

# Local and Global Knowledge: Knowledge for Local Needs



# Indigenous Knowledge

- Indigenous knowledge is knowledge that is unique to a given culture or society.
- It is seen to contrast with the knowledge generated within the global system of universities, research institutes and firms.
- Indigenous knowledge is used at the local level by communities in developing countries as the basis for decision-making
  - pertaining to food security, human and animal health, education, natural resource management, and other vital activities.

# Local knowledge

- Local knowledge is knowledge generated in a particular country or locality
- It contains information specific to that country or region
- It may also be global knowledge that has been localised
- The possession of local knowledge provides a competitive advantage to local organisations.

# Global and Local K-Markets



- Knowledge is a commodity that can be bought and sold
- Global knowledge must be localised
  - local knowledge must be added to make global knowledge applicable
- Does trade (in knowledge) promote development?



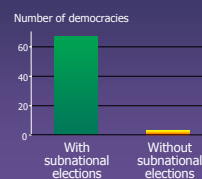
# Localisation of Conflicts

- Decrease of global tensions (Cold War)
- Increase of local conflicts
  - Ethnic conflicts
  - Religious sectarian movements
  - Internal wars



# Localisation of Politics

## Democracies with Local Elections in 1998



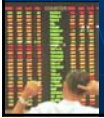
World Bank 2000

- Decentralisation of political decision-making
- administration
- budgets
- **knowledge and information**

## Local Knowledge and Markets



- Trade **secrets** were an asset in (ancient) long-distance trade
- Knowledge and information govern modern currency, commodity and stock markets
- Local knowledge is an asset that can be marketed



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## Sharing Knowledge

- In ancient times knowledge was power
- Sharing knowledge is essential to promote a knowledge-based economy
- There are many obstacles to sharing;
  - In modern organisations knowledge is (often) still seen as power
  - Experts, consultants and companies often monopolise knowledge
- Issue:** Do intellectual property rights monopolise knowledge?

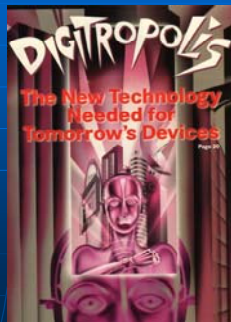


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## Knowledge Infrastructure Development



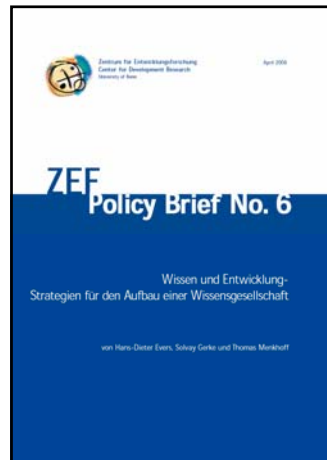
- Improve telecommunication
- Improve access to the internet nation-wide
- Create IT hubs and corridors
- Other measures



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## K&D Strategies

- Create K-centres of excellence
- K-clusters (learning regions)
- GPN
- Comparative advantages through local K



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## Human Knowledge Resources Development



- To create centres of academic excellence...
- SMU Mission Statement**  
"To create and disseminate knowledge. SMU aspires to generate leading edge research with global impact as well as to produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy".

## Human Knowledge Resources Development



- To create centres of academic excellence...
- UniBonn Mission Statement**  
"The University of Bonn is one of the world's leading research based Universities ... evolving into the position of a truly prominent international institution".

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Thank you !

The floor is open for discussions!

