Preface

Junmo Kim

Department of Public Administration, Konkuk University,
Gwang-Jin-Gu, Hwa-Yang Dong 1, Seoul, Korea, 143–701
Fax: 82-2-6008-3477 E-mail: junmokim@unitel.co.kr

Biographical notes: Junmo Kim is an assistant professor at the Department of Public Administration, Konkuk University, in Seoul, Korea. He formerly served as an associate research fellow at the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI) and the Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA). His areas of interest include science, industrial and technological policy, regional development, wage analysis and policy evaluation. His major publications include *The South Korean Economy* (Ashgate, 2002), *Globalization and Industrial Development* (iUniverse, 2005) and 'Are industries destined toward productivity paradox?' (*International Journal of Technology Management*, Vol. 29, Nos. 3–4, 2005).

While a lot of groups, ranging from academic and industry to government and NGOs, agree on the importance of science and technology (S&T) as the locomotive for economic growth, demand and supply issues of the S&T work force has been an unresolved public policy issue for decades in advanced industrial countries. The phenomenon, however, is not confined to some selected wealthy countries, but has begun spreading over different regions. A critical notion this special issue is taking is that the S&T manpower issue has been constrained and affected by other policy related contexts ranging from education and the transformation of the economy & society, to government policies aimed at Science and Technology.

With the problem as a backdrop, this special issue covers several areas of S&T manpower policy issues. Firstly, one of the critical areas which this special issue is focusing on is the demand and supply of an S&T work force and its impact on the economy. Articles in this category discuss the issue with respect to the Taiwanese and the Indian cases. Secondly, knowing the importance of the education sector as the source of supply, papers have addressed the relational issue of Science and Technology with education and society. One paper dealt with the relationship between education and the economic boom, while the other discussed the relationship between technology fusion and the change of the University education paradigm. Thirdly, this special issue allocated its attention to policy issues that have affected S&T manpower. In particular, a common denominator found among three papers was the regional cluster policy in the sense that it has 'moulded' the structure of the S&T manpower supply.

While each contributed paper is based on a specific regional or national case, due to a commonly shared nature of S&T policy issues, papers in this issue have clear implications across regional and national borders. It is also expected that with the special issue, a forum for discussing the salience of the S&T power policy would be prepared, which will lead to the application of ideas and research findings in the public and business policy fields.

Copyright © 2007 Inderscience Enterprises Ltd.