

# Intellectual property rights protection and cross-border R&D investments by multinational enterprises

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Propositions accompanying the Ph.D. Dissertation

**“Intellectual Property Rights Protection and Cross-border R&D Investments by Multinational Enterprises”**

By: Jinhyuck (Joseph) Park

1. While weak intellectual property rights (IPR) protection increases the risks of IP misappropriation by competitors and knowledge leakages associated with foreign R&D activities in general, such IP risks due to weak IPR are heterogeneous and dependent on IP protection strategies of investing firms, the nature of technologies firms develop, technological capabilities of firms and host countries, and inter-firm mobility of R&D personnel in host countries (Chapter 2, 3, 4 and 5).
2. IP protection strategies of multinational enterprises (MNEs) characterized by cross-country internal linkage in R&D substantially reduce the risk of IP leakages and knowledge misappropriation by collocated firms for foreign R&D activities (Chapter 3, 4 and 5).
3. The risks of knowledge misappropriation by collocated competitors in foreign R&D locations are more severe for firms with tacit and discrete technologies than for those with codified and complex technologies (Chapter 4 and 5).
4. The risks of IP leakage faced by firms investing in R&D abroad are a function of the technological capability gap between the investing firms and the host countries (Chapter 2, 4, and 5).
5. Inter-firm mobile R&D employees are a source of technology leakage from local R&D operations of MNEs, and reduce the effectiveness of strong patent rights in attracting new R&D investments in a country (Chapter 2 and Chapter 5).
6. Enhancing IP protection poses a trade-off between attracting foreign R&D investments to a greater extent, and a lower likelihood that each of these investments produces substantial knowledge spillovers to the local economy (Chapter 5 and Chapter 6).
7. “Economic prosperity rests upon knowledge and its useful application” (David Teece, 1981).
8. “For every policy from the top, a countermeasure at the bottom” (Chinese proverb)