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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Anil Hira is Professor of Political Science at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, BC, Canada. He is the author of 6 books and over 30 articles and book chapters, including *The New Path: An East Asian Model for Latin American Success* (Ashgate, 2007). His area of research is using industrial, technology, and energy policies to build globally competitive industries. His current research projects include investigations of cluster competitiveness, using the emerging science of genomics to create comparative advantage, developing science and technology capacity in developing countries, and renewal of corrupt and ineffective public institutions.

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As the editor of this Special Edition, I would like to take time to thank all those who supported us through the trying process of bringing this volume to fruition. My efforts on this front began with conversations with Brian Wixted of the Centre for Policy Research on Science and Technology (CPROST) of Simon Fraser University in 2007. What intrigued us was the lack of discussion about the importance of timing in terms of path dependency for successful entry to industries, on the one hand, and the disruptive effects of that dependency by technological breakthroughs, on the other. Our ideas, embedded in Chapter 1 with Ricardo Arechavala's additions, created a scaffold for understanding why some countries and companies, with Finland's Nokia, the subject of our third article, being the prototype, can enter successfully into new markets with no previous experience or resource endowments. The other thing that weighed heavily on our minds was the polyglot and haphazard nature of previous research in much of the literature on innovation and industry, with cases that tended to be at a macro-level, not controlling for industry or timing. So, our determination was to focus on one particular new industry, to understand why some countries were able to enter into wireless phone manufacturing, while others with equal potential, were not. Lastly, we found that the state-market dichotomy that has dominated much of political economy discourse was overwrought. Our experience was that state-private cooperation was most likely a prerequisite for successful entry into new industries. While we anticipate the usual infant industry rejoinders, we see the picture as far more complex. To fully appreciate that complexity, we decided that a set of case studies by local experts controlling for industry and timing, yet rich in understanding the nuances of state-private cooperation would be the best vehicle. While we cannot definitively prove our ideas with the five cases that follow, we believe that we have shown the utility of an approach that should be tested on other cases. If useful, it could open up a whole new world of possibility for late developers to

strategise around windows of opportunities and further erode the sanctity of comparative advantage as the core guiding principle (and constraint) of what one can and should produce, and the standard of living that results from it.

CPROST served as a hub of our activity and allowed us to find collaborators for the Korean and Mexican case studies; this project required a true team effort to create consistency in the analysis, allowing for theory building. I was able to utilise SFU's other resources to coordinate the project through its various phases. We would like to acknowledge the generous support of the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, who funded our study. The framework was tested out at the 2007 Technology Transfer conference, and again, along with the Nokia case study, at the 2009 Triple Helix conference. The warm reception of the Finnish policy-makers to my questions gave me the fuel to see the project through. We were able to present our findings at a special panel of the 2010 Industry Studies Association conference. In all cases, we received helpful feedback from peers. I would like to thank Husam Gabreldar for help in editing the final package, and Calestous Juma, the editor of the journal, for his belief in the project. Lastly, I would like to dedicate this edition to Richard Lipsey, a trailblazer who showed me a way to contribute to real-world economics.