INDUSTRIAL POLICY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Failing Markets, Weak States

Tilman Altenburg, German Development Institute and Wilfried Lütkenhorst, German Development Institute, Germany and Beijing Normal University, China

‘Countries that need industrial policy the most typically have the worst governance. This terrific book explicitly recognizes this difficulty, and provides a rich discussion of how it can be overcome. It presents a valuable series of country studies that focus on both successes (such as Ethiopian cut flowers) and failures (such as Namibia’s export processing zones). The authors show that weak capacity is not necessarily a hindrance to effective industrial policy, just as strong capacity does not guarantee it.’

– Dani Rodrik, Princeton University, US

‘A green transformation holds the potential to sustain a healthy planet where ecosystems are well-managed and human well-being is secured for future generations. This book makes a compelling case for the design of industrial policies that support a green economy. Being at the crossroads of their development pathways, developing countries have the unique opportunity to define their industrial policies in a resource-efficient, low-carbon and socially inclusive manner in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.’

– Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

‘Historically industrial policy has been conducted by nearly all countries as a way of getting ahead in the international arena. Many have succeeded but many have failed. African countries have particularly failed miserably, mainly because their embryonic governments tried to do too much with too little. The present book provides a refreshing and balanced guidepost for such governments to employ relatively appropriate strands of industrial policy while avoiding the past pitfalls. As such, the book fills an important void in the economic development literature.’

– Augustin K. Fosu, University of Ghana, University of Pretoria, South Africa and University of Oxford, UK

Industrial Policy in Developing Countries offers an in-depth assessment of both the potentials and perils of designing and implementing policy in countries at early stages of economic development. The range of insightful case studies illustrates the key dilemma: directing economic and social development through what are often incipient and weak institutions. This realistic, evidence-based assessment will appeal to both development researchers and industrial policy practitioners, particularly those working in developing countries.

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