

In Brief

Global Innovation Index 2012: Stronger Linkages for Global Growth

The Global Innovation Index (GII) was launched by INSEAD in 2007. www.globalinnovationindex.org/html Its objective was to determine how to find metrics and approaches to better capture the richness of innovation in society and go beyond such traditional measures of innovation as the number of research articles and the level of R&D expenditure.

“There were several motivations for setting this goal. First, innovation is important for driving economic progress and competitiveness – both for developed and developing economies. Many governments are putting innovation at the center of their growth strategies. Second, there is awareness that the definition of innovation has broadened – it is no longer restricted to R&D laboratories and to published scientific papers. Innovation could be and is more general and horizontal in nature, and includes social innovation and business model innovation as well. It is seen as crucial for inspiring people, especially the next generation of entrepreneurs.”

“The GII helps to create an environment in which innovation factors are under continual evaluation, and it provides a key tool and a rich database of detailed metrics for refining innovation policies. The GII relies on two sub-indexes: the Innovation Input Sub-Index and the Innovation Output Sub-Index, each built around pillars: Four measures are calculated.

“Innovation Input Sub-Index: Five input pillars capture elements of the national economy that enable innovative activities: (1) institutions, (2) human capital, (3) infrastructure, (4) market sophistication, and (5) business sophistication.

“The Innovation Output Sub-Index: Outputs are the results of innovative activities within the economy. There are two output pillars (6) knowledge and technology outputs and (7) creative outputs.

“The overall GII score is the simple average of the Input and Output Sub-Indexes.

The top 10 countries in the GII 2012 are Switzerland, Singapore, Sweden, Finland, the UK, the Netherlands, Hong Kong (China), Ireland, and the United States of America. Descriptions of each country's achievements are presented.

Big Increase in Public Sector Cyber Attacks

The public sector is the most targeted sector by phishing activity, according to a Symantec Intelligence Report. One in 113 e-mails are involved in a phishing attack and one in 85 e-mails is blocked as malicious. The education sector was the most spammed industry with a spam rate of 70 percent compared to 68 percent spam rate for the automotive sector.

The report showed that Saudi Arabia was the most spammed country in July 2012 with a spam rate of 70 percent, compared to 68 percent for the UK.

In Asia, Hong Kong ranks the most spammed with 67 percent of e-mails blocked as spam, followed by 66 percent in Singapore and 64 percent in Japan. Phishing activity in Australia accounted for one in 752 e-mails, one in 2,242 in Hong Kong, and one in 3,450 in Japan.

The most frequent origins of attack traffic were from the Asia Pacific/Oceania region, according to the Akamai's Q1 2012 report.

The report also presents results of a survey of global average and peak connection speeds. All top ten countries experienced positive year-over-year changes in average connection speeds. Globally, a total of 125 countries experienced year-over-year increases and only 10 countries declined in connection speeds.

UN Rio Conference Recognized the Essential Role of ICT and Broadband Networks as Catalyst for Sustainable Development

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in June 2012 in Brazil recognized the critical role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in accelerating the implementation of sustainable development commitments. UN member states agreed on key principles that will guide the international community in upcoming years to move the sustainable development agenda forward. The report: *The Future We Want* (www.uncsd2012.org/content/document) It was emphasized that Member States should in addition to facilitating the flow of information between governments and the public. It is essential to work toward improved access to ICT, especially broadband networks and services, and bridge the digital divide, recognizing the contribution of international cooperation to enhance agriculture services and improve communication infrastructure, especially in least developed countries and small island developing states.

The need for cooperation and sharing of early warning systems from relevant organizations, and the importance of technologies for mapping, observing and sustainable development policy-making were also recognized.

“It is appropriate that ICTs have been recognized as critical instruments to achieve sustainable development by the landmark Rio+20 conference,” said ITU Secretary General Hamadoun Toure. “ICTs are unique, cost effective, inclusive and environment friendly tools to spur green growth and create jobs, promote social progress and ensure environmental protection and the sustainable future we want.”

Australia Targets US\$2 Billion in ICT Savings

The savings program also will involve using the government’s purchasing power to negotiate terms and conditions with suppliers as well as more astute use of technology, while cutting down on duplicate and operational overheads. The Minister of Finance has prepared an extensive report, *Driving Efficiency in the Australian Government* that canvasses many possible sources for cost-reduction over the next four years.

New measures are to include the introduction of an integrated Parliamentary workflow management system, a “leaner” ICT network and communications backbone, and improved electronic record-keeping. Teleconferencing and video-conferencing will replace travel, enabling agencies to save on meetings and consultations. A modernized Parliamentary workflow system will deliver a single centrally-hosted solutions across 41 key agencies that come under the Financial Management and Accountability Act. The emphasis is on identifying inefficient practices, while implementing change and sharing new ideas or approaches, the Ministry indicated