela:** Economics of Satellite Technologies: Fuelling the Fifth Long Wave for African Development

(176) **Micheline Goedhuys, Norbert Janz and Pierre Mohnen:** [Explaining Productivity Differences between LDC manufacturing firms: Evidence from Tanzania](#)

(199) **Samia Satti O. M. Nour:** [Assessment of the National Systems of Innovation in the Arab Region: The case of the UAE.](#)

(217) **Britta Augsburg and Jan Philipp Schmidt:** [Free/Open source Software for Micro finance – Increasing Efficiency and Extending Benefits to the very poor](#)

(203) **Rossitza Rousseva:** [Approach for analyzing technological capabilities in latecomer software companies](#)

(240) **Marin Anabel, Subash Sasidharan and Costa Ionara:** [MNC Subsidiaries and Technology Diffusion in Late Industrialising Countries: A comparison between Argentina and India](#)

(241) **Ionara Costa & Anabel Marin:** [Technological Profile of MNC Subsidiaries in Argentina and Brazil](#)

(250) **Fernando Santiago-Rodriguez:** [Demand Factors Conditioning the Development of Human Resources for Innovation: Some Lessons from Mexico](#)

Gabriela Dutrénit, Fernando Santiago-Rodriguez and Alexandre O. Vera-Cruz: [S&T and Innovation Policy, Incentives and Agents Behaviour: Lessons from the Mexican Case](#)

(266) **Mamata Parhi:** [Looking Beyond the Firm-specific Determinants of New Technology Diffusion: An Analysis of Advanced Manufacturing Technology Adoption in Indian Automotive Industry](#)

(270) **Saeed Parto, Tomamso Ciarli and Saurabh Arora:** Economic Growth, Innovation Systems, and Institutional Change: An Assessment and a Framework

(291) **John O. Adeoti:** Technological Learning and Economic Reform: An Analysis of the Case of Nigeria

(309) **Padmashree Gehl Sampath:** Breaking the Fence: [Can Patent Rights Deter Biomedical Innovation in Technology Followers?](#)

(319) **Sunil Mani:** [The incremental innovator Vs the trader: Contrasts between the sectoral systems of innovation of the Indian pharmaceutical and telecommunications industries](#)

(347) **Márcia da Mota Darós:** Innovation in Services: The Impact of Information and Communication Technologies in the Travel and Tourism Industry of Brazil and South Africa - lessons to other developing countries

(374) **Rajeswari S. Raina:** [Development and Diffusion of Energy Efficient Devices – Lessons for pro-poor innovation from TIDE](#)

(375) **Laxmi Thummuru:** NPM as a means of enhancing rural innovation capacity

(376) **Rasheed Sulaiman V:** [New insights into promoting pro-poor rural innovation: Lessons from civil society](#)

(377) **Andy Hall:** Towards an understanding of pro-poor rural innovation capacity: addressing the challenge of the a new rural economy

(378) **Andy Hall:** Enhancing rural innovation: how to go beyond strengthening agricultural research systems.

(409) **Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka:** [Innovation Systems in Developing Countries: An Institutional Typology](#)

() **Rajah Rasiah:** [Systemic Quad and Dynamic Clustering: Learning and Innovation in Penang and Johor](#)

For more information, please visit the Globelics India website:

<http://www.globelicsindia2006.org>