

Foreword

Ministers participating in the 2008 Seoul Ministerial meeting on the Future of the Internet Economy adopted a Declaration (“the Seoul Declaration”), in which they identified future work for the OECD aimed *i*) to carry out further analysis of the Internet economy and, based on this analysis; *ii*) to develop regulatory principles, guidelines and other instruments to promote the future development of the Internet economy. In addition, Ministers emphasised the need to further investigate the role of the Internet and related information and communication technologies (ICTs) in addressing global challenges, such as climate change. Ministers mandated the OECD to review the Seoul Declaration within three years after its adoption.

This report reviews the implementation of the Seoul Declaration and proposes areas for future work. The review is structured into seven themes, considered from three perspectives: the main building blocks of the Internet economy, the framework conditions for its proper functioning and the socio-economic benefits that the Internet should strive to achieve.

The review was prepared under the aegis of the OECD Committee for Information, Computers and Communications Policy with input from its working parties and in collaboration with the Committee on Consumer Policy. Delegates contributed significantly through their responses to the Seoul policy questionnaire and their comments on the several reports.

The review is a collective effort and takes a horizontal approach, coordinated by the Information, Communications and Consumer Policy Division of the OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry. It was produced under the guidance of Anne Carblanc and Dimitri Ypsilanti and the overall co-ordination of Verena Weber.

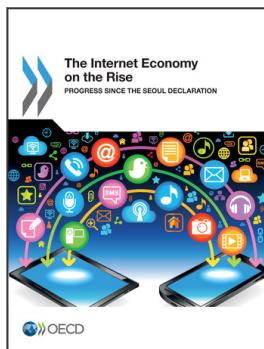
Chapter 1 summarises the main findings across all the reviewed areas and was prepared by Brigitte Acoca, Christian Reimsbach-Kounatz and Verena Weber.

Chapter 2 on “access to the Internet via a high-speed infrastructure” takes a closer look at progress made in the area of communications infrastructure. It was prepared by Verena Weber with contributions from Deborah Alcocer.

Chapter 3 on “innovation and sustainability: digital content and green ICTs” looks at progress made on the application layer with a focus on digital content and green ICTs. It was prepared by Verena Weber with contributions from Deborah Alcocer, Karine Perset, and Rudolf Van der Berg.

Chapter 4 on “empowering and protecting consumers” monitors developments in the area of consumer policy. It was prepared by Brigitte Acoca with contributions from Ayako Terauchi.

Chapter 5 on a “global participation in the Internet economy” focuses on the progress made in the area of the Internet and ICTs for development. It was prepared by Caroline Paunov and Verena Weber.



From:

The Internet Economy on the Rise

Progress since the Seoul Declaration

Access the complete publication at:

<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264201545-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2013), "Foreword", in *The Internet Economy on the Rise: Progress since the Seoul Declaration*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264201545-2-en>

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