



6th INCO
Conference
17-19 June 2015
A.C. Embassy Hotel, Beijing

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Joint Innovation – Common Prosperity

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Innovation Cooperation Connecting the Asia Pacific
Region and Europe

Juggling with the logics of Internationalization, Markets and National Development

Doris Fischer

Chair of China Business and Economics
University of Wuerzburg, Germany

Background

- Experience in co-ordination of and cooperation within several international research projects (with partners in China, India and UK)
- Many years of work on National Innovation Systems



Innovation and Innovation Systems

Innovation pertains the implementation of a new or significantly improved product (good or service), or process, a new marketing method, or a new organisational method in business practices, workplace organisation or external relations (OECD/Eurostat, 2005, p. 46)



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MARKETS MATTER

Innovation Systems

- Are networks in which actors interact and exchange both codified and tacit knowledge to undertake innovative activities.
- Are based on complex relationships that involve learning, a fundamental process in innovation.
- Knowledge is the key commodity which flows through the network.

Many actors (such as firms, suppliers, customers, and education and financial institutions) interact in a specific environment that is shaped by history, culture and social relations.

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INSTITUTIONS MATTER



Why is Innovation important?

In current theoretical work, **innovation is recognised as an engine of growth which offers substantial potential for achieving developmental effects.**

(Cassiolato *et al.*, 2003; Rosenberg, 2004; Fagerberg *et al.*, 2004; Dutrénit and Dodgson, 2005; Metcalfe and Ramlogan, 2008).

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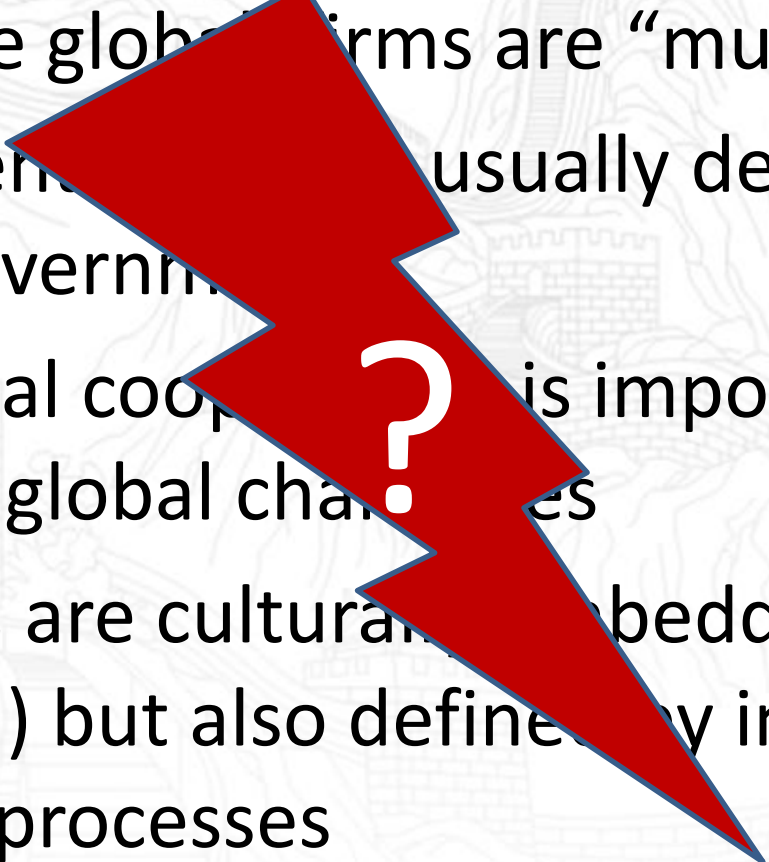
DEVELOPMENT GOALS MATTER



Juggling with competing logics

- Markets are global, firms are “multinational”
- Development goals are usually defined by national government
- International cooperation is important for addressing global challenges
- Institutions are culturally embedded (→national) but also defined by international and global processes

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Challenges for research cooperation

- **Market logics invade research institutions**
 - research institutions are forced to earn money
 - financial incentives for research performance
 - private finance of basic research
- National development goals are biased towards **tangible** knowledge outputs
 - inflationary expansion of evaluations and rankings
 - Bias towards natural sciences and technology

Challenges for research cooperation

- International cooperation is equated with quality improvement
 - **Right**, as long as based on scientific motivation of participants
 - **Wrong**, if mainly instrumental for achieving prescribed goals of national development/personal career evaluation criteria
- **More often than not, it is left to the researchers in international projects to bridge the conflicts inherent from the competing logics of markets, national development and internationalization**



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Thank you!

Doris Fischer
doris.fischer@uni-wuerzburg.de