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Global Information Technology Report 2006-2007: Connecting to the Networked Economy

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Dutta, Soumitra. **The global information technology report, 2006-2007: connecting to the networked economy**. Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. 361p. Reviewed in 2007Dec CHOICE.

This World Economic Forum report by Dutta (INSEAD) and Mia (WEF) evaluates the penetration of information and communication technologies (ICT) in 122 economies across the globe. In addition to a comprehensive global ranking of network readiness (the "Networked Readiness Index," also available online and in Excel format at the *World Economic Forum* Web site <http://www.weforum.org/pdf/gitr/rankings2007.pdf>), data tables record the status of 60 indicators: the market, political, and infrastructure environments; individual, business, and government readiness; and individual, business, and government usage of networked technology. The most engaging section of the report is the analysis by industry experts in five essays on issues of networked readiness and four case studies about access to information technologies in Estonia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Japan, and China. Particularly useful were the essays detailing trends in regulatory environments; the case study in Estonia demonstrates how governmental leadership, supported by public-private partnership, created rapid advances. Data supporting the analytic essays is presented in attractive charts and graphs, and the country/economy profiles are presented in table form. This report compiles valuable data for comparing ICT competitiveness and the influence of a variety of factors in the development process. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Upper-level undergraduates and above.

-- P. Finley, *University of Nevada, Las Vegas*