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## International Technology Collaboration and Low Carbon Innovation: Recasting "Truisms" with insights from emerging economies

#### MAY 31, 2013 UNITED NATIONS WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENT, TRANSFER AND DISSEMINATION OF CLEAN AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES ALEXANDRA MALLETT

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### Is this technology sustainable?

#### http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9fpolCvM-8









Recap

- •Defn inclusive and importance of the private sector (Dalhman)
- •Systemic approach and networks important (Sagar)
- •World is changing Rise of South (Srinivas)













Data on Canada - Source: Stanford 2012





#### China exports: climbing the ladder, regional share of global exports in 2001 and 2010

(export product categories sorted by developed economies global export share in 2001)

Developed

China

World

#### 2001

Cars, aircraft, integrated circuits, pharmaceuticals, advanced equipment, medical appliances.

Household appliances, processed metal products, assembled electronics, simple chemicals, print circuitry.

Textiles, toys, shoes, simple plastic products.

#### 2010

Cars, aircraft, integrated circuits, pharmaceuticals, advanced equipment, medical appliances.

Household appliances, processed metal products, assembled electronics, simple chemicals, print circuitry.

Textiles, toys, shoes, simple plastic products.

Sources: ITC; Economist Intelligence Unit calculations.



Why are clean and environmentally sound technologies unique?

- Urgency (climate change, voracious appetite for NR in era of increasing scarcity)
- Public good govts can take the 'long view'
- Often technologies are immature / less known in settings

Technology Approach so far: focus on output









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Key Themes	Conventional notions	Emerging Perspectives
Movement of goods and services (technologies)	<ul><li>North to South</li><li>Technology transfer</li><li>One way</li></ul>	
Solutions	<ul> <li>Technical / economic options</li> <li>Bias for over-arching prescriptions</li> <li>Piecemeal</li> </ul>	
Policy measures	Direct; intl and natl level	
Innovators and innovation	<ul> <li>Experts; frontier, 'breakthrough' technologies</li> <li>Linear</li> </ul>	
Actors	<ul><li>Donor / recipient</li><li>Often 'lumped together'</li></ul>	
Channels	<ul> <li>Within firms is dominant (from HQ to subsidiary)</li> <li>Between firms – JVs and licensing (North to South)</li> <li>Some triple helix</li> </ul>	





#### Two distinct features with research approach:

- Systematic approach (attempts to capture various dimensions)
- Innovation and adoption (integral relationship between how a technology is developed, produced and used)

### **Empirics**

- Informed by research in Mexico, Brazil, India and China and beyond - cities and national level and mitigation; leading-edge and 'appropriate'; consumers and producers
- Mainly: Solar water heaters, biogas, PV, wind, IGCC, EE techs for SMEs









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Source: Clean Development Mechanism Project Design Document (CDM-PDD) Bandeirantes 2005, p. 5

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#### **KEY CONCEPTS**

#### **Innovation**

World, market, organization

Innovation capacities Know-why, principles, Flow C, knowledge

Technology cooperation Two or more-way flows

<u>Socio-technical fit</u> Social / cultural dimensions











What is happening?

Bulk of activity - private sector

Channels - are changing

- JVs and subsidiaries and licenses (Tata BP solar, GE, GM)
- BUT also acquiring majority share or outright purchase of Northern firms (Reva, Suzlon / Goldwind)
- Movement from technology transfer to cooperation perceptions are changing

India - emerged as a key destination for offshore corporate R&D (Herstatt et al. 2008)









#### Innovation and Innovators are changing

Leadbeater (2005) "special people in special places"

•Sociedade do Sol and frugal innovation (MacGuyver) Termed *jugaad* in Hindi, *gambiarra* in Brazil, etc.; an "innovative fix; an improvised solution based on ingenuity and cleverness" (see Radjou et al. 2012); pro-poor innovation (Kaplinsky 2011)

http://www.sociedadedosol.org.br/en/presentation.htm Open innovation Non-linear innovation R&D in the South - to North (GE and GM)







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#### Examples - Context: Experiences matter

#### Evolution of Solar Water Heater market in Brazil (2009) (ABRAVA-DASOL 2010)



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### **Context: Experiences matter**

Apagão of 2000 / 2001

Impact of negative perception (SWHs in Mexico - all painted with the same brush - major ramifications - word of mouth) But not with biogas technologies - social construction of technologies - less entrenchment, more room for change?









