

**POLICY FRAMEWORKS FOR THE KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY**  
**ICTs, INNOVATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES**  
**16-17 September 2002, Brasilia**

Eleven speaking points.

1 OECD analysis on Knowledge-Based Economy is widely applicable. **Exchange of experience** and application outside OECD area is an important aspect of OECD work.

2. **Current situation:** ICTs, innovation and human resources (skills and competencies) are the source of growth at firm, sector and country level. They provide new and improved goods and services and drive productivity gains. [OECD Growth project, various DSTI studies].

3. **Policy frameworks** to improve growth performance are changing to broader emphasis. The focus has moved to broader knowledge economy / digital economy and away from narrow e-commerce focus. National policy mix depends on economic circumstances, institutional capabilities and models, scope for public-private partnerships and business resources. Most countries have a mix of pro-competition market led models (e.g. in telecommunications), focused policies in particular areas where there may be market failures (e.g. to support basic research), and more general policies in areas of public goods and large spillovers (education).

4 There is **wide cross-country diversity** of uptake and use of ICTs, abilities to harness the potential of science, technology and innovation, and human resource development. These differences explain differences in recent growth performance.

5. **ICTs.** Supply-side policies: support basic R&D, information to business, generic ICT skills.

Use side: improving IT access (e.g. rural areas, socially excluded groups), supporting IT environment (security, authentication, intellectual property). Policy shift towards diffusion and use.

Network infrastructure: pro-competitive market liberalisation, with complementary policies for lagging groups and regions.

*Latin America* – focus on access, diffusion, skills?

6. **Innovation.** More than R&D. Need for complementary investments at firm level (worker training, production, marketing).

General shift towards high value-added, knowledge and science-based industries.

*Latin America* – focus on increasing contribution of high value-added activities, strengthening domestic R&D base, linking R&D institutions to business, enhancing international linkages?

7. **Education.** Recent economic growth based increasingly on qualified personnel, often linked with life-long learning strategies. Demand for “knowledge-intensive” employees rising. Increased efforts at all levels of education – linked with labour markets.

*Latin America* – strengthen systems of basic and generic education (including ICTs), and spread life-long learning strategies?

8. **Pulling it all together.** Few countries have integrated approaches to ICTS, innovation, and human resource development. However there is increasing recognition and evidence of the interlinkages between these areas. Policy needs to recognise these interlinkages and mutually prioritise areas for policy attention, and co-ordinate policy implementation.

9. **Process.** This Global Forum is an input to the process of developing coherent forward-looking growth policies. It is also a springboard for future policy development, policy prioritisation and sequencing.

10. This Global Forum contributes to and is part of ongoing OECD policy development process. Next major event **Honolulu, OECD/APEC Global Forum Policy Frameworks for the Digital Economy**, to which Brazil Latin American countries invited.

11. **Brasilia outcomes:**

- agree on ways of developing policy frameworks that integrate ICTs, innovation, and human resources as drivers of growth,
- assess likely future policy directions and priorities,
- advance this policy agenda in the Latin American context.