

Preface

A nation's global competitiveness comes from regions, and international cooperation is an essential part for regions to build their competitiveness.

The World Technopolis Association, a global network of local governments and actors of regional innovation including universities and technology parks was born in 1998 with an aim to share knowledge on science and technology and success stories of building science and technology parks (STPs) and innovation clusters as a growth engine that leads to sustainable regional development.

Developed nations build STPs to stay at the forefront in R&D and commercialization of cutting edge technologies. Developing nations also desire to develop STPs as a means of improving their capacity of technology-based economic growth and regional innovation which will eventually enhance their national competitiveness.

UNESCO and WTA have jointly carried out international cooperative projects to help developing countries' effort to build STPs by providing technical assistances, pilot projects consulting, and capacity building programs. These projects have produced many fruitful accomplishments and are well regarded by the international community.

In particular, the annual UNESCO-WTA International Training Workshop which started as the first joint project in 2005 has been very successful as a capacity building program for STP managers and policymakers. The Workshop also produced a number of quality research papers relating to STP development and management.

This publication is a collection of selected works that have been submitted to the Workshop. It includes papers on theories and concepts of STP development/management, best practices, and applications in three different chapters, and will be a great textbook or reference not only for researchers and students but also for those responsible for building and managing STPs.

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Technopolis

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