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Flexibility and Adaptability Key to Digital Success: USA top, Asia grows in strength in IMD World Digital Competitiveness ranking

The IMD World Digital Competitiveness ranking celebrates its third edition, studying 63 economies

- Top 5 unchanged: USA, Singapore, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland
- New additions to Top 10: Hong Kong SAR, Republic of Korea
- Knowledge and agility remain of paramount importance for digital performance
- A full breakdown of the IMD World Digital Competitiveness Center's Ranking as well as the [63 individual country profiles](#) are available

Lausanne, Switzerland 26 September 2019 – The United States held on to the number one spot in IMD World Digital Competitiveness ranking (WDCR) in 2019, with all top five economies in the index unchanged: USA, Singapore, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland.

In the Top 10, the Netherlands, Hong Kong SAR and Republic of Korea moved up (to 6th, 8th and 10th, respectively), while Norway dropped to 9th and Canada fell from 8th to 11th.

Now in its third year, the WDCR, produced by the [IMD World Competitiveness Center](#), measures the capacity and readiness of 63 nations to adopt and explore digital technologies as a key driver for economic transformation in business, government and wider society.

Technology not only affects how businesses perform but also how countries function and prepare for the future. National governments around the world are investing heavily in their digital economy to enhance value creation and prosperity.

The Top 5 share a common thread in terms of their focus on knowledge generation, but they each approach digital competitiveness differently. The United States and Sweden follow a balanced approach between knowledge generation, the creation of a supportive environment for technology development and a readiness to adopt innovation. Singapore, Denmark and Switzerland give priority to one or two factors.

“In the midst of uncertainty and a fluid global situation, it seems that business and societies that are agile correlate strongly with the IMD World Digital Competitiveness ranking. Knowledge also remains of paramount importance for the digital performance of different economies,” stated Professor [Arturo Bris](#), Director of the IMD World Competitiveness Center.

Several Asian economies advanced significantly in the ranking compared to 2018. Hong Kong SAR and the Republic of Korea entered the top ten while Taiwan and China moved up to 13th and 22nd respectively. All these countries experienced marked progress in their technological infrastructure and the agility of their businesses. Further down the ranking, India and Indonesia



jumped four and six positions respectively, supported by positive results in talent, training and education as well as the enhancement of technological infrastructure.

In the Middle East, the UAE and Israel remained as key regional digital hubs but followed opposing trends with respect to 2018. The UAE climbed five places thanks to improvements in capital availability and supportive regulation for technology development. Israel dropped four positions, due to a decline in business agility and e-government indicators.

In Latin America, Mexico and Colombia were the only countries to advance in the ranking this year. The lack of resources to support talent and technological development prevents most countries in the region from improving knowledge generation and getting the most from digital transformation.

To evaluate an economy, WDCR [examines](#) three factors:

- *Knowledge* - the capacity to understand and learn the new technologies
- *Technology* - the competence to develop new digital innovations
- *Future readiness* - the preparedness for the coming developments

This year, [two new variables](#) related to robotics were introduced in the calculation of the WDCR: “industrial robot” to measure the total number of robots in operation, and “robots in education and R&D” worldwide. The data is provided by the International Federation of Robotics.

The IMD World Competitiveness Center (WCC) is a research center at [IMD](#) in Switzerland with 30 years of research expertise in country competitiveness.

Notes to editors:

- A full breakdown of the IMD World Digital Competitiveness Center’s Ranking as well as the 63 individual country profiles are available [HERE](#)
- The IMD World Competitiveness Center ranking has been produced every year since 1989 by the IMD World Competitiveness Center and are widely acknowledged as the leading annual assessment of the competitiveness of countries.
- The IMD World Competitiveness Center’s 30th Anniversary will take place in Lausanne, Switzerland from 3-4 October 2019
- [IMD Smart Cities Ranking](#) will be released on 03 October 2019
- The IMD World Talent Ranking 2019 will be released on 18 November 2019
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