

Improving Technology through Tacit and Codified Knowledge for SMEs in Developing Economies (Empirical Study)

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Abstract

Technology transfer has been well recognised as a means to advance technology capability. Transnational and domestic technology transfer programs have been encouraged in developed and developing economies as a means for government agencies, non-profit organisations and businesses to improve their technology. In developing countries, small to medium enterprises (SMEs) are regarded as being a valuable source of economic growth; however, SMEs are often thought to have insufficient resources for advancing their in-house technology development. Therefore, SMEs need technology transfer programs to increase their technology capability by external resources. Knowledge and technology transfer involves tacit knowledge and codified knowledge, the process of knowledge and technology transfer can be analysed based on knowledge classification. Those types of knowledge have distinct characteristics. The diversity of characteristics will potentially affect the result, and indeed the success, of knowledge and technology transfer. It is important, therefore, to understand any differences in phenomena associated with the process of transferring knowledge and technology base on knowledge classification for SMEs. Using data from hundreds of SMEs and in-depth discussion with the peak bodies of government agencies, universities and industries, the policy directions for government regarding knowledge and technology transfer to support local industry in developing economies were developed.

Keywords

SMEs, Tacit Knowledge, Codified Knowledge, Technology Transfer

Biography

Fourry Handoko is a lecturer of Industrial Management Postgraduate Program, National Institute of Technology, ITN Malang and a professional trainer. He holds sarjana teknik (B.S.) in Industrial Engineering from National Institute of Technology, ITN Malang, Indonesia, Sarjana sastra Inggris (B.A.) from College of Foreign Language, STIBA Malang, Indonesia, Magister (Master) in Manufacturing Engineering from University of Indonesia, Indonesia and Master (MEng) leading PhD in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Melbourne, Melbourne Australia. His research interests include technology, innovation, manufacturing, green industrial system, knowledge and technology transfer.