

## **Benchmarking Growth: Are we looking in the wrong direction?**

**Prof. Diana Hicks**

Professor and Chair, School of Public Policy, Georgia Institute of Technology, US

The NISTEP analysis of R&D outputs in the international context exemplifies bringing methodologically rigorous output analysis to bear on assessing policy outcomes. It is a model of clarity that others would do well to follow. Like Japan, many countries assess their performance in relation to trends in US output, which leaves the question: against whom should the U.S. compare itself? I will argue that U.S. policy makers would benefit from looking at indicators of growth in output. As a mature system, U.S. output, like Japanese output, is much larger than that of many countries and is also relatively stable. The talk will put some of the NISTEP output indicators into another context to point out that there are a set of extremely dynamic emerging players on the S&T scene. In this talk I will benchmark U.S. and Japanese growth against the dynamic players and discuss policy implications.