This book has grown, largely, out of a research project under my coordination at the United Nations University/Institute for New Technologies (UNU/INTECH), Maastricht. My grateful thanks to the Institute for funding it and to Professor Charles Cooper, (the former director) and Professor Lynn Mytelka (the present director) for giving me all the necessary encouragement. Lynn has been most encouraging throughout the course of the study and has also been kind enough to contribute a foreword to the book. Two of the ten chapters, namely Chapters 2 and 3 on Japan and on South Korea, respectively, have evolved out of an earlier research project (prior to joining UNU/INTECH) funded by the Japan Foundation, Asia Centre at Tokyo. I am grateful to the Foundation for their generous funding.

The book has been in the making over the last two years (since January 2000). In the process, I have incurred considerable intellectual debt to a number of individuals, not only during the long fieldwork extending over eight countries but also during numerous seminars and an international workshop at Maastricht during 5–6 November 2001 when most of the chapters were presented and discussed. I am particularly grateful to Sanjaya Lall, Martin Bell, Lawrence Rausch, B. Bowonder, Vinanchi Arachi Jebamalai, William Blankley, Azriel Hemar, Isa Baud and Guy Oren for making a number of suggestions for further improvement. Most of these comments have been taken on board, though I would not claim that every single comment has been incorporated. Professor Eugene Skolnikoff, Chairman of the Board at UNU/INTECH was also most encouraging.

The study is based largely on actual fieldwork conducted in each of the eight countries. In Japan, I received valuable help and assistance from Kensuke Kubo, Shuji Uchikawa, Professor S. Hirashima and Professor Etsuro Ishigami. The fieldwork in Korea would not have been possible without the excellent help that I received from Dr Kyeong-Duk Kim and his wonderful wife, Mrs Herang Kim. I will never forget their hospitality and kindness. Professor Linsu Kim, the then Director of the Science and Technology Policy Institute, Seoul was most helpful. Subsequently as a member of the Board at UNU/INTECH, he was most encouraging and took a keen interest in the progress of my study. In Singapore, I received
valuable help and assistance from several officials of the National Science and Technology Board, in particular Mr Tan Kit Jong and Mr Warren Wang. Ms Fadzilah Ahmad Din and her colleagues at the Malaysian Science and Technology Information Centre, Mr Au Leck Chai at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and Ms Sharazad B.T. Yahya of the Inland Revenue Board were extremely helpful with the data on the Malaysian system of innovation. I am most grateful to a number of individuals in South Africa, and especially to William Blankley, for supporting my fieldwork in that country. William arranged for me to conduct a one-day workshop on the research project at the National Research Foundation, Pretoria. This enabled me to exchange views with a number of important resource persons associated with South Africa’s national system of innovation, in particular Mr Alan Hirsch, who was most helpful in making available a number of otherwise not so easily accessible reports. I must also express my deepest thanks to Robyn Arnold for a detailed editing of the chapter on South Africa. I acknowledge my gratitude to R.A. Mashelkar and Nagesh Kumar for various comments on an earlier draft of Chapter 7 on India. In fact, Nagesh undertook a consultancy project for me, evaluating the response of Indian enterprises to tax incentives for R&D and the results of this survey are used in the chapter. I thank Lynn Mytelka and Fabio Erber for their detailed comments on an earlier draft of Chapter 8 on Brazil. My grateful thanks to Lea Velho for facilitating my fieldwork in Brazil, obtaining otherwise inaccessible literature and even finding time to translate some of the material originally available only in Portuguese, and also to Marcia da Mota Daros, one of our graduate students from Brazil, who was very willing to help me with additional translations. The fieldwork in Brazil was very ably coordinated through the kind efforts of Lucia Melo and Sandra Hollanda of the Ministry of Science and Technology. I am deeply indebted to them as well as a number of their colleagues at various institutions supporting technical change in the country. In Tel Aviv, I received excellent support from Mr Carmel Vernia, the Chief Scientist at the Ministry of Trade and Industry and from Mr Azriel Hemar, the Deputy Chief Scientist. Azi was extremely helpful with the necessary data and was in every sense a great source of support. My sincere thanks go to Professor Morris Teubal, who read through the chapter (on Israel) and made a number of very useful comments which have vastly improved its content. Mr Elad Harison, one of my graduate students, was very helpful in bringing to my attention a number of useful writings on the Israel case and in planning my fieldwork in Israel.

Several of the chapters were presented at various seminars and conferences. For instance, Chapter 1 was presented at the 9th general meeting of the European Association of Development Research and Training.
Institutes (EADI) in Paris and at the Department of Economics at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. Professor K.S. Jomo made a number of valuable comments at the latter seminar. Chapters 4 and 5 were presented at the panel discussion on S&T at the Global Development Network 2000 at Tokyo and at the Institute of Social Studies at one of the Staff Group III seminar series. Comments received from Professors Chia Siow Yue, Louk de la Rive Box, Bert Helmsing and Peter Knorringa, at these seminars, are gratefully acknowledged. Chapter 6 on South Africa was presented at conferences at Álborg and at Oxford and Chapter 8 on Brazil was presented at a seminar organised by and at the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology, Brasilia. My grateful thanks to the organisers and participants at these conferences. Finally I presented two seminars on the overall conclusions of the book at the School of Public Policy, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta and at the Department of Technology Management at the Eindhoven Centre for Innovation Studies. My deepest thanks to the organisers of these seminars and in particular to Professors Alan Porter and Susan Cozzens at Atlanta and Dr Henny Romijn at Eindhoven. Further, most of the chapters were also presented at the doctoral programme on Economics and Policy Studies of Technical Change at the University of Maastricht, of which I am one of the directors. Comments and criticisms received from my graduate students were very helpful.

Several of my academic colleagues at UNU/INTECH took time off to comment either on the whole book or on specific chapters, namely Anthony Bartzokas and Keith Smith (whole book), Rajah Rasiah (Chapters 4 and 5) and Attila Havas (Chapter 6). I benefited from their rather incisive comments. Ad Notten at the Library was extremely helpful and provided any material that I sought with remarkable speed and efficiency. Several of the secretaries, in particular Yvonne de Groot and Eveline in de Braek, helped me with the typescript, especially after the copy-editing stage. Mr Enzo Ciarnella (the former Chief Administration Officer at UNU/INTECH), Marc Vleugels and Ms Margaret Hoegen in the administration department helped me with the logistics of running a project at the Institute with great charm and speed. I will never forget their kindness.

I must also register my deepest thanks to Edward Elgar for such a speedy and most efficient manner in which the project was seen through to its very end. The staff were always willing to answer queries and discuss difficulties.

Working on a book of this nature, involving a considerable amount of travelling and being away from home can be quite disruptive to a peaceful family life. However, I must consider myself very fortunate in having my remarkable and lovely wife, Dilla, and our cheerful boys, Emmanuel and Abraham, who accepted it with great patience and offered unstinting
support and prayers throughout the long process. Emmanuel even lent his budding skills in computing when it was most needed. This book is dedicated to them.

Finally I am solely responsible for any errors or shortcomings that may still remain; the views expressed in the book are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.

Sunil Mani