

Plugging into Asian Innovation Networks: the case of Korean ICT

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“tiger technology”

Korea's:

global ICT reach

globalized firms

globalization policy

ICT production: US\$390 billion

ICT exports: US\$172 billion

balance (exports/imports): +US\$78 billion

year-on-year growth: 1.6%

challenges

declining sales
concentration of risk
sectoral imbalance

(2015)	In KRW trillions	% of total	% of firms (in FKII)
Total ICT production	444.6	100	100
Services (communication)	72.4	16	55
ICT hardware	333.5	75	5
ICT software	38.6	9	40

What is good for Samsung has long
ceased to be good for Korea.

--Korea Times, 2016

paradigm shift

hardware → software

chaebol → SMEs and start-ups

local → global

government policy: the creative economy

chaebol reform: Samsung “morph into a software company”

start-up ecosystem: Korea’s “Silicon Valley”

global opportunities

joint venture – Nortel

market – Opentext

acquisition – artificial intelligence

chaebol dominance

chaebol rigidity

corporate culture

weak SME sector

policy capture

It's just not in our DNA.

challenges for Canada

few firms

tightly integrated networks

stay-at-home SMEs

differentiated technologies
specific niches
awareness of Korea's ICT structure