

VETEC Project

# INTERVENTION MODEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT CAN THO UNIVERSITY

Can Tho University, Vietnam

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## **INTERVENTION MODEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT CAN THO UNIVERSITY**

Can Tho University (CTU) is an important state higher education institution in the Mekong delta of Vietnam (MD), is the cultural, scientific and technical center of the MD and Vietnam. Founding since 1966, CTU has been improving and developing itself. At present, CTU has an enrollment of about 55.000 undergraduate students; 3.500 students have been following Master programs and Ph.D candidates. CTU has got around 2.000 staff, including nearly 1.200 teaching staff and 800 supporting staff. From a university with a few fields of study at the beginning, it has developed into a multidisciplinary university. Currently, it has nearly 100 undergraduates, 36 Masters and 15 Doctoral training programs.

In the period of 2012 - 2016, CTU had 1,269 science and technology tasks at all levels implemented. Funds for investment in scientific research from many sources included allocated state budget, CTU's budget, local authorities, businesses, and international co-operation. The statistics showed that the total funding for the scientific research project was USD 1,468,635.2, reaching an annual average of USD 2,935,622. The total number of articles published in specialized journals was 3,772 articles, in which there were 2,883 articles in the national journals and 889 articles in the ISI journals. Besides, there were 2,268 articles published in the domestic conferences and workshops, and international proceedings. During the period from 2014 to 2019, there were 73 TT contracts were held between CTU and enterprises with a total value of USD 576,230. In addition, from 2006 to 2017 CTU has achieved some results on intellectual property rights (IPR) such as 1 trademark, 14 copyrights, 3 patents, 12 licenses, and 10 protection of rice varieties.

CTU has a team of highly qualified scientists; many laboratories are equipped with modern equipment for scientific research; the scientific management team has experience and good relations with local authorities and businesses; and the potential technology products, technological processes, and services for technology transfer (TT) are from many research fields (agriculture, engineering technology, natural science, IT, etc.). However, in the CTU training program the knowledge of the TT has not yet been put into teaching so graduates lack this kind of knowledge in their business activities; lack of strategy on TT for enterprises; many empirical studies have not paid attention to the needs of enterprises because of lack of information from business on demand technology; and there is not a TT network to exchange TT information between CTU and businesses. The opportunities for the TT are CTU often supported by local authorities in its activities; through the international cooperation programs CTU is developing facilities and equipment for training and scientific

