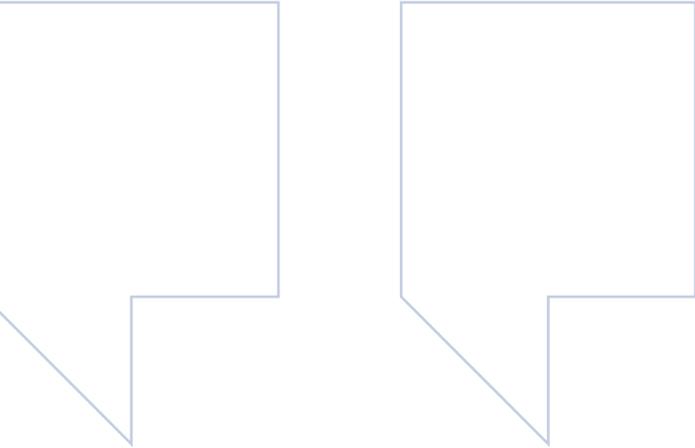


Foreword



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It is my great pleasure to introduce this year's *Global Innovation Index* (GII), now in its 14th edition, presenting the worldwide innovation landscape and annual performance rankings of some 130 economies.

This year's edition is being released in the middle of a continuing COVID-19 pandemic, which has taken a grim toll on lives and livelihoods, but also given us many examples of human ingenuity, resilience and adaptability. Indeed, the *GII 2021* finds that the innovative sectors of the global economy have remained strong, despite severe disruptions.

To overcome the pandemic and build back better, we will need to continue supporting the translation of great ideas into game-changing products. How do we do this? This is the ultimate goal of the *GII*: to discover what works best in producing an ecosystem where people can achieve their highest potential, innovating and creating to improve lives everywhere.

The *GII 2021* finds that governments and enterprises in many parts of the world have scaled up their investments in innovation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Meantime, scientific output, expenditures in research and development, intellectual property filings and venture capital deals continued to grow in 2020, building on strong peak pre-crisis performance.

But much more effort will be needed to vanquish the pandemic – and the *GII* can help. The *GII*'s overall formula for measuring an economy's innovative capacity and output provides clarity for decision-makers in government, business and elsewhere as they look forward to creating policies that enable their people to invent and create more efficiently. That's key to overcoming the pandemic and building back better.

In the last decade and a half since its inception, the *GII* has supported countries around the globe as they improve their innovation investments and related policies. Dozens of countries from all regions and income groups already actively use the *GII* framework in the construction of their pro-innovation policies. It has charted the rising understanding of how important innovation is to growth in an interconnected but competitive worldwide economy.

As we look toward the exit of the current crisis, let us focus on using innovation to deepen the transformation of our economies and societies for the good of all. The pandemic has already accelerated digital ways of working, living and playing, while boosting technology trends all over the world. In this future world where technology, innovation and creativity are even more important for the global economy, it is my hope that the *GII* will continue to help guide policymakers and others so that we can build back better.

Daren Tang

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