



Economic development figures prominently in this issue of the *Review* – for example, check out Radha Chaurushiya’s analysis of India’s prob-

lematic rush to modernity, or Paul London’s fresh take on why the American economy surged forward in the 1990s.

Yet, while decades of experience have refined our general understanding of the process of development, the devil, as they say, is in the details. Figuring out what works and what doesn’t, how much public money to spend and where to spend it, and which industries to target (or whether targeting makes any sense at all) remains a work in progress.

At its core, economic development is about creating prosperity. And that takes jobs – in advanced economies, well-paying jobs in innovative, technologically savvy industries with plenty of room to grow. Indeed, we at the Institute, especially our researchers in the Regional Economics group, are preoccupied with various aspects of this issue.

Their current focus is on what many see as the new holy grail of economic development in the United States – the life sciences industry, which includes biotech and pharmaceuticals. As witnessed in states from New Jersey to Florida to California, there is heated competition for firms in an industry known for generating high-end jobs and catalyzing startups.

We recently completed studies looking at the economic impact of the life sciences industry on regional and state economy. The research confirms what was widely expected – that the industry is capable of jumpstarting regional growth. We found that the biopharmaceutical industry will employ some 413,000 workers nationwide by the end of this year. By 2014, that number is expected to hit 536,000 – an increase of 30 percent. In addition, the industry’s output is expected to almost double, to \$128 billion, by 2014.

We’re currently assaying university technology transfer, and commercialization policies and outcomes. This year-long study examines the amount and quality of biotechnology-based research being performed at the world’s leading universities to determine which ones are best able to capitalize on their R&D assets and why.

The global interest in the life sciences is easy to explain: While financial services, travel and tourism, and other growing sectors are all important to economic growth, technology – and more specifically, life sciences technology – offers the greatest promise for regional economic growth in the years ahead. Our job is to help policymakers and business leaders understand how to get there.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Klowden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Klowden
President and CEO