EXAMPLES <u>Policy measures - Indirect policies are also key</u> (Privatization yes, but mainly foreign investment / industrial rules key; taxes less of a role)

Supply chain issues

Solar Water Heater "Wars"

Govt-sanctioned standards: INMETRO seal

Perceptions - "ownership" vs. "inferior imports"



China – 863 programme; complement 973 (benefit of time – 1986, 1997)

<u>Sub-national / local level?</u> State policies to complement national level in India (PV); Brazil and Mexico – targeted municipalities just getting implemented (modeled on Barcelona)

<u>Disconnect?</u> International mechanisms little salience for Indian firms while CDM played a role in wind in China; SWHs little, whereas biogas very important

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#### **EXAMPLES** Actors - Relationships matter

São Paulo – networks are more institutionalized, organized, unified – more examples of cooperation across sectors (academic, govt, industry and (albeit only a little) citizens; two streams but groups come together on larger issues; strong indigenous expertise

Mexico City – links are more recent, *ad hoc;* public-private partnerships exist but not considered effective; more in-fighting and more difficult to mobilize groups; less indigenous expertise but growing

India – more rapid rates of low carbon uptake when international links present







Key Themes	Conventional Notions	Emerging Perspectives
Movement of goods and services (technologies)	<ul><li>North to South</li><li>Technology transfer</li><li>One way</li></ul>	<ul> <li>South to South, South to North</li> <li>Technology cooperation</li> <li>Two or more ways</li> </ul>
Solutions	<ul> <li>Technical / economic options</li> <li>Bias for over-arching prescriptions</li> <li>Piecemeal</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Social dynamics just as if not more important</li> <li>Context matters (experiences)</li> <li>More systematic</li> </ul>
Policy measures	Direct; intl and natl level	Disconnect? Indirect; local level
Innovators and innovation	<ul> <li>Experts; frontier, 'breakthrough' technologies</li> <li>Linear</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>'lay people' and experts; incremental, adaptive technologies; frugal innovation</li> <li>Non-linear</li> </ul>
Actors	<ul><li>Donor / recipient</li><li>Often 'lumped together'</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Partners; engaged throughout, in a meaningful way</li> <li>Heterogeneous</li> </ul>
Channels	<ul> <li>Within firms is dominant (from HQ to subsidiary)</li> <li>Between firms – JVs and licensing (North to South)</li> <li>Some triple helix</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Within firms (subsidiary to HQ)</li> <li>Acquisition or majority ownership of Northern by Southern firms</li> <li>While rare, some instances of quadruple helix</li> </ul>







## Considerations in Developing a Technology Facilitation Mechanism

1)More attention needed on the technology cooperation *process* 2)Things happening but public policy action needed (esp. SMEs) 3)Engaging local partners (early on, more meaningful ways) 4)International involvement - increase rate of diffusion 5)Policy 'windows' -build on momentum, less entrenched 6) Disconnect with international policy mechanisms? Indirect policies are also key (trade) 7)South-North: China / India - Germany, Canada; Subsidiary to HQ (India to US) and <u>South - South</u>: Brazil and India (biomass; 'unfinished' adapted), Sociedade do Sol - intl cooperation;







#### Ways Forward

- 1)Low carbon innovation centres
- 2)Cross sectoral partnerships
- 3)Policy coherence across jurisdictions and issues e.g. Microgrids hype buzzword or feasible?
- 4)Collaborative international RDD&D National Hybrid Propulsion Program (creative ways to address IPRs), ownership, diaspora

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