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Foreword

Strengthening research capacity is one of the most effective and sustainable ways of advancing towards production, economic development and technological progress. Scientific research institutions provide the base for the success of economic programs, their adjustment and evaluation. Industrialised countries with market economies focus, at the higher legislative and executive levels, to formulate scientific research policies and strategies to co-ordinate plans for the most effective and rational use of scientific and technical resources.

Poor economies are always a result of low priority accorded to build scientific research capabilities. Lack of attention and inadequate financial resources allocated for scientific research, never allow such countries to utilize scientific knowledge towards economic gains. One can mark such countries by the small number of scientific publications and patents they produce or low percentages of active scientists and researchers per million of population. Research is mostly performed through voluntary individual initiatives or by small research groups, without clear strategic goals or in collaboration with international partners to benefit their own running projects at low costs. Extremely low percentage of the GDP allocated for scientific research is spent on salaries, bonuses, allowances and other payments, and literally very small amount is allocated to research purposes.

A clear science policy, with accurate strategic targets, is the prerequisite for such development. Such policy should target to gain technological innovation through scientific research by skilfully managing all available material and human resources, and building hosts of physical and non-physical components such as institutions, infrastructure, qualified manpower, etc. Innovation system should be built on combination and interaction of the elements that determine the capacity to assimilate and adapt scientific research to create new knowledge and techniques useful for the production system. The capacity to undertake research and development work, to assimilate and adapt technical know-how depends on the general level of skill, the distribution of scientific and technical personnel and the availability of managerial and entrepreneurial talent. Management is an important factor in modern industry and has a vital role to play in the creative and efficient use of available resources including technologies. Administrative and organizational encouragement, conducive to enhancing performances can't take place unless a high priority to scientific research is accorded by the highest authorities. Moreover lack of relationship between industry and business on one hand, and academic and non-academic research institutions on the other hand, exacerbates the problem for the government, which is required to allocate high percentages of total funding for research. An adequate policy should encourage private sector to contribute more towards scientific research, then governments.

ICPSR exerts efforts to enforce right strategies for promotion of scientific research, but it is scientists and researchers who shoulder responsibility to build confidence of highest authorities in scientific research towards ameliorating the economic conditions.

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