


Technology Diplomacy: *the Basics, and its interface with Political & Economic Diplomacy*



A presentation by

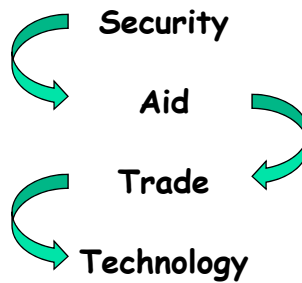
Anthony de Sa, IAS
Director
UNIDO Centre for South-South Industrial Cooperation
India



*"Tact and diplomacy are fine in
international relations, in politics,
perhaps even in business; in
science only one thing matters,
and that is the facts."*

-Hans Eysenck

Changing thrust of international diplomacy.....



*From assistance....
...to cooperation*

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Objectives of Technology Diplomacy

- **Transfer of technology**
- **Flexibility for use of technology in accordance with national priorities**
- **International norms and standard setting**

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Technology Diplomat?

Scientist / Technologist

↓


Technocrat

↓

Technocrat +

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Role of a Technology Diplomat

- Advice
- Participation
- Policy formulation
- Regulatory matters

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Mode of delivery of Technology Diplomacy

- Clarity on specific objectives
- Data to back up demands and claims
- Active participation in rule-making committees and working groups of international organizations and plurilateral fora

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Scope of Technology Diplomacy

- Security
- Industry
- Health
- Environment
- Food
- Energy
- E-sphere

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In the UN System...

UNEP

UNESCO

UNIDO

ICAO

WTO

UNCTAD

ITU

WHO

IAEA

FAO

WMO

WIPO

UNDOC

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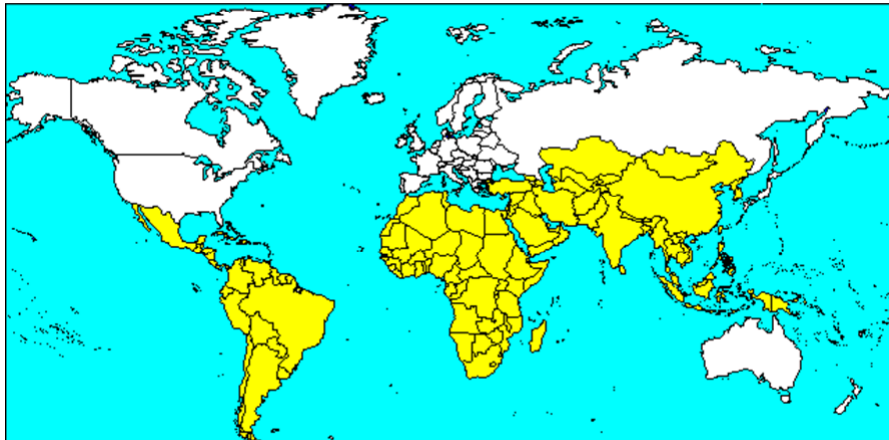
Some Jargon !

- Bilateral
- Multilateral
- Plurilateral
- North-South
- South-South
- Developed countries
- Developing countries
 - LDCs
 - Emerging economies
 - Economies in transition

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The Developing World...



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Political & Economic Diplomacy

- **Geo-political** strategic interests derive from geographic location
- **Eco-political** strategic interests derive from socio-economic condition and development policy choices

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Economic Diplomacy

Ultimately, political acts, whether of aggression or diplomacy, have as their objective an economic goal.

Objectives in the modern world:

- Trade
- Investment
- Energy

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Transfer of Technology in IEAs


- Montreal Protocol for the Protection of the Ozone Layer

- The Rio Agreements
 - FCCC → GEF
 - CBD → Biosafety

- Forests - Desertification

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Global Trading System

Doha Development Agenda


Working Group: Trade & Technology Transfer

- Agriculture
- NAMA
- Environment

TRIPS

Promoting innovation v/s Diffusion of technology


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Transfer of Technology: Limiting Factors

- Tariff peaks and escalations
- Lack of capacity
 - Finance
 - Information
 - Skill
- Vulnerability to changes in standards

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Standards

Positive

- Promote market efficiency
- Foster trade
- Encourage competition
- Protect environment
- Protect consumer
- Inter-operability of products

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Standards

Negative

- Raise transaction costs
- Entrench inferior or obsolete technologies
- Can be used for ulterior motives

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Standards

Standards can:

- **raise** or **lower** barriers;
- can **speed** diffusion of technology, or **constrain** it.



How Science & Technology play a role in both, Diplomacy and Development...

Science & Technology.....

- ...provide objective data for making appropriate policy choices
- ...suggest viable approaches and solutions
- ...create a 'peace dividend'
 - ❖ outreach to countries
 - ❖ enabling best minds to work together based on shared value system




Convergence is the name of the game!

Global challenges can be effectively dealt with only by a convergence of:

- Political Diplomacy
- Economic Diplomacy
- Technology Diplomacy

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"India's well-wishers have long been puzzled that a literate country that has done all the right things in half a century of independence, creating a network of vigorous public research laboratories, recruiting scientists and engineers to them and driving the standards of engineering education to the highest level, should have reaped so little benefit from its investments."

John Maddox
Editor Emeritus, Nature

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Technology Diplomacy in India: Emerging Issues

- Need for a TD Policy
- Dislocations in Technology Back-up
- Reforming the diplomacy delivery apparatus
- Track 2 TD ?

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Thank you

Anthony de Sa, IAS
Director
UNIDO Centre for South-South Industrial Cooperation
India

E-mail:
anthonydesa.ias@gmail.com

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