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TIPS ANNUAL FORUM

on Regional Industrialisation and Regional Integration

In partnership with the University of the Witwatersrand and UNU-WIDER

Johannesburg, South Africa, 14-15 July 2015

Call for papers

Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS) in partnership with the University of the Witwatersrand and UNU-WIDER, and in association with the Department of Trade and Industry, National Treasury and Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation will be hosting its annual Forum with the theme of Regional Industrialisation and Regional Integration.

Individuals wishing to contribute papers are invited to submit their title and abstracts of up to 500 words to Saul Levin, Director at TIPS via email to: dialogue@tips.org.za

To be considered, abstracts should be submitted by 24 February 2015; and 20-25 papers will be selected for development of final papers, which will then be presented at the conference in July 2015. Authors will be notified of the final decision by 10 March 2015. Final papers are due for submission by 1 July 2015.

Abstract submissions should include full contact details of the authors.

The flight and accommodation costs of a maximum of 15 presenters will be covered by TIPS (only one presenter per paper will be covered).

1 The aim of the conference

The conference aims to deepen understanding of regional industrialisation, the role of South Africa in that context, the value chains operating across the region, and the links between regional industrialisation and regional integration.

2 The context for the conference

The new millennium saw a significant turnaround in Africa's growth prospects. During the period 2000 to 2010, Africa's economic output tripled, increasing from US\$587 billion to US\$1.7 trillion. Poverty rates have dropped over the last twenty years from 60% to 38%. Going forward, seven of the ten projected fastest growing economies in the world over the next five years are located in Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to grow at an average of 5.4% per annum over the next five years. Yet commodities and the commodity boom are still key to growth in Africa. While there has been a significant increase in the manufacturing sector, in almost all African economies it still remains relatively small.

The linkage between industrial productive capacity, economic growth and level of development is an important consideration especially for SADC, as the region has low levels of industrialization and ranks among the poorest in the world. Collectively, SADC is one of the least developed regions of the world in terms of industrialization. In only one of the 15 Member States has the ratio of manufacturing value added to GDP risen above 20 percent. In more than half of member countries, the manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP is less than 10 per cent and in some cases lower than 5 per cent. Furthermore, South Africa's GDP per capita is five to seven times that of the rest of SADC, which is unusually large for a regional centre.

Understanding industrial development in the Southern African region therefore requires an approach that looks at the role of the lead economy and the opportunities for the smaller economies to increase their productive capacity and exports to South Africa. To further the regional development agenda it is important to understand the development of key industrial sectors and how regional value chains work in those sectors.

Regional industrial development is tied into regional integration, which also covers market integration and infrastructure development. Regional integration can be seen as a useful tool towards stimulating economic development, supporting integration into the broader world economy as well as encouraging trade and securing economies of scale amongst the participating countries. In spite of the tariff liberalisation in Africa and all the advances in forming regional trade areas, however, there seems to be very little growth in intra-African trade, particularly in the Southern African region.

3 The papers for the conference should focus on the following broad topics:

- a Industrial policy
 - What characterises the explicit or implicit industrial policies of countries in the region? How do they align or contradict each other? How have they evolved over time?
 - What are the implications for industrial development of increased trade between countries in the region?
 - To what extent can industrialisation be done on a sustainable or 'green' basis?
 - What is the nature of capital – private and public, local and foreign – in the region? How does South Africa investment in particular affect industrial development?
 - How have SADC institutions affected industrialisation and industrial policy in the region?
- b Value Chains
 - To what extent are regional value chains being established?
 - How are regional value chains operating?
 - What are the constraints within these value chains?
 - Are countries able to move up the value chain?
- c Regional Integration
 - Are there risks in trade facilitation in the absence of regional industrial development?
 - How do we understand the shared nature of the industrialisation opportunities?
 - Lessons from Asia and Europe.
 - Barriers to market integration.
 - Links to the rest of Africa.
- d Minerals and Beneficiation
 - How does the minerals sector offer opportunities for both upstream and downstream industrialisation?
 - Will regional value chains in this sector perpetuate the under-development of smaller African economies?
 - To what extent can countries shift out of a reliance on minerals extraction into industrial sectors?
- e Other areas
 - How does financialisation affect regional integration?
 - The role of foreign direct investment and MNC's in regional industrialisation
 - Competition levels and market concentration
 - Role of small businesses in supporting regional industrial development
 - Building relationships between market players and state owned companies across the region: a gap between political intent and implementation
 - Intangible flows: knowledge flows in the region in relation to industrial development and skills transfer linked to regional FDI.