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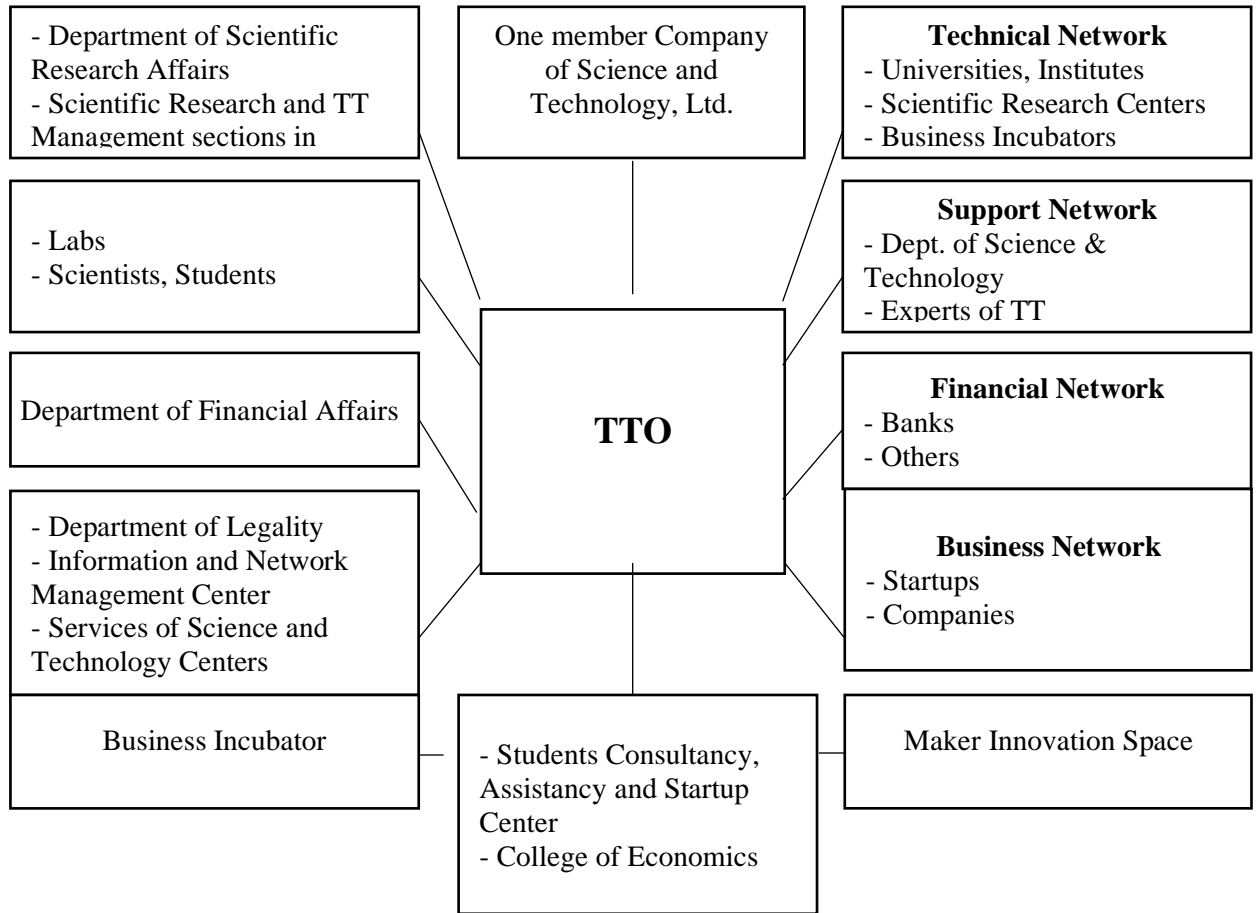
research, and has more potential for TT from scientific results. However, the process of creating TT products of CTU in the development of technology 4.0 is still slow and few; the impact of climate change in the MD may be a condition to encourage scientists to research and develop technology products to serve the production, but this is also a threat to the effectiveness of technology applications.

Currently, Center for TT and Services (CTTS) is a unit of the Department of Scientific Research Affair (DSRA). CTTS has an independent seal and legal status in dealing with enterprises in TT. However, the section of IPR that is managed by DSRA needs to be a part of CTTS in order to form a technology transfer office (TTO) with more professional activities on TT. Time for restructuring TTO at CTU expects about 3 years with all supports from CTU's leaders.

Based on the CTU current status, the interface of related units to coordinate with TTO is proposed (Figure below). TTO needs to draft TT strategies and action plans for at least 3 years of activities. The TTO also needs to direct its activities according to a business model so that it can gain a greater revenue to invest in its development and contribute to the development of CTU. The CANVAS business model with 9 contents can be an idea on this matter. To get a coordination between CTU's units in order to conduct TT to local agents, enterprises as well as individual households that have a real need in receiving TT services a procedure of 4 main steps (e.g. TT information from CTU's research results; receiving needs of TT from clients; TT information from production, negotiation, performance; and feedbacks) for TT performance is suggested. Besides, other important units of CTU relating to TTO activities such as One member Company of Science and Technology, Ltd. and Center for Students Consultancy, Assistancy and Startup that should be involved.

In conclusion, the scientific research and TT activities of CTU in recent years contribute very effectively to the construction of facilities, improving the qualifications of staff and quality of training. Cooperative activities to implement TT tasks associated with local and business' needs, and universities/institutes in the country are growing strongly. To be able to operate TT to achieve more efficiency in serving the socioeconomic development in the MD and the whole country, CTU needs to have a model of TTO with full functions and tasks as required in accordance with the capacity and duties of the university.

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