



3rd OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy

October 27-30 2009, Busan, Korea
Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life



Kwang an Bridge, Busan

The 3rd World Forum on “Statistics, Knowledge and Policy” will be held in Busan, Korea on 27-30 October 2009. The Forum will attract some 1 500 high level participants with a mixture of politicians and policy makers, opinion leaders, Nobel laureates, statisticians, academics, journalists and representatives of civil society, from over 130 countries.

The 3rd Forum, organised by the OECD and the Government of Korea, builds on the outcomes of the previous World Forums (held in November 2004 and June 2007) and the “[Istanbul Declaration](#)” signed by a wide range of international, regional and national organisations. See also <http://www.measuringprogress.org>.

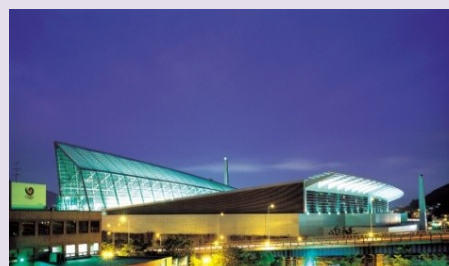
The World Forum is run as part of the [Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies](#), which is hosted by the OECD in collaboration with the European Commission, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program and United Nations’ regional commissions, regional development banks, research institutes and non-governmental organisations.

The Global Project has gathered momentum since the second World Forum in Istanbul and is advising some important initiatives carried out by other institutions. These include the “Commission on measuring economic performance and social progress” established by the French President Nicolas Sarkozy, and chaired by Joseph Stiglitz, and the World Economic Forum’s newly-established Global Council on “Benchmarking progress in societies”, which is chaired by the OECD’s Chief Statistician. A number of national initiatives have also been launched to engage whole societies in the measurement of their progress using key statistical indicators. Hundreds of initiatives are assessing the progress of local communities. Meanwhile training courses are being delivered by the Global Project’s team around the world and a variety of research projects are underway with partner organisations. Finally, regional and thematic events will be organised around the world in preparation of the Korean Forum.

At the 3rd World Forum all these initiatives will have the opportunity to share their experiences and influence policy agendas at national and global levels. The Global Project’s outputs will also be presented, including a handbook on measuring progress in practice. The second International Exhibition on Tools to Transform Statistics into Knowledge will also take place, showing the best ICT solutions for bringing data to people.

Attendance at the Forum will be by invitation only.

Visit web page: www.oecd.org/progress/Korea
For more information: Korea2009@oecd.org



BEXCO (Busan Exhibition & Convention Center)

Measuring the Progress of Societies



The [Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies](#), hosted by the OECD, aims to foster the development of sets of key economic, social and environmental indicators to provide a comprehensive picture of how the well-being of a society is evolving and seeks to encourage each society to consider in an informed way the crucial question: is life getting better?

For 60 years Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been the dominant way in which the world has measured and understood progress. This approach has failed to explain several of the factors that most impact on people's lives and has distorted policy making. Over the last decade a large amount of work has been carried out to understand and measure world's progress. The Global Project on "Measuring the Progress of Societies" seeks to become the worldwide reference point for those who wish to understand and measure the progress of their societies.

The Global Project is an international network of organisations, from all sectors of society. The main partners in the Global Project are the OECD, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF, the Inter-American Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the UN's Economic Commissions for West Asia and for Asia and the Pacific, the International Association of Auditor Generals, the European Commission and the Council of Europe. Research institutes, non-governmental organisations, and statistical offices from both developing and developed countries are also associated to the Global Project. The Project has three main goals:

- **What to Measure?** In order to measure progress we must know what it looks like and so we are encouraging debate about what progress means in different societies. The Project is developing methods and guidelines to carry out these debates effectively.
- **How to Measure Progress?** The Project is developing best practices in how to measure progress and its component parts, some of which are not yet measured well using existing statistical indicators.
- **Ensuring that those Measures are Used.** New ICT tools offer huge potential to turn information into knowledge among a much broader swathe of citizens than those who currently access such information. The Project is developing new tools for public use.

The Global Project is important to the political economy of reform. If governments are to reform, they need the support of citizens. Reliable, transparent and resonant measures of progress can assist that process. They can inform democratic debate so that citizens can better understand where reform is needed and whether those reforms are working. Current streams of work include:

- The formulation of guidelines to develop "measuring progress" initiatives and the development of associated training courses and material.
- The development of guidelines to measure specific aspects of progress not yet covered by existing international statistical standards.
- The design of ICT data visualisation tools for increasing the accessibility and attractiveness of progress indicators for a wider public.
- Working with national governments, civil society and statistical offices towards the establishment of national roundtables on progress measurement.

At the heart of the Global Project will be the development of **Wiki-Progress**, a global collaborative online platform that will serve as a hub and focal point of the many existing and nascent initiatives to measure societal progress at national and local levels.

Visit our website at www.oecd.org/progress for more information