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*Research Article*

Relationship between Social Capital and Technology Transfer Performance: A Study on Companies in Technology Park

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Abstract

Tacit knowledge and personal experience of an individual can only be obtained in a tacit manner. Social capital is a prominent concept that provides a foundation to describe and characterize the properties. Therefore social interaction is very important to facilitate technological knowledge transfer among the units within an organisation. This paper aims to contribute to the existing knowledge in the field of technology transfer by exploring the concept of social capital. It discusses the technology transfer performance and focuses on the important firm-specific asset, which is social capital. By using the data from a survey on industrial firms in one of the technology parks in Malaysia, this paper provides an investigation on the relationship between social capital and technology transfer performance, within the technology park incubating company setting. It was found that social capital has significant relationships with the performance of technology transfer.

Keywords: Technology transfer; social capital; high technology firms, Technology Park.

Introduction

Technology is an expression of human creativity and it depends on harnessing information into knowledge and applying this knowledge to the betterment of human conditions (Li-Hua and Khalil, 2006). It is a combination of “hardware” (buildings, plant and equipment), “software” (the way to operate the hardware), and “know-how” (skills, knowledge, and experience together with suitable organizational and institutional arrangement). It was highlighted in their study that in order to understand the concept of technology, four

inter-linked elements should be considered, namely technique, knowledge (normally being considered as “technology” upon its application), the organization of the production, and the product (Li-Hua & Khalil, 2006). They also noted that knowledge is the key to control technology as a whole. When the technological product is transferred, the knowledge of its composition, use, and application are also transferred. This approach shows that technology and knowledge transfer are not separable.

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