

Preface

New developments in bio- and nanotechnologies and also in information and communication technologies have shaped the research environment in the last decade. Highly educated experts in R&D departments work together with scientists and researchers at universities and research institutes for creating new technologies. Transnational companies which have acquired various firms in different countries deal with the management of their diverse R&D strategies and cultures. Different disciplines have to be brought together in developing new technologies. Researchers and educators increasingly collaborate across borders throughout the globe. The knowledge-based economy permeates across companies, universities, research institutes, and countries. Managing technology in this new environment presents real challenges.

Some aspects of these challenges have been reflected in varied contributions to the 14th International Conference on Management of Technology convened during the period of May 22-26, 2005 in Vienna, Austria. The conference subtitled “Productivity Enhancement for Social Advance: The Role of Management of Technology” was hosted by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and organized by Mohamed El-Nawawi and Marianne Hörlesberger in Vienna together with Tarek Khalil and his team in Miami.

Remarkable contributions came from researchers working for UNIDO in its different offices around the world. They focused more on the industrial and technology developments in developing countries. When we started working on this book, UNIDO requested to publish a specific book dealing with these aspects. Hence, the emphasis of this book is on the general contributions to the conference in other challenging technology management issues.

The book is organized in six sections, with papers in each section revolving around specific themes: managing new technologies; business organisation; technology and innovation management; standards and evaluation methods; sustainability; and social and educational aspects in MOT.

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The editors would also like to express their appreciation for the individual contributors to this volume.

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