
Introduction

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Biographical notes: Junmo Kim is an Associate Professor at the Department of Public Administration, Konkuk University in Seoul, Korea. Before coming to the University, he has served as an Associate Research fellow at the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI) and Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA). His areas of interest include science, industrial and technology policy, 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, 2005).

Industrial policy and technology policy share similarities as 'visible hands' approaches, yet they differ in other aspects. In contrast to a market orientated approach, it is quite clear that the two approaches of industrial and technology policy have merits and demerits in the promotion of technology development. A caveat to notice is that, between industrial and technology policy, there has been a gradual transition toward technology policy, which requires a careful distinction between the two for both practitioners as well as academic circles.

Taking it as a backdrop, this special issue tried to find out pivotal policy cases where technology policy proves its values with its 'visible nature' vis-à-vis market approach, although the visibility is lower than industrial policy case. Research examples included in the issue show a wide range of cases, from which generalised policy implications can be gleaned. With the special issue, it is expected that an understanding on the role of technology policy can be enhanced among different audience groups.