

# Essays on technical change and efficiency in a transition economy

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## Impact Paragraph

This thesis contributes to the understanding of the roles of technical change and efficiency that make driving forces of economic growth of Viet Nam, namely trade opening, foreign direct investment, and privatization, become more likely. The thesis provides relevant insights that can assist policymakers in dealing with the method of privatization. Our results indicate that mass privatization, which targets all SOEs in any sector does contribute to economic growth and further accelerate the efficiency of the economy. Moreover, the policy implication of our study on privatization suggests that Viet Nam should improve its vocational education and training system to match the future demand of high-skilled workers. Concerning FDI, our results indicate that Viet Nam should shift the focus from the quantity towards the quality of FDI. In that regard, our study suggests that policy strategy should focus on encouraging FDI into sectors that nurture technological spillovers. As far as the role of innovation on export is concerned, our results suggest that on top of the comparative advantages that push Vietnamese exports, a policy to encourage innovation activities by SMEs should be in place. Finally, our results highlight opportunities and barriers in applying a process innovation in rice cultivation, the so-called Large-scale Filed Model. This makes sense in an agrarian economy, which is integrating into the global market via international trade, as adoption of this process innovation can have significant welfare effects.