

Summary of Side Event: Virtual Event on the Global Innovation Index 2022 - The Future of Innovation-Driven Growth: Will the novel Digital Age and Deep Science Waves drive a Global Revival?

May 3rd, 8:30am - 9:45am NY Time

Background on the event (concept note attached)

Co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations in New York, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Oxford University Said Business School, and the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry, this event highlighted the 2022 Global Innovation Index, as a policy tool to track the development and progress of national innovation systems, and monitor the contribution of innovation in economic growth and social development. Opening addresses by H.E. Ambassador Ronaldo Costa Filho, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, New York, H.E Mr. Huyn Thanh Dat, Minister of Science and Technology of Viet Nam, and Mr. Marco Aleman, WIPO Assistant Director General for IP and Innovation Ecosystems, set the stage for the panel discussion, moderated by Professor Soumitra Dutta, GII Co-Editor and Dean of the Said Business School at Oxford University. The panel notably featured all women speakers, in line with this year's World IP Day theme of Women and IP: Accelerating innovation and creativity. The panelists shared their own national experiences and practices in using the GII as a key policy instrument, and included H.E Ms. Paula Ingabire, Minister of ICT and Innovation, Rwanda, Ms. Gianna Sagazio, Innovation Director, Brazilian National Confederation of Industry, Brasilia, and Ms. Vanessa Behrens, Project Manager, Department for Economics and Data Analytics, IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector, WIPO, Geneva.

Key Issues discussed

- Innovation productivity stagnation
 - Unlike 2021 where innovation productivity growth was at 1%, this past year, 2022, saw nearly 0% productivity growth.
 - Productivity stagnation is most prominently seen in high income countries such as the US, Japan, and France, while countries like China, India, and Indonesia are seeing more improved innovation indexes
- Two innovation waves are on the horizon, with the potential to revive global productivity and economic growth.
 - These two waves are the Digital Age Wave, and the Deep Science Wave.
 - Unleashing the potential of these two waves and harnessing their power through increased availability of public and private funds for research and development, local government action towards developing innovation policies that are relevant to local contexts, promotion of STI learning and open technology transfer, as well as addressing the inequalities within the innovation ecosystem, will allow for developing economies to absorb the new technologies of the digital age wave, and the deep science wave.
- Covid-19 did bring silver linings for the rate of innovation in particular contexts. For Rwanda, this included using robots and AI to help with mass temperature screenings and tracking vaccinated populations.

- Rwanda's example of how to harness the potential of AI as a developing economy - particularly in the fields of agriculture, transportation, and public administration, from the public and private sector as in the following contexts:
 - Agriculture: using AI towards weather predictions and crop diseases to improve food security
 - Transportation: using data to improve scheduling systems and minimize pollution emissions
 - Public administration: better analytics tools for reducing number of incorrect payments, enforcing legitimacy and integrity of social security in Rwanda, better tax collection and encouragement of compliance
- For Brazil, the GII is a centerpiece in discussions for the development of a new, long term innovation policy. Brazil is learning how to implement mature technologies in small and medium sized companies, digitalizing production processes through existing technologies, and placing sustainability at the center of business strategies - to survive in not only local markets, but also international markets.
- Increasing the currently stagnant innovation productivity growth rate (0%), will require joint efforts and precise coordination between environmental, technological, professional, educational, and digital transformation policies

Main takeaways include the importance of:

- Using the GII as a framework for the creation and adoption of national innovation policies, that are relevant to local contexts, by citing country specific briefs in the GII. If the country is not one of the 130 included, countries that are culturally or economically similar may be referred to;
- Addressing inequalities within the innovation ecosystems, at the international but also regional and national levels;
- Promoting international learning of STI, training a workforce to be skilled in emerging technologies such as AI and machine learning, closing skill gaps;
- Increasing availability of public and private funding for research and development for developing economies to benefit from the potential of emerging technologies on productivity gains;
- Promoting technology transfer to close the skill gaps within the innovation ecosystem;
- Ensuring quality data collection including for the ethical and responsible use of AI