Sustainable Economic Development and the Influence of Information Technologies: Dynamics of Knowledge Society Transformation

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Book Review

Sustainable Economic Development and the Influence of Information Technologies: Dynamics of Knowledge Society Transformation
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The book covers a wide range of topics on the leverage of information technologies to create sustainable knowledge-based economies. The compilation of chapters presents different perspectives towards the implications of information technologies in this regard, including empirical findings supported by rigorous methods and sound theoretical discourses. Discussions of these various topics were in-depth and the clarity of the writing makes it easy for readers to grasp the key findings and arguments. While the perspectives taken are not new ground in the field, the empirical findings provide insights to experiences in various countries.

The opening two chapters were well written and tackled the concept of sustainable development. Using grand theories such as Solow’s New Growth Theory and Weber’s sociological approach to capitalism among others, these chapters present a complex view of the growth concept, which is more than just output as conventionally understood. A social-technical approach is suggested in Chapter Two, advocating a broader, more contextual view of growth that encompasses social, economic, and political considerations. While the economic importance of information technologies cannot be understated today, the ability to successfully leverage of them for sustainable growth goes beyond information technologies per se, to include the context in which these technologies are utilised and applied. This approach lays the
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