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## Editorial

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**Biographical note:** Paulo N. Figueiredo is a Professor in the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration (EBAPE), Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), Brazil. He received a PhD from SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research, University of Sussex, UK. In 1999 he founded and is still the Head of the Research Programme on Technological Learning and Industrial Innovation in Brazil at EBAPE/FGV. He is the author of the book *Technological Learning and Competitive Performance* (Edward Elgar). He has served on several occasions as Reviewer of a number of academic journals and was the Guest Editor of the Special Issue of the *International Journal of Technology Management – IJTM* (Vol. 36, Nos. 1-3). His researches appear in academic journals including *Research Policy*; *Technovation*; *International Journal of Technology Management*; *Industrial and Corporate Change*; *Oxford Development Studies*; *International Journal of Technology and Globalisation*; *Innovation: Management, Policy and Practice*; *Science, Technology and Society* and *Journal of Commercial Biotechnology*.

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On behalf of the Editorial Board, it is an honour and privilege for me to welcome you to this Inaugural Issue of the *International Journal of Technological Learning, Innovation and Development (IJTLID)*.

*IJTLID* was conceived to serve as a bridge of the communication gap between government policy makers, corporate executives, development agencies and investors, on the one hand, and scholars/academics and research institutions concerned with the impact of technological progress on industrial, economic and social development in late-industrialising economies on the other hand. It is the objective of *IJTLID* to contribute to influencing the direction of change in the innovation and economic development processes in latecomer countries. To achieve this, the Journal will endeavour to provide explanations for reasons of past and current successful or otherwise experiences of learning, innovation and development. It also seeks to serve as a forum for policy analyses and recommendations for the benefit of corporate, government and all types of development-related entities.

The ultimate goal is for *IJTLID* to work as a vehicle for policy discussions and recommendations that can significantly impact *future* corporations, governments and development agencies' actions oriented to technological innovation in developing nations. In so doing, the Journal will seek to contribute to filling a critical gap in the

publishing arena while, at the same time, help enhance our understanding of the intricate relationship between innovation, industrial and economic progress and catch-up in the context of today's industrialising countries.

Processes of learning and innovative capability accumulation are key issues that help explain the success or failure of technological and economic progress of countries throughout history. As a multidisciplinary Journal, *IJTLID* is devoted to the study of the nature of technological innovation processes – at the level of firms, industries/clusters and countries. It will also explore the various influences on such processes as well as their implications for industrial growth, technoeconomic and social development in the context of contemporary late-industrialising countries.

Drawing on a Schumpeterian perspective, 'innovation', in this Journal will be studied from a comprehensive standpoint to encompass imitation, assimilation, experimentation, continuous improvement and research-based activities within a framework of their technical, organisational/managerial and institutional dimensions. Such a broad approach to the study of innovation is intended to help uncover the dynamics and intricacies of the processes of accumulation and sustainability of innovative technological capabilities in developing countries.

The notion of 'development' is viewed in *IJTLID* as a set of processes of change involving people, interest groups, organisations such as firms, universities, research institutes, government-related, and all other types of agencies concerned with issues of technology and innovation. It also involves the various kinds of technologies and techniques, clusters, regions, countries, institutions at both organisational and macro levels. The organisational level includes the norms, values, beliefs and behavioural aspects, whereas the macro-economic level refers to areas such as the rule of law, industrial policy regimes, specific legislation related to technology, innovation and competition, international trade agreements and other types of technology and innovation related 'rules of the game'. 'Development' in *IJTLID* also entails changes in cultural aspects as well as in economic and social standards, living conditions, and wellness of citizens in developing areas and countries.

*IJTLID* targets two groups as its main readership communities. The first is the academic community, that is, scholars and students of research and academic institutions as well as those members of society in general with an interest in issues of technology, innovation and development in the context of late-industrialising economies; the second consists of those involved in the resource allocation in this field. This would include corporate executives, senior management of development agencies, government decision-makers, politicians, and investors from developing, transition, as well as contemporary industrialised economies.

*IJTLID* will publish mainly analytical papers based on original research, both empirically and theoretically oriented. Entries will also include research notes, book reviews and commentaries. Comparative and dynamic analyses are especially welcome. Special editions devoted to specific themes covered by the Journal will also be published from time to time.

From its inception, the concept of *IJTLID* has benefitted immensely from the input of several people, all of whom I cannot list here. The individuals were very resourceful and instrumental in helping shape the focus and spirit of the Journal, and to all of them I wish to express my profound gratitude. I had the honour of benefitting from the late Sanjaya Lall's enthusiastic support when I shared with him my initial plans for publishing a Journal devoted to technological learning and innovation in the context of developing

countries. My professor and mentor, Martin Bell, was equally supportive, listening carefully to my ideas and offering invaluable insight and encouragement for getting this Journal materialised.

Also, *IJTLID* would not have been materialised without the involvement, commitment and collaboration of the Editorial Board of which I am immensely proud. The Board's response has been swift and positive right from the formative stages of this project. Their comments and critical insights have helped define the scope and coverage of the Journal. I am also grateful to those who willingly accepted the responsibility of Regional Editors.

I wish to acknowledge the crucial role played by Inderscience Publishers in concretising the idea of this Journal. My heartfelt gratitude goes to Dr. Mohammed Dorgham for his confidence in my work and the incentive and resources provided for the creation and materialisation of the Journal. Similarly, the Inderscience staff has provided me with an impeccable and helpful support. I would like to thank Jim Corlett, Sue O'Mara and Liz Harris, who now serves as the Journal Manager. Finally, I wish also to acknowledge the important motivation and support that I enjoy from my institution, the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration (EBAPE) at the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV).

For this Inaugural Issue we have seven superb articles that address different aspects of innovation and development from both conceptual and empirical perspectives. I am profoundly grateful to Richard Nelson, Jan Fagerberg, Bart Verspagen, John Mathews, David Teece, Raphael Kaplinsky, John Cantwell, Lucia Piscitello and Martin Fransman for the time and inspiration they took to prepare and send their articles to this Maiden Issue of *IJTLID*. Their papers contribute, in different ways, to shedding new light on diverse aspects of technology and innovation-related issues in developing countries.

I do hope that, in the years and decades to come, our Journal will be read by many and also benefit from contributions from the international community of scholars and practitioners concerned with innovation, technological and economic progresses in developing countries.