

Releasing the Global Innovation Index 2017: Innovation Feeding the World



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We are pleased to present the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2017 on the theme ‘Innovation Feeding the World’.

This year is a particularly noteworthy one for the GII, as it marks the release of the 10th edition of the report. The first edition was produced in 2007 by Soumitra Dutta at INSEAD with the goal of producing a comprehensive broad-based model of innovation that captured its complex nature in both developed and emerging economies. Over the last decade, the GII has gained international recognition, establishing itself as both a leading reference on innovation and a ‘tool for action’ for decision makers.

Numerous countries have incorporated the GII into their innovation agendas and metrics. Remarkably, in view of the GII, a large number of countries have increased their collection of innovation metrics that conform to international standards; these countries also use the metrics more. These changes are taking place with the cooperation of WIPO and other responsible international organizations—most notably the UNESCO Institute for Statistics—which assist the country in question to resolve issues and increase its data coverage.

Innovation is not limited to the most advanced economies. Innovation is also not limited to the high-technology sectors. Innovation has today become a global phenomenon, affecting all sectors of the economy, including food and agriculture—which are among the most ancient and basic sectors of activity. Feeding the world, while contributing to protecting the environment and providing quality and balanced nutrition to growing populations with different lifestyles and consumption patterns, remains a complex challenge. Innovation has a key role to play in addressing this challenge.

The 2017 edition of the GII is dedicated to the theme of innovation in agriculture and food systems. Agricultural and food-processing sectors continue to face an enormous rise in global demand and increased competition for limited natural resources. Innovation can be key to maintaining the productivity growth required to meet this rising demand in a sustainable fashion, and it can help enhance the networks that integrate food systems. This

year’s report analyses these demands and the opportunities they present from different angles, including those of data-driven strategies, the impact of biotechnological and digital technologies, effective policies, and strengthened networks, while at the same time suggesting new approaches for both developed and developing countries.

Finally, the GII 2017 includes another innovation this year. The GII has long recognized that innovative activity tends to be concentrated in geographic clusters. However, no metrics have existed to measure innovation performance at the cluster level on an internationally comparable basis. This year’s GII seeks to take a first step in remedying this measurement gap. It presents a novel approach towards identifying and ranking the world’s largest clusters of inventive activity, drawing on international patent filings. We hope that the cluster perspective offers a useful complement to the long-standing country-based rankings that will continue to form the core of the GII.

We thank our Knowledge Partners, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and Strategy&, and the National Confederation of Industry (CNI) and Serviço Brasileiro de Apoio às Micro e Pequenas Empresas (Sebrae) for their support of this year’s report.

Likewise, we thank our prominent Advisory Board, which has been enriched by a new member this year: Chuan Poh Lim, Chairman, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) of Singapore.

We hope that the collective efforts of innovation actors and decision makers who use the GII will continue to pave the way for better innovation policies around the world.

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