GFCC

Global Federation of
Competitiveness Councils

Driving Regional Competitiveness to Bolster National Prosperity

Based upon the GFCC Foundational Global Competitiveness Principles

Released at the 2014 Global Innovation Summit, in Banff, AB, Canada

The Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC) is a network of leaders from competitiveness organizations around the world. The GFCC believes that acting globally is now a prerequisite to economic competitiveness nationally.

Driving Regional Competitiveness to Bolster National Prosperity

On behalf of the board of directors and members of the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC), I am pleased to present to you *A Set of Principles to Support Regional Competitiveness*.

The GFCC developed a set of foundational Global Competitiveness Principles, supported by its network of more than 30 national competitiveness organizations and deemed essential for every country. First released in 2010 and finalized in 2012, these foundational principles offer an overarching framework for national policies and programs aimed at fostering innovation, competitiveness and prosperity in the 21st century global economy. They emphasize key drivers of competitiveness such as investment in research and development, education and training for all citizens, sustainability and responsible development of natural resources, strong intellectual property rights, open trade and a stable, transparent, efficient and fair environment for business investment, formation and growth.

This year, the theme of the Global Innovation Summit and GFCC Annual Meeting is regional competitiveness—how regions can strengthen and leverage their competitive assets to spur economic growth and development.

In recognition of the economic opportunities that can be brought about by thinking, planning and acting regionally, the GFCC is releasing a *Special Edition Global Competitiveness Principles–Driving Regional Competitiveness to Bolster National Prosperity*. This Special Edition focuses the foundational principles through the lens of regional competitiveness, for example:

- Optimizing a region's education and training resources to increase its human capital and broaden access to learning;
- The importance of modern regional infrastructure for business productivity and attracting business investment;
- Connecting regional R&D assets to a region's entrepreneurs and businesses; and
- The role of regional leadership in strengthening and leveraging a region's competitive assets.

With the goals of knowledge sharing and cooperation in mind, the GFCC hopes that these principles will help bring about new policies in order to support creative economies within our world.

Charles O. Holliday, Jr.
Chairman, Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils

1.	**Strengthen Regional Competitive Assets**	Strengthening a region's human capital, research and development, financial capital, infrastructure, institutions, and intangibles creates more regional economic opportunity, and helps all businesses and workers in a region compete.
2.	**Enable Business Competition**	Robust business competition is essential for innovation, market efficiency, and fueling the economic vitality and productivity that raise standards of living and enable business to give back to the communities in which they operate.
3.	**Leverage Regional Competitive Assets**	Ecosystems and networks that knit a region's diverse competitive assets together to seize economic opportunities drive innovation, sustained economic development, and regional competitiveness. Regional leadership organizations can catalyze efforts to expand and strengthen a region's ecosystems and networks to better leverage its competitive assets.
4.	**Foster Regional Fiscal Responsibility**	Fiscal stability in a region encourages private sector investment, economic expansion, new business formation, job creation, and talent attraction and retention. Rational and transparent regulations and tax rules across a region enable market efficiency and reduce the cost of doing business. Excessive levels of government debt and deficit drag down a regional economy and crowd out economically stimulating investments.
5.	**Optimize A Region's Education and Training Resources**	Develop human capital through education and training—regardless of citizens' gender, race, religion, age, ethnicity, or economic status. Optimizing a region's education and training assets helps achieve this goal by reducing barriers to education and skill attainment, broadening access to education and training resources, and increasing options for learners.
6.	**Stimulate Regional Research and Innovation**	As the driving force of innovation, regions should nurture research and development, connect R&D to business opportunities, and encourage deployment of new technologies to stimulate productivity, foster regional prosperity, and improve regional competitiveness in global markets.
7.	**Nurture Entrepreneurship**	Supporting a region's entrepreneurs—the source of new ideas, new products and services, new companies, and new industries—is essential to regional economic vitality, and for improving productivity, competitiveness, and economic performance.
8.	**Invest in Regional Infrastructure**	Modern, well-maintained infrastructure supports economic growth, enhances a region's attractiveness for business investment and talent recruitment, makes regional commerce more efficient and businesses more productive, and raises the quality of work life.
9.	**Foster Sustainable Development**	Sustainable regional economic development can be advanced through environmental and natural resource stewardship, energy efficiency, and adoption of cost-effective sustainable building, energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing innovations.
10.	**Establish a Stable Environment and Reduce Uncertainty**	Political instability and regional unrest disrupt economic activity, deter economic development, and damage a region's competitiveness. Policy, legislative, regulatory, and financial uncertainty discourages investment, raises business risk, and dampens regional business formation and expansion needed to create jobs.

Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils

900 17th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20006
www.thegfcc.org

The Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization as recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. The GFCC's activities are funded by contributions from its member organizations.