

Firm Participation, Learning and Innovation in Heterogenous Value Chains of IT-enabled Services

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PROPOSITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE THESIS

Firm Participation, Learning and Innovation in Heterogeneous Value Chains of IT-enabled Service:

The case of South-Africa

By Charlotte Keijser

1. Firm participation in local- and regional value chains could provide a steppingstone into GVCs (Chapter 3, 4 and 6).
2. The blending of both international and domestic linkages for capability development is important to compensate for an initially weak innovation system (Chapter 6).
3. GVC participation is a route to upgrading, but not the only route (Chapter 5, 6).
4. Multiple feedback loops exist between the NIS and GVCs in capacity development at the firm level and (ultimately) the development of the ITES sector in South Africa (Chapter 5 and 6).
5. The development of skills is critical for GVC participation and sustained growth of the South African ITES sector (Chapter 3, 5 and 6).
6. Over time, the distinction between RVCs and GVCs, based on a geographical definition, may become blurred (Chapter 7).
7. "African policymakers need to place greater emphasis on how to move towards the provision of more sophisticated services where there is greater value addition, opportunities for technology transfer and linkage development with other sectors of the economy" - UNCTAD, 2016.
8. "In a number of African countries, the services sector constitutes the main economic activity. However, its potential for overall economic development remains untapped" - UNCTAD, 2016.
9. "Action without vision is only passing time, vision without action is merely day dreaming, but vision with action can change the world" – Nelson Mandela
10. "Greetings from Robotistan, outsourcing's cheapest new destination" - Phill Fersht, 2012.