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Editorial

The Development of Knowledge-Based Economies Through Creation, Dissemination and Use of Knowledge, and Information in Native Languages

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"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart"- Nelson Mandela.

Conveying your messages in a language your audience both understands and resonates with is of utmost importance to establish an emotional connection. Language proficiency is crucial in determining how well the information or knowledge is communicated which subsequently influences comprehension of the same by the audience. By contrast, when knowledge is synthesized and shared in a language unfamiliar to a community, the extent to which that knowledge is utilized depends largely on that specific language proficiency of the community.

Knowledge-based economy is characterized by the production, distribution and utilization of knowledge and information. In such systems, education, innovation and skill development are fundamental to economic growth. As highlighted above, the availability of knowledge and information in one's native language serves as a significant facilitator for the development of a system. Thus, the promotion of education in local languages set the stage for the establishment of environment for the citizens to fully involve in knowledge systems, apply the acquired skills and contribute to innovation. This leads to the development of a highly-skilled workforce, advancement of technology as well as the formation of competitive industries.

A critical factor in establishing a knowledge-based economy is the presence of a well-educated population with access to specialized knowledge and skills. When individuals receive education in their native language, they demonstrate an increased likelihood of comprehending complex concepts and developing problem-solving capabilities. This phenomenon facilitates a more profound understanding of disciplines such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) which are essential for a knowledge-based economy. Higher education in countries such as France, Japan, Korea, China, Germany, Russia, Italy, and Iran is offered in their native languages. English is also used in selected programs to attract international students. Korea has established a globally-recognized knowledge economy through the said approach. This movement has led South Korea to become a global leader in technological innovation and economic growth.

The knowledge-based economy depends on technological literacy and digital competencies. The dissemination of knowledge in local languages ensures marginalized or rural populations engage in technology and digital resources. This approach has been effective in developing countries such as India with the increased level of educational and governmental services being offered in regional languages. Under such circumstances, the corporations emerge as global entities in the knowledge economy propelled by the expertise of professionals who received their education in regional languages before transitioning to English-dominated global industries.

Knowledge-based economies rely on industries driven by expertise and intellectual capital. By making specialized knowledge available in native languages, countries can develop industries in many different areas: pharmaceutical, biotechnology, aerospace, software engineering. Finland, a leader in knowledge-based industries, provides a prime example where the education has enabled the growth of world-class talent in sectors like information technology, telecommunications and design. These play a pivotal role in creating high-tech industries that contribute significantly to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country.

Research and development (R&D) bears an essential component of a knowledge-based economy. The use of a local language in R&D activities enables researchers and scientists to convey complex concepts more effectively by potentially accelerating the advancement in fields such as healthcare, agriculture and engineering. This approach facilitates the development of culturally and

contextually appropriate innovations, and thereby further stimulating the economic growth. Certain developed nations (eg. Germany) has historically supported R&D activities conducted in the German language, particularly in technical domains, including engineering, automotive manufacturing and environmental science. This is another success-story of adopting knowledge-based economy.

Utilization of the native language as a medium for knowledge dissemination represents a potent strategy for growing knowledge-based economies. Through the enhancement of access for education, promotion of indigenous innovation and support for research and development in native languages, the nations can develop skillful workforce and establish the industries driven by intellectual capital. With certain nations continue to prioritize education and knowledge dissemination through the use of native language, they lay the foundation for sustainable economic development in a knowledge-driven era.