

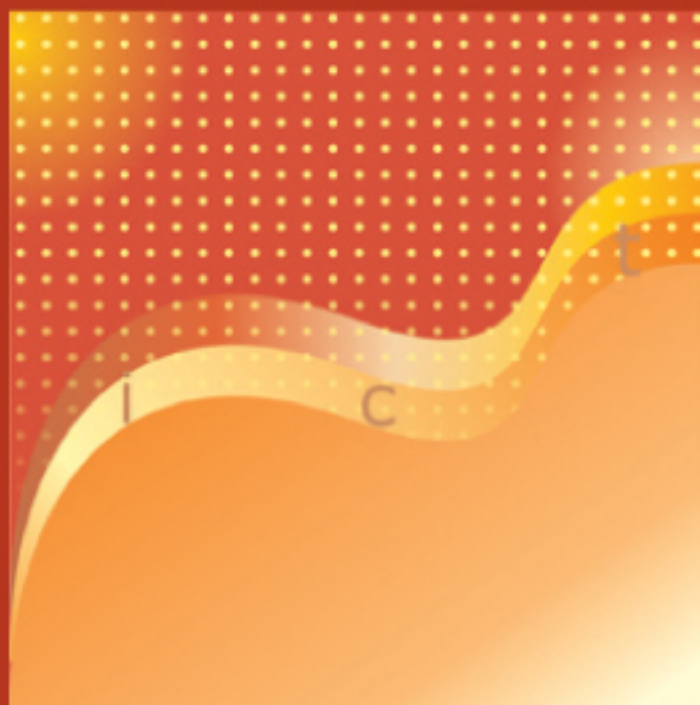
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# INFORMATION ECONOMY REPORT 2007-2008

Science and technology for development:  
the new paradigm of ICT



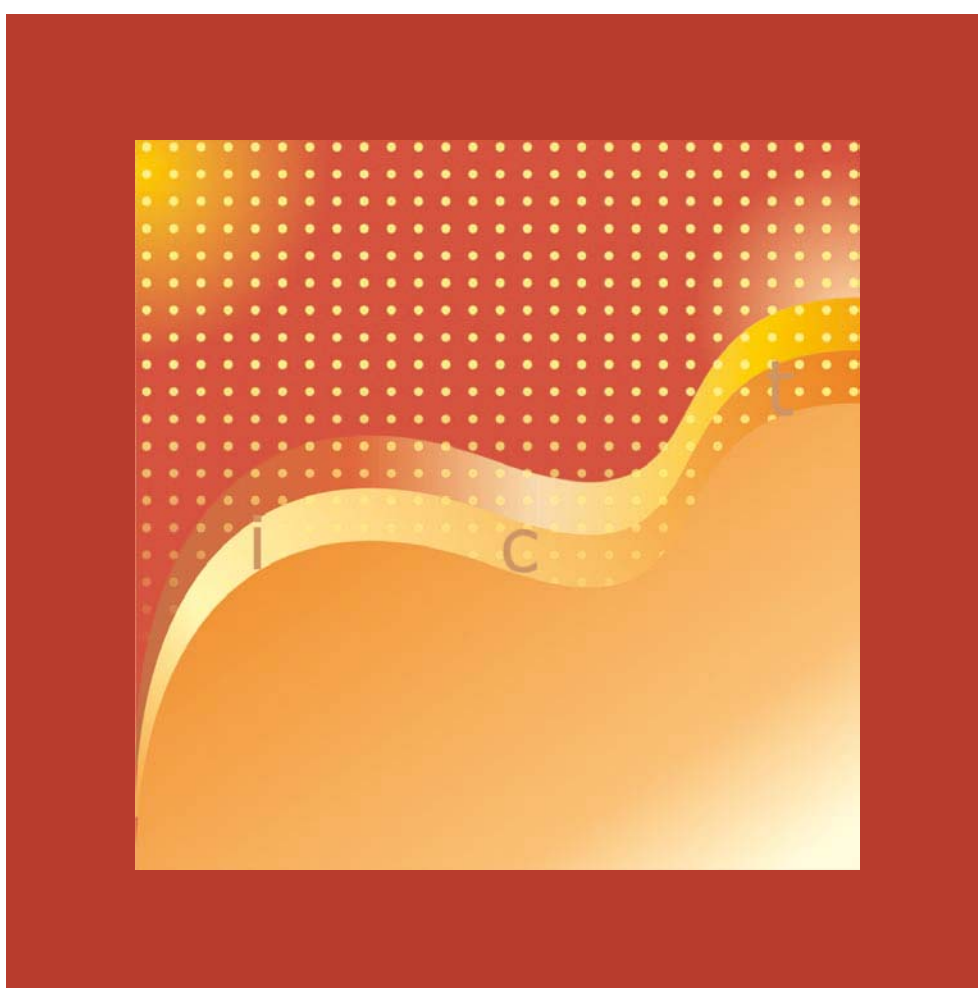
United Nations

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# INFORMATION ECONOMY REPORT 2007-2008

