

TECHWATCH LANKA

"Providing a vital link between global technology developers and local technology practitioners."



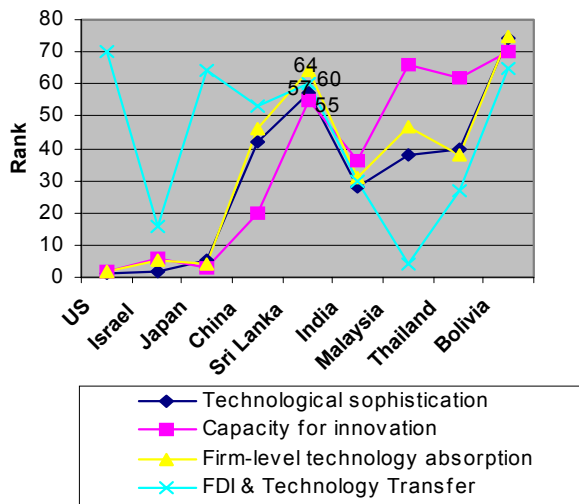
Newsletter of the Technology Watch Centre (TWC), National Science Foundation

VOL. 3 NO. 2

DECEMBER 2003

ISSN 1391-7897

Technology status of Sri Lanka



The Global Competitiveness Report 2001- 2002

The Global Competitiveness Report 2001- 2002 was published by the World Economic Forum. Of 75 countries, Sri Lanka has attained the above ranks in each of the categories evaluated in this survey. The ranking was done by collecting and analyzing the technology related qualitative as well as quantitative data of each country. An executive opinion survey had been conducted to obtain qualitative data, while indicators such as technological core economies (*i.e.* US utility patents granted per million of the population), technological non-core economies (*i.e.* FDI in a given country as an important source of new technology, technology-in-trade residual) and the status of information and communication technology (the number of internet hosts per capita, number of personal computers per capita) had been used in gathering quantitative data.

In this study, indicators related to innovation have been used as a central tool in measuring levels of technological sophistication since innovation is a product of many factors such as skilled human resource, well-developed market incentive structures for science and intensive interaction between the scientific and business sectors.

As shown in the graph, compared to countries such as Japan and China, the technology status of Sri Lanka is poor.

But the rank obtained by Sri Lanka for the criterion of capacity for innovation is at a higher level than that of Thailand. According to the above report, the rank achieved by Sri Lanka for

firm-level innovation is 41 while it is 49 in China which indicates that Sri Lanka is positioned fairly closely to China in terms of firm-level innovation. In terms of firm-level technology absorption, Sri Lanka is behind countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia. Based on these significant findings, the following conclusions could be made, with regard to the technology status of Sri Lanka.

1. Improving the capacity for innovation and firm-level innovation could be crucial in achieving technological advancement in Sri Lanka.

2. A great commitment would be required from policy-makers in identifying existing impediments and designing policy measures to uplift the capacity for firm-level innovation within industries in Sri Lanka.

Technology has been identified as the engine of the economy. In the process of globalization, some measures taken by developed countries could impact adversely on developing countries as the world economy is so highly integrated. The time is, therefore, ripe for developing countries too to take measures to counter these adverse impacts.

The findings of this report indicate areas where more attention needs to be paid in order to achieve technological advancement.

Biotechnology	2
Genetic engineers decaffeinate coffee	
Aquaculture Technology	4
Cost saving shrimp feeding technology	
Food Science & Technology	6
Faster check on meat contamination	
Controlling <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	
Textile Technology	8
Laser solutions offer new cutting system	
New flat printing machine for flexible printing	
Management of Technology	10
MoT for doing business in the knowledge based economy	
Electronics & Telecommunication Technology	12
Digital CCTV Surveillance for network deployment	
Information Technology	14
Hybrid transistor to speed wireless computing	
World's first global ICT ranking	
Civil, Mechanical & Manufacturing Technology	15
Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP) composites	
Polymer Science & Technology	18
Puncture tapping for Sri lankan natural rubber industry	
Environmental Science & Technology	20
Mobile robots monitor environmental changes in forests	