Human Resources for Science, Technology and Innovation in China (OECD Reviews of Innovation Policy: China 2008)

Human resources for science and technology (HRST, see Box 6.1) are essential for innovation and economic growth in two main ways. First, highly skilled people contribute to economic growth directly through their role in the creation and diffusion of innovations. Second, those with science and engineering (S&E) skills contribute indirectly, by maintaining society's store of knowledge and by transmitting it to future generations. Research has suggested strong social returns to education and close links between formal education and innovation capabilities. Even though innovation requires many non-research and non-technological skills, there is an increasing demand for individuals with higher levels of education and advanced training in science and technology (S&T).

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