

Interrupted Innovation: Emerging economies in the structure of the global aerospace industry

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PROPOSITIONS

to the thesis

“Interrupted Innovation:

Emerging economies in the structure of the global aerospace industry”

by Dániel Vértesy

1. The global aerospace industry is characterized by a cyclical growth pattern. Both latecomer entrants and incumbents can only achieve sustained growth if they are able to respond in a flexible way to recurrent drops in demand.
2. Aerospace has been the most resistant among the knowledge-intensive sectors to the waves that shift production to emerging economies. Even the best-performing Asian and South American countries have still a long way to go to catch-up with the leading economies in terms of market share.
3. Interrupted innovation implies that long term growth of a latecomer sector depends on its ability to realign development strategy and institutions related to knowledge absorption, creation and diffusion.
4. A successful transition to a new growth trajectory is difficult because it requires a combination of local absorptive capacity, and the ability to invest in new machinery and human capital.
5. The translation mechanism between innovation and economic growth takes place at the sectoral level. The sectoral innovation system perspective has a lot to offer to explore and explain the complexities of capabilities, motivations and power relations of the various actors.
6. In times of crises, governments and businesses should focus their efforts on innovating innovation systems.
7. Exploration of air and space is crucial for the long-term survival of humanity. The more countries have the technological capabilities to contribute to new scientific research and developing new technological solutions, the more options there will be to solve future challenges.
8. Only by visiting glittering hi-tech laboratories and walking in the poorest neighborhoods can one really understand the economic, social and technological complexities that characterize developing countries.
9. Aerospace manufacturers work hard to hide valuable information on innovation and production. A researcher has to work much harder to successfully compile comparative statistics.
10. The pursuit of a PhD degree is a genuine case of latecomer entry and interrupted innovation. The student tries to follow the leading scholars, learn from their experience, but also strives to innovate in order to gain a foothold on the forum of ideas. The process of catch-up does not end with the delivery of the thesis. It merely means an institutional change.
11. *De lengte van een promotieonderzoek is ongetwijfeld lang genoeg om de lokale taal te leren.* Free Dutch courses for all PhDs would nevertheless help speed up integration into the local society.