

ABSTRACT

Information Technology and International Competitiveness in the Export Sector of Trinidad and Tobago

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The ever present need for local industries to explore opportunities in markets outside of their domestic economy, forces all concerned to take stock of the factors influencing competitive performance. Issues such as productive efficiency, flexibility, timeliness and responsiveness soon become part of the jargon of the exporter who is often faced with a more aggressive style of competition, than that experienced in the local environment. More and more significant to these considerations, however, is the impact of the Information Revolution on International Competitiveness.

The primary aim of the thesis, has been not so much to outline the potential implications of Information Technology for international competition, but to highlight the usefulness of an identified strategy in determining how Information Technology could boost international competitive performance in selected local industries.

The methodology applied, first reviewed some of the parameters of the international competitive environment of the industries selected for the study. This allowed an understanding of the potential competitive scope available to these industries.

Secondly, an attempt was made to disaggregate these industries into their economically and technologically relevant activities, to determine what activities could be of more value to achieving outlined competitive objectives. In the disaggregation of industry structures, the Value Chain Concept was applied. The use of this technique assisted the study in identifying the information components of productive activities.

Finally a review of information technologies utilized in counterpart industries abroad, informed the study on technology options to consider in the framing of international competitive strategy.

The major purpose of this study therefore, has been to show that the benefits of Information Technology in International Competition can be all the more rewarding, if local industries first have a logistic appreciation of their productive environment.