Enhancing innovation for sustainable growth and competitiveness in North African countries

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Abstract: Sustainable growth and technological development are achievable. This is possible when there is good governance striving for a vibrant entrepreneurship, with innovation at its very centre. In this regard, North African countries’ records are strikingly lagging. Progress has been made, but remains far from expectations and potentialities. As globalization has now pushed innovation to the top of the development agenda, new policies and strategies are needed. Successful integration into the world business requires innovation-based growth using all qualified people and initiatives. In these countries, competencies and creative forces do exist, but their effective utilisation requires greatest attention. As little is written about the issue, this paper aims at discussing obstacles of innovation in the countries in question and proposes some feasible solutions. The paper will draw from published and unpublished work and make reference of some factual records. Policy implications will be identified and specific actions will be proposed.

Keywords: incremental innovation; growth; competitiveness; sustainable development; technopreneurship; knowledge management; competencies; North African countries; innovation and technology management; small and medium enterprises.


Biographical notes: Mohand-Said Oukil is an Algerian who has worked as a Visiting Professor of Management at the College of Industrial Management of King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Saudi Arabia since 2003. He obtained his PhD degree from Stratchclyde University, UK. Most of his research work focuses on science and technology policy, management of technological innovation, and more recently on entrepreneurship in general and technology-based entrepreneurship in particular. He is now involved in various teaching, research and authoring activities in these same areas.