

Acknowledgments

ALAN MARCUS

World Economic Forum

Over the past 16 years, the World Economic Forum, INSEAD, and, more recently, Cornell University have partnered on publishing *The Global Information Technology Report* (GITR), which examines the increasing proliferation of technology and its effects on advancing global prosperity. Today we have come to a critical tipping point, where the ICT-fueled digital economy is taking off in an exponential way. We have also come to recognize the beginning of a Fourth Industrial Revolution, which will fundamentally change the way we live, work, and relate to one another. This transformation is not defined by any particular set of technologies, but rather by a transition to new ecosystems built on the infrastructure of the digital revolution. The World Economic Forum is seeking to shape and design these new systems by emphasizing and scaling cross-sector and cross-geographic collaborations. The key findings of this *Report* over the years led to and informed a broad range of discussions around the Forum's *Future of Digital Economy and Society* system, such as digital inclusion and access, cybercrime and cybersecurity, data privacy and usage, digital transformation of business, digital governance, and trade across borders.

Under the theme "Innovating in the Digital Economy," this year's *Report* looks into how digital technologies are changing the nature of innovation in various ways. The *Report* examines the exponential shift brought about by digital technologies, the way we measure the impact of innovation, the continuous pressure for both tech and non-tech sectors to boost innovation through digital means, and the need for agile governance and regulation systems to adapt to the speed and scale of changes while mitigating ethical, legal, and regulatory risks.

Each year, the ICT Industries and the Global Competitiveness and Risks Teams at the World Economic Forum collaborate on the annual production of the GITR; the *Report* has evolved to become one of the most respected publications of its kind. As we shift toward a systems approach to solve the most challenging issues stemming from the Fourth Industrial Revolution, this *Report* will continue its evolution to capture milestones in unleashing the full potential of the digital economy led by ICTs, and to inform decision-making processes for policymakers and organizations across sectors and regions.

We would like to acknowledge the editors of the *Report*, Silja Baller at the World Economic Forum; Professor Soumitra Dutta, Dean of the College of Business at Cornell University; and Bruno Lanvin at INSEAD. The World Economic Forum and INSEAD and, more recently, Cornell University have been publishing the GITR since 2001; through this longstanding partnership, the three institutions have developed and evolved the Networked Readiness Index (NRI) to reflect the growing importance of technology and innovation across the world.

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