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Issue; 2.4...The Spectre of UnemploymentUnemployment; 2.5... EducationEducation and Employment; 2.6...Concluding Remarks; Acknowledgments; 3 Capacity Building, Rationale and Learning from Best Practice; 3.1...TechnologyTechnology ICTICT and Human Capital 3.2...A Systemic Approach to STISTI and EducationEducation3.2.1 The Evasive and Multifaceted Concept of InnovationInnovation; 3.2.2 Inter-Related Success and Leverage Factors; 3.3...On the Rationale for Research and InnovationInnovation Policy; 3.4...MNEs, SMEs and EntrepreneurshipEntrepreneurship; 3.5...Addressing Context-Specific Systems; 3.6...Resource Wealth: A Blessing or a CurseCurse?; 3.7... Towards a Relevant Policy: Searching for Best Practice; 3.8...On the Application of Best Practice; Acknowledgments; 4 Basics on BenchmarkingBenchmarking; 4.1...Types of BenchmarkingBenchmarking 4.2...Issues in BenchmarkingBenchmarking4.3...On Points of Reference and Types of Comparison; 4.4...Types of Economy in Focus; 5 Examining Performance; 5.1...Introduction; 5.2...Points of Reference; 5.3...Level of Development; 5.4...Towards the Knowledge-Based SocietyKnowledge-based Society; 5.5...Concluding Remarks on Policy; 6 Measuring Performance in GCCGCC and Selected MENAMENA Countries: In-Depth Considerations of Implementation; 6.1...On the Rationale for In-depth BenchmarkingBenchmarking; 6.2...Output Analysis and Performance BenchmarkingBenchmarking in STISTI; 6.2.1 High-TechnologyTechnology Exports 6.2.2 Registered PatentsPatents6.2.2.1 Company Awareness of Local Patent Services and Tax Incentives; 6.2.2.2 Alternative Modes of Protection and Strategic Issues; 6.2.3 Foreign Direct Investment and TechnologyTechnologyTransfer; 6.3...Input Analysis and Policy BenchmarkingPolicy Benchmarking; 6.3.1 Absorptive Capacity; 6.3.1.1 Absorptive Capacity at Company Level; 6.3.1.2 Absorptive Capacity of the Research System: Public Funding; 6.3.2 Private Sector and Company Spending on R&DR&D; 6.3.3 Venture CapitalVenture Capital; 6.3.3.1 Availability of Venture CapitalVenture Capital 6.3.3.2 Venture CapitalVenture Capital and Capacity for InnovationInnovation

Sommario/riassunto

The wave of protests and populist uprisings in the Middle East has heightened the focus on a volatile region. But the emphasis on political issues has obscured underlying issues concerning education, infrastructure, research, innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable environmental and social development. This volume, emerging in the aftermath of a conference and workshop on science and technology in the region, presents contributions from a range of experts from the Middle East, Europe, and the world to provide fresh new insights and perspectives on the challenges and prospects for regional development in the changing global context of our time. The authors explore such topics as: the role of information and communication technologies; mindset change in support of investment in intangible assets and risk-taking; how to approach cultural issues, institutions and governance; collaborations with other regions, and; benchmarking performance while drawing lessons of relevance for the special local context. Ultimately, they offer a number of precise policy recommendations and practical insights for creating an enabling environment for capturing economic, political, and social opportunity.