

About the Authors

Jennifer Blanke

Jennifer Blanke is Director and Senior Economist, and Head of the Global Competitiveness Network at the World Economic Forum. Since joining the team in 2002, she has written and lectured extensively on issues related to national competitiveness and has served as lead editor on a number of regional and topical competitiveness reports. From 1998 to 2002, she was Senior Programme Manager responsible for developing the business, management, and technology section of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos. Before joining the Forum, Dr Blanke worked for a number of years as a management consultant for Eurogroup, Mazars Group in Paris, France, where she specialized in banking and financial market organization. Dr Blanke obtained a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University and an MA and a PhD in International Economics from the Graduate Institute of International Studies (Geneva).

Ciara Browne

Ciara Browne is Senior Manager of the Global Competitiveness Network at the World Economic Forum, where her responsibilities include coordinating the Executive Opinion Survey process and managing the network of over 140 Partner Institutes worldwide, as well as providing input into *The Global Competitiveness Report* and several of the Forum's other benchmarking studies. She also works closely with the Forum's media team in articulating the findings of the various competitiveness reports to the media and the public. Before joining the Forum, she served for several years with the International Organization for Migration, where she worked for a mass claims processing program. She has a BA (Hons) degree from the University of Manchester.

Richard Bryden

Richard Bryden is a member of the research staff at the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness at Harvard Business School, where he has participated in numerous research projects, case studies, and regional analyses on the topic of economic development. As Director of Information Products at the Institute, he has particular responsibility for developing and publishing the Institute's unique datasets covering the cluster competitiveness of nations and regions. He holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago.

Mercedes Delgado

Mercedes Delgado is an Assistant Professor at the Fox School of Business at Temple University, and a member of the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness at the Harvard Business School. Before joining Temple University, she was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness and also at the Innovation Policy and the Economy Group of the National Bureau of Economic Research. Professor Delgado's research focuses on the interaction between the micro-economic business environment and the performance of firms, regions, and countries.

Margareta Drzeniek Hanouz

Margareta Drzeniek Hanouz is Director and Senior Economist with the Global Competitiveness Network at the World Economic Forum, where she researches and writes on issues of national competitiveness, in particular related to the Arab world, Eastern Europe, and international trade. She is lead author or editor of a number of regional and topical reports and papers. Previously, she oversaw the economic modeling for some of the Forum's scenario projects and was charged with developing the economics section of the program for the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos. Before joining the Global Competitiveness Network, Dr Drzeniek Hanouz worked for several years with the International Trade Centre in Geneva, where she was in charge of relations with Central and Eastern European countries. In this capacity, she advised governments and developed and implemented programs to strengthen the international competitiveness of businesses in the region. Dr Drzeniek Hanouz received a Diploma in Economics from the University of Münster and holds a PhD in International Economics from the University of Bochum, both in Germany.

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Thierry Geiger is an Economist with the Global Competitiveness Network and a Global Leadership Fellow at the World Economic Forum. His responsibilities include the construction and computation of a range of indexes, as well as data analysis for various projects and studies. His main areas of expertise include econometrics, international trade, and finance. Most recently, he co-edited *The Ukraine Competitiveness Report 2008*. He is also co-author of *The Global Competitiveness Report* series and *The Global Enabling Trade Report*, as well as a contributor to *The Global Information Technology Report* and *The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report*. A Swiss national, Mr Geiger holds a BA in Economics from the University of Geneva with a specialization in monetary and financial economics, and an MA in Economics from the University of British Columbia. Prior to joining the Forum, he worked for the World Trade Organization and Caterpillar Inc. During his studies, he was a member of the board of Junior Entreprise Genève. He is also co-founder of Procab Studio SA, an IT company based in Geneva.

Christian Ketels

Christian Ketels is a member of the Harvard Business School faculty at Professor Michael E. Porter's Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness. He is currently also a Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm School of Economics; a Director of TCI, a not-for-profit global network of practitioners in competitiveness, clusters, and regional innovation; and serves on the advisory boards of a number of policy advisory groups in Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Dr Ketels has worked with many countries, regions, and clusters around the world and has written extensively on strategic competitiveness issues facing locations and companies. He holds a PhD (Econ) from the London School of Economics and further degrees from the Kiel Institute for World Economics and Cologne University.

Irene Mia

Irene Mia is Director and Senior Economist with the Global Competitiveness Network at the World Economic Forum. She is also responsible for competitiveness research on Latin America and Iberia. She has written and spoken extensively on issues related to national competitiveness, serving as lead author and editor on a number of regional and topical competitiveness papers and reports; notably, she is the co-editor of *The Global Information Technology Report* series. Before joining the Forum, she worked at the headquarters of Sudameris Bank in Paris for a number of years, holding various positions in the international affairs and international trade divisions. Her main research interests are in the fields of development, international trade, economic integration (with special reference to the Latin American region), and competitiveness. Dr Mia holds an MA in Latin American Studies from the Institute of Latin American Studies, London University, and a PhD in International Economic and Trade Law from Bocconi University.

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Michael E. Porter

Michael E. Porter is the Bishop William Lawrence University Professor at the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, based at the Harvard Business School. He is a leading authority on competitive strategy and international competitiveness. The author of 18 books and over 125 articles, Professor Porter's ideas have guided economic policy throughout the world. Professor Porter has led competitiveness initiatives in nations and states such as Canada, India, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, and Connecticut; guides regional projects in Central America and the Middle East; and is Co-Chairman of *The Global Competitiveness Report*. In 1994, Professor Porter founded the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, a non-profit private-sector initiative formed to catalyze business development in distressed inner cities across the United States. The holder of 10 honorary doctorates, Professor Porter has won numerous awards for his books, articles, public service, and influence on several fields.

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Scott Stern is an Associate Professor of Management and Strategy at the Kellogg School of Management, and a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research. He received his PhD in Economics from Stanford University, and was an Assistant Professor of Management at the Sloan School at MIT, as well as a Non-Resident Senior Fellow of the Brookings Institution. He is a co-organizer of the Innovation Policy and the Economy Group at the National Bureau of Economic Research and a Senior Fellow of the Searle Center. His research is focused on the drivers and consequences of innovation, and the impact of innovation on entrepreneurship, competitive strategy, and economic growth. In 2005, Dr Stern was awarded the first Ewing Marion Kauffman Prize Medal for Distinguished Research in Entrepreneurship.