

Innovation Systems and Economic Transition in China: Since the 1980s

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In two lectures I will explain the experiences of China from the perspective of innovation systems and capability building.

Since the 1980s, transition and learning trajectories in China can be divided into two periods: the first period was in the first two decades, i.e. the 1980s and 1990s, characteristic of market-led restructuring of assets and capabilities; the second period can be understood starting since the end of the 1990s. The major orientation of development strategy of the second period is towards the enhancement of endogenous innovation capabilities, and the results of which are still to be unfolded.

Of the two lectures, lecture 1 will focus on the first period, talking about policy process for the NIS transformation and the processes of institutional change and technological learning.

Lecture 2 will concentrate on the current period, to illustrate why turning to innovation-based development is recognized necessary and feasible, and what challenges are ahead for the further transformation.

The lectures will explain the experiences in China with enlightenment of a set of theories on innovation and development, aim at showing the usefulness of evolutionary and systemic theorem in understanding of, and giving guidance to, strategic thoughts and policy-making for development and growth of a developing country in the present circumstances of globalization.

Concepts and theories, which will be discussed in the lectures, include transformation of innovation systems, adaptive policy process, market-led restructuring, “recombination learning”, global value chain, “structural unemployment”.

References:

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Additional references:

1, Raphael Kaplinsky: Spreading the Gains from Globalization: What can be Learned from Value Chain Analysis? IDS Working Paper 110, University of Sussex, UK, 2000

2, W. Arthur Lewis 1954: Economic Development with Unlimited Supply of Labour, School of Economics and Social Studies 22 (2): 139-191