

Economic Development and the National System of Innovation Approach



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Abstract

“One major academic aim of the conference is to enrich and enhance the quality of innovation research by applying some of its fundamental concepts such as 'innovation systems', 'competence building' and 'interactive learning' to issues at the core of economic development. It is well known that applying a theoretical framework outside the arena where it was first developed may bring fundamental new theoretical insights.” In this paper we will try to substantiate what is referred to in the above text taken from the conference web-site for the first Globelics conference. We will try to demonstrate that the application of the innovation system concept on economic development makes more visible some general weaknesses of the concept and gives strong incentives to develop it further. In the development context it becomes clear that we need to understand better the formation of as well as the openness of national systems and the role of power relationships as well as the broader institutional context supporting competence building.

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Åke Lundvall: National Systems of Innovation and Economic Development, chapter 1 in Putting Africa First The Making of African Innovation Systems, edited by Muchie, Gammeltoft. and Lundvall, to be published 2003 by Aalborg University Press. 2. Several characteristics of the system of innovation approach contribute to its relevance for policy makers in the North as well as in the South. It places the focus on innovation and learning processes. National innovation potential is formed in the framework of national innovation systems, which construction is one of the key political and economic problems of any state for maintaining and continuously improving of their level in the international arena. The article presents the evolution of strategic management as the main mechanism of economic innovation development, as well as approaches to the formation of its systems and instruments. Johnson B. Economic Development and the National System of Innovation Approach First Globelics Conference, Rio de Janeiro, 2003. 24 p. Porter M.E. Location, Competition and economic Development.