

Releasing the Global Innovation Index 2015: Effective Innovation Policies for Development



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We are pleased to present the 2015 Global Innovation Index (GII) with this year's theme of 'Effective Innovation Policies for Development'.

Innovation-driven growth is no longer the prerogative of high-income countries alone. Developing countries increasingly design policies intended to increase their innovation capacity. Innovation policies have taken different forms, depending on countries' perceived needs; their impact has also varied across countries at similar levels of development. Certain developing countries have managed to continually improve their innovation inputs and outputs. Others still struggle.

The difference in the impact of innovation policies raises a number of questions, including: Which developing countries outperform in innovation relative to their level of development and their peers? How do the innovation actors of these countries meaningfully design and implement effective innovation policies and practices?

One objective of this year's GII is to seek answers to these questions by taking advantage of the rich time-series dataset it has produced since 2011. Independent from the yearly changes in rankings, our analysis identifies economies that consistently overperform when compared with those of a similar level of development. Although not even a decade ago many of these low- and middle-income economies were not on the innovation map, they are now increasingly part of a more globalized innovation landscape. Their experience holds lessons for other countries and for the global distribution of innovation more broadly.

Over the last eight years, the GII has established itself as a leading reference on innovation, providing a tool for action for decision makers. In 2013 the GII was launched by the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Geneva at the High-Level Segment of the UN Economic and Social Council. In 2014, as part of Australia's preparations to host the annual Group of Twenty (G20) Leaders' Summit, we joined Australia's Minister for Industry Ian Macfarlane at a gathering of international business leaders in Sydney to launch the

GII. The discussion centred on how innovation can help achieve the G20's growth targets. In addition, GII-related meetings took place in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and North and Latin America, with the aim of improving data availability, innovation performance, and policy. In 2015 our goal is to intensify the use of the GII to assist developing countries to further improve their innovation systems.

This year we welcome A.T. Kearney and its IMP³rove – European Innovation Management Academy as a new Knowledge Partner. We thank our other current Knowledge Partners—the Confederation of Indian Industry and du—for their continued support. We also thank Huawei, in particular Ken Hu, its Rotating CEO, for making key contributions as a Knowledge Partner over the last two years.

Likewise, we thank our prominent Advisory Board, which has been enriched by five new members this year: Yuko Harayama, Executive Member, Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, Japan; Hugo Hollanders, Senior Researcher, United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT), the Netherlands; Beethika Khan, Program Director, National Science Foundation (NSF), United States of America; Mary O'Kane, Professor, NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, Australia; and Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

We hope that the collective efforts of innovation actors using the GII will continue to pave the way for better innovation policies around the world.

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