

Factors in Multinational R&D Location

Here or There?-Revisited

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Collaborators: Jerry Thursby, Georgia Institute of Technology; Marie Thursby, Georgia Institute of Technology; University; Ed Bernstein, Industrial Research Institute (IRI); Ross Armbrecht, Jr. Delaware Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education; EIRMA.

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

In 2005, at GUIRR's request, Jerry and Marie Thursby conducted a survey intended to uncover the reasons behind selection of new R&D locations. Of primary interest were factors behind the supposed "migration" of R&D to India and China. The survey was funded primarily by the Kauffman Foundation with some additional support from GUIRR. The survey results were published in 2006 by the National Academies Press. The report may be read online at http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=11675&page=R1.

In the ensuing years, GUIRR has received a number of requests for an updated survey – from GUIRR's representative at the State Department, and elsewhere. The results of the initial survey were very sites are feasible. The Thursby's intend to amend that survey to not only ask about recently established or planned R&D sites but also to ask about R&D sites that had recently been downsized or eliminated. Moreover, it is intended with the survey to expand on questions regarding cooperation among firms and cooperation of firms with universities. Some of the questions from the initial 2005 survey will be eliminated, notably those that did not reveal useful information (e.g., we will drop question regarding mechanisms for protecting intellectual property).

Since the bulk of the survey will remain unchanged this project is expected to proceed fairly quickly. The working group met for its first project planning meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at the National Academies Keck Building to discuss study goals, survey population, project timeline/budget, and potential funding support.

UPDATE SINCE FEBRUARY 2011:

Arrangements were made for the Thursby's to speak with representatives of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Korea Advanced Institute for Science and Technology (KAIST) during a scheduled visit to Beijing and Seoul in late May/early June 2011. The hope is to expand the survey population for this second study so as to include Asia. A prospectus and straw budget will be prepared shortly.

GUIRR members interested in this particular topic are encouraged to participate in this new working group.

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