

**EMBARGOED RELEASE (27 September, 2011 @ 12 noon Singapore time)**

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## **Seven Asia Pacific Economies Ranked Among Top 20 in Global Ranking of IT Competitiveness**

*EIU study finds Asia Pacific economies gaining momentum*

**SINGAPORE, 27 September 2011** — Asia Pacific economies are becoming more competitive in information technology (IT), with seven economies — Singapore, Australia, Taiwan, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and Hong Kong — making the Top 20 list of the most competitive economies in the world in IT. Malaysia and India have also made huge gains, each rising more than 10 spots, the [Business Software Alliance](#) (BSA) reported today with its publication of 2011 edition of the Economist Intelligence Unit's [IT Industry Competitiveness Index](#).

Updated for the fourth time since 2007, the *Index* benchmarks 66 economies on a series of indicators covering the critical foundation areas for IT innovation: overall business environment, IT infrastructure, human capital, research and development (R&D), legal environment, and public support for industry development.

Topping the overall rankings for 2011 are the United States, Finland, Singapore, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Seven Asia Pacific economies are now ranked in the Top 20 compared to six in the 2009 *Index*. New entrant Hong Kong improved its global ranking from twenty-first to joint nineteenth with South Korea. Other economies that have shown improvement include Singapore, which leapt from ninth to third; Taiwan from fifteenth to thirteenth; and New Zealand from nineteenth to eighteenth.

This year's *Index* finds that economies traditionally strong in IT are maintaining their positions of leadership in part because "advantage begets advantage" — they have built up solid foundations for technology innovation through years of investment, and they are continuing to reap the benefits. But the global field of competition is becoming more crowded as new challengers, especially in developing Asia, raise their game to meet the standards leaders have set. This shows that with the right investments and improvements

to regulatory settings, Asia's voice is getting louder and with continued effort in the future it will be fair to say that "investment begets advantage" as well.

"It is abundantly clear from this year's *IT Industry Competitiveness Index* that investing in the fundamentals of technology innovation will pay huge dividends over the long term," said BSA President and CEO Robert Holleyman. "It is also clear that no economy holds a monopoly in information technology. There is a proven formula for success, and everyone is free to take advantage of it. Because of that, we are moving to a world with many centers of IT power."

"Asia Pacific economies have done well with most improving their rankings, some markedly so in the case of Singapore, Malaysia and India. In particular, Asia Pacific economies dominate in the human capital category, with China, Australia, South Korea, New Zealand, Taiwan and India all in the Top 10. Asia Pacific economies also fared well in support for IT industry development, with Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong in the Top 10. Additionally, China and South Korea have announced bold initiatives around green technology and smart grids. The future for Asia Pacific is positive, and in the years ahead, policymakers in the region have an opportunity to build on existing momentum and shore up any weaknesses. We know from global experience it will be worth the effort," said Roger Somerville, Senior Director - Policy, BSA Asia-Pacific.

The biggest movers in this year's Index compared to the previous edition in 2009 include Malaysia, which vaulted 11 spots in the overall rankings because of a surge in research and development activity, and India, which leapt 10 spots on the strength of its robust research and development and dynamic human capital environment. A number of other economies — including Singapore, Mexico, Austria, Germany and Poland — posted strong overall gains this year by showing new levels of strength across the board in all IT foundation areas.

"As the global economy starts to recover, it is more important than ever for governments to take a long-term view of IT industry development," Holleyman said. "Policymakers cannot not just look at this issue on an annual basis, or they risk being left behind. They must assess the next seven to nine years, and invest accordingly, in order to make substantive gains in IT competitiveness."

The 2011 *IT Industry Competitiveness Index* is available for download on BSA's website at [www.bsa.org/globalindex](http://www.bsa.org/globalindex), along with interactive ranking tables, detailed economy summaries, industry case studies, and video interviews with IT experts.

### **About BSA**

*The Business Software Alliance ([www.bsa.org](http://www.bsa.org)) is the leading global advocate for the software industry. It is an association of nearly 100 world-class companies that invest billions of dollars annually to create software solutions that spark the economy and improve modern life. Through international government relations, intellectual property enforcement and educational activities,*

*BSA expands the horizons of the digital world and builds trust and confidence in the new technologies driving it forward.*

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