

Foreword by Ismail Serageldin

Today, about two-thirds of global research and development (R&D) is being done by the private sector. That enormous investment in science, and the technology that ensues from it, would not be possible without a system of intellectual property protection that rewards innovators and allows the investors to recoup their investments. No one would want to jeopardize this enormous investment that advances human welfare so much.

However, it is increasingly apparent that in many quarters, such as in research and academia in developing countries, it is difficult to undertake the basic research needed to generate new knowledge rather than simply to be users of technology developed elsewhere. Obstacles include costs as well as a lack of strategic patented technologies as inputs into the research process. True, most of the time a research exemption is included in national law, but it is usually accompanied by a “reach back” clause that comes into play if the research yields some useful product.

To navigate the shoals of this new legal terrain, many researchers and decisions makers need help in setting priorities, developing effective research strategies, and drawing on new knowledge and on the experiences of others to make better and more informed decisions. It is here that this marvelous book becomes absolutely essential.

This *Executive Guide*, a summary of a massive two-volume work, is both readable and authoritative. It represents the fruits of enormous effort and much deep thinking by the people who are most knowledgeable about these complex subjects. The authors are to be congratulated for having put at the fingertips of executives and researchers this most valuable guide and to the authoritative resource that they have produced. I recommend this *Guide* to anyone interested in the practice of science in the twenty-first century or in the promotion of R&D in this new age of globalization of knowledge and trade, where the agenda is increasingly driven by the enormous resources of the private sector.

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