Establishing a science and technology park is no walk in the park

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Agenda

• Why do we need this guidebook?
• What is the structure of this guidebook?
• What are some key recommendations?
Science and technology parks launched in each decade

Source: Derived from a survey conducted by the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation, 2012.
Note: The survey covers 119 parks from 38 countries.
Number of Science Parks in a country or economy

Note: the number of parks may vary according to different sources, mainly because there is no universally agreed definition of S&T parks

Economic zones and stage of economic development

Types of economic zones

- Industrial parks
- Special Economic Zone
- Eco-Industry Parks
- Science & Technology Parks
- Innovation District

Source: UNIDO country office in Viet Nam, 2015
Not all science and tech parks are successful

One study found that a large percentage of science parks in the United States either ended as outright failures or contributed little to economic objectives, reporting that

- only 25% of science parks achieved their goals (such as attracting and fostering research and development activity, contributing to job creation and economic growth);
- another 25% became purely real estate operations that contributed little to economic objectives; and
- 50% failed.
With Hong Kong’s Science Park in charge of a massive HK$40 billion (US$5.1 billion) slice of the budget funding pie in an attempt to turn the city into an innovation and technology (I&T) hub, questions have arisen as to how it can spend the money wisely, will be able to churn out success stories and also be accountable to a highly sceptical public.

Source: South China Morning Post
This guidebook reviews the historical development of science and technology parks and discusses how they fit into the national policies in the region. It serves as a reference source for policymakers in charge of policy or planning related to the development of STPs in Asia and the Pacific.
Structure of this guidebook

Chapter 1 Introduction
Chapter 2 Nature and Characteristics of Science and Technology Parks
Chapter 3 Policies on Science and Technology Parks
Chapter 4 Case Studies of Science and Technology Parks
Chapter 5 Adjustment of Science and Technology Parks to the Digital World
Chapter 6 Conclusion
Some (not all) recommendations from the Guidebook: The pre-conditions for success of a S&T park

- The key tenants or the anchor tenants – such as national research institutes – are committed to staying in the science and technology park.
- A management team with all the skills necessary for managing the science and technology park can be identified and assembled.
- A strong science base in the surrounding areas of the science and technology park is already available.
- The city or area where a science and technology park will be built is attractive to talented researchers and entrepreneurs.
- An entrepreneurial culture is available in the city or country where a science and technology park will be built.
- Finance, especially seed and venture capital, is available in the city or country where a science and technology park will be built.
In a nutshell

• The success of Silicon Valley has been inspirational. However, if the precursory conditions are not in place, a science and technology park could turn into a white elephant project.