Science and technology for development:  
the new paradigm of ICT

Prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat



UNITED NATIONS  
New York and Geneva, 2007

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UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/2007/1
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UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATION
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Sales No. E.07.II.D.13
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ISBN 978-92-1-112724-9
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## Foreword

The world economy is increasingly driven by technological innovations. If developing countries are to seize the opportunities this implies, and also to address emerging global challenges, they will have to harness those innovations and the knowledge that comes with them.

UNCTAD's *Information Economy Report 2007-2008: Science and technology for development: the new paradigm of ICT* analyses the current – and potential – contribution of ICT to knowledge creation and diffusion. It looks at how developing countries use technology to generate innovations that improve the livelihoods of the poor and support enterprise competitiveness. And it examines the impact of ICTs on productivity and growth, international trade and employment in developing countries.

But mastering technology is not enough; it must, as the Report also stresses, be complemented by government policies to develop the ICT sector – by providing incentives, for example, and by building national institutional capacity for knowledge creation and diffusion. At the international level, more effective technology transfer and knowledge-sharing are needed, which can be achieved through more flexible intellectual property rights regimes, open access to knowledge and international partnerships. Development partners, in turn, can also help close the digital divide, including through technical assistance and funding of ICT infrastructure.

We are now at the midpoint in the timeline set by the international community for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The eighth goal – developing a global partnership for development – included making available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, in cooperation with the private sector. This Report makes an important contribution to our understanding of how to achieve that.



Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

## Acknowledgements

The *Information Economy Report 2007-2008* was prepared under the overall direction of Anh-Nga Tran-Nguyen, Director of UNCTAD's Division for Services Infrastructure for Development and Trade Efficiency (SITE). It was written by a team supervised by Geneviève Féraud, Chief of the ICT and E-Business Branch, until her change of functions on 1 October 2007, and consisting of the following UNCTAD staff members: Cécile Barayre, Dimo Calovski, Scarlett Fondeur Gil, Angel González Sanz, Muriel Guigue, Rouben Indjikian, Diana Korka, Marta Pérez Cusó and Susan Teltscher. The Introduction was drafted by Anh-Nga Tran-Nguyen.

The UNCTAD team acknowledges the contribution to chapter 8 by Chris Connolly of the consulting company Galexia, and by the ASEAN secretariat, whose material was based on a project funded by the ASEAN Australia Development Cooperation Program (AADCP) through the Australian Government (AusAID).

The team also wishes to thank the following individuals for their contributions to, and comments on, various parts of the Report: Carolin Averbeck, Claire Buré, Carlo Cattani, Florencio Ceballos, José Luis Cervera Ferri, Diane Coyle, Charles Geiger, Benedict Hugenschmidt, Martina Metzger and Ugo Panizza, as well as staff from telecentre.org. Participants in the expert meeting "In support of the implementation and follow-up of WSIS: using ICTs to achieve growth and development", which was held jointly by UNCTAD, OECD and ILO in Geneva on 4 and 5 December 2006, provided useful inputs that were considered in the preparation of this Report.

UNCTAD appreciates the sharing of statistical data by the National Statistical Office of Thailand, the Egyptian Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA), ITU, OECD and Eurostat, as well as the National Statistical Offices that responded to the UNCTAD 2007 questionnaire on ICT use by enterprises and on the ICT sector. The UNCTAD Central Statistics and Information Retrieval Branch provided valuable advice and support in the analysis of trade data.

Research assistance was provided by Bjorn Griesbach, Laura Harbidge, Jackie Lee, Giulia Quaia, Iulia Teodoru and Lidia Villalba during their internships with UNCTAD.

Administrative and secretarial support was provided at different times by Karima Aoukili, Elvira Chudzinski, Marie Kamara, Monica Morrica and Janaki Venkatchalam.

The Report was edited by Graham Grayston. The overall layout and desktop publishing were done by Christophe Manceau. Diego Oyarzún Reyes designed the cover and formatted the charts.

The financial support of the Governments of Finland and France is gratefully acknowledged.

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