



GFCC

Global Federation of
Competitiveness Councils

Innovation Learning Labs

An Initiative of the Global Federation of
Competitiveness Councils

Goals

Foster cross-border collaboration and learning.

Develop innovative solutions to business, policy, and regulatory challenges facing countries, organizations, and corporations.

Catalyze new business and technology projects involving local and global partners.

Promote innovative solutions by systematically disseminating best practices in policy and business and publicizing ILL results.

Create and nurture a global community of innovation leaders.



Setting the Stage

Competitiveness is a direct result of innovation. Turning ideas into solutions helps spur economic activity, drive efficiency and productivity and increase overall standards of living. More valuable than any single product, process or technology—regardless of how lucrative—is the ability to consistently generate new ones through innovation.

Organizations and countries that develop strong innovation capabilities become more economically vibrant, diverse and resilient. They are akin to ecosystems, rather than single-crop farms.

Making innovation happen is no easy task, especially in emerging countries where business capabilities and infrastructures still need to be created, legal frameworks improved and business ecosystems developed. There are challenges related to the understanding of innovation processes, their changing nature, the lack of capabilities and connections, mindsets and competing strategies. The agenda is broad.

At the same time, there are several “under the radar” opportunities around the globe and cases in which technology, market, capital and business expertise are not properly connected. It is possible to unleash value creation through the connections of technology and business assets with global innovation hotspots and/or the re-design of local innovation ecosystems. The Innovation Learning Labs series will address these

two possibilities and catalyze value creation across geographies.

Innovation Learning Labs (ILLs) bring together policy makers, corporate executives, entrepreneurs, technologists, scientists and investors to benefit from their collective experiences and explore the possibilities for cross-border collaboration.

What is an Innovation Learning Lab?

ILLs are intense multi-day workshops led by the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC) with the aim of bringing together global participants that have a variety of skills and experiences to (i) exchange best practices and collectively learn about innovation strategies, policies and initiatives and (ii) create new business/technology partnerships to boost innovation capacity and value creation in their own countries, corporations and organizations.

The core topics explored in ILLs include innovation culture and mindset, fundamental research, intellectual property, technology transfer, entrepreneurship, commercialization, venturing, investment, public-private partnerships, funding, business acceleration, legal frameworks and other key areas and aspects that require action for innovation ecosystems to thrive.

The Innovation Learning Lab series will include deployments in several countries and across many regions in partnership with local GFCC members



and partners. Initially, a series of five to six Innovation Learning Labs will be held annually with each hosted in a different region of the world. Additional series will be held in the years to come, as the ILLs initiative grows and develops.

Who participates?

- Entrepreneurs
- Corporate leaders
- Researchers
- Investors
- Policy leaders
- Consultants
- Connectors

A Strong Foundation

The Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC) has a truly global network spanning five continents and more than 35 countries—both developed and developing. The GFCC also boasts memberships of top academic institutions, consulting firms and technology-driven corporations.

The GFCC team will be building off of years of experience from our members and staff in convening innovation roundtables, innovation learning labs and innovation summits in a variety of countries, including Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Germany, India,

Ireland, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, UAE, United States, United Kingdom, Uruguay and others.

The diversity of on-the-ground experiences of GFCC members in promoting and implementing transformative competitiveness policy will help create vibrant discussions for pragmatic policies that will benefit all countries, corporations and organizations taking part in ILLs. At the same time, ILLs will create business and investment opportunities across geographies.

Who Benefits from Innovation Learning Labs?

ILLs will be hosted in a variety of countries, in partnership with GFCC members—with in-depth knowledge into local and global market realities. Each edition will count with local and global participants—that is, stakeholders based in the host country (local participants) and stakeholders from other countries (global participants).

Global and local partners will benefit from actively participating in the Innovation Learning Labs series. Indeed, through the ILLs series, the GFCC will create a global community of innovation leaders—involving a variety of stakeholders present in innovation ecosystems—that acts as a powerful, cooperative source of intellectual, human and financial capital to be leveraged by countries engaged in common initiatives.

Among other things, engagement in the ILL series will allow participants to:

- have privileged access policy, business and technology leaders around the globe;
- identify under the radar opportunities;
- access market and capital across geographies;
- deploy technologies and solutions globally;
- understand of what different nations, regions and cities are doing to develop their innovation ecosystems;
- identify potential international partners for local and global ventures;
- introduce their investment portfolios and services;
- attract investment and talent.

What Does an ILL Look Like?

ILLs are interactive and PowerPoint-free workshops in which participants engage in in-depth moderated conversations about innovation ecosystems, technologies and business opportunities. ILLs feature

high-profile “kick-off discussants” and combine policy discussions with semi-structured matchmaking opportunities. All participants in the ILLs are also speakers—there is no space for passive participation.

On-site group activities are distributed over three days that combine social networking, planned one-on-one meetings, presentations and a day-long interactive session—the core part of the agenda.

The main interactive session includes different types of activities: several moments of moderated conversations, networking and presentations/pitches from promising local technology startups and research organizations, which showcase their business and capabilities.

A Global Community

An innovative online platform for knowledge sharing, connections and co-creation will be made available to all participants, from all countries and regions where the ILLs will be deployed. Through this platform, participants will constitute a single global community of innovation leaders.

About the GFCC

WHO WE ARE

The Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils is a network of leaders and organizations from around the world committed to the implementation of competitiveness strategies to drive innovation, productivity and prosperity for their nations, regions and cities.

The GFCC develops and implements ideas, concepts, initiatives and tools to understand and navigate the complex competitiveness landscape.

CONTACT

For more information, please contact Roberto Alvarez, Executive Director of the GFCC, at ralvarez@thegfcc.org or +1 (202) 969 3401.

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