

Foreword

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It has been almost 30 years since the connections that sparked one of the greatest technological transformations in history were made, creating an enormous global market for information and communication technologies (ICTs) while laying the foundation for networked readiness. Today the Internet and the applications and the services it supports touch our lives every day. Just as Cisco was at the forefront of network development in the past, today we envision a future where everything is connected and amazing things are possible.

More than 99 percent of things in the physical world are not linked to the Internet. Yet. But as the world transitions into what we call the *Internet of Everything* (IoE)—the intelligent connection of people, processes, data, and things—only the networked readiness of countries will dictate where the IoE will take hold and who will reap its benefits. Given the economic and social potential of this market transition, we are very pleased to again collaborate with the World Economic Forum and INSEAD in the production of this year's *Global Information Technology Report* and its Networked Readiness Index.

The IoE and intelligent networking will impact all sectors, creating opportunities for people, businesses, and countries. An intelligent network will be the driver of the next round of innovation, productivity enhancement, and employment.

Developing the IoE will require close collaboration among stakeholders in industry, customers, academia, and government. Products and services will be developed commercially, customers will dictate what succeeds in the market place, academia can aid in research and design, and governments can play a role in maintaining a vibrant and competitive business environment where innovation will flourish.

This year's *Global Information Technology Report*, focusing on ICTs for growth and jobs, places a spotlight on the role that technology can have in economic growth and employment. As highlighted in the research that follows, high-speed broadband networks have demonstrated a positive impact on short- and long-term employment, and we believe the next wave of Internet development will further advance the growth effects of the network.