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What Does the Future Hold for Economic Development? New Paper from IEDC Provides Insight

WASHINGTON, DC (March 21, 2014) [The International Economic Development Council](#) (IEDC), the world's largest independent non-profit membership and research organization devoted exclusively to the field of economic development is pleased to announce the release of its research report, "Looking Around the Corner: The Future of Economic Development." The report was produced under the guidance of IEDC's [Economic Development Research Partners](#) (EDRP) program that serves as a think-tank within the organization.

So much of the profession of economic development revolves around forecasting and preparedness. Economic developers consistently analyze demographic and industrial data and run complicated economic models, but these predictions can only go so far. This paper delves into the latest research and trends to provide some conjectures about how they can potentially change the economic development industry in the next ten to fifteen years.

Massive disruptions not directly linked to economic development have the potential to dramatically change the way economic development organizations (EDOs) operate and deliver services. The key influencing trends identified in the paper are:

- Demographics
- Climate Change
- Shifting Global Roles
- Technology Expansion

These trends are summarized in the first portion of the paper, and then their impacts on economic development practice are discussed in the second section. Also included in the report are recommendations for community leaders and economic development practitioners interested in addressing their communities' competitive position in the future.

The report is available via download to [members free of charge](#) and [for sale in print to non members](#) at \$25.00. Recognized media should contact Erin Way for a free copy of the Executive Summary or full report.

About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal

governments, public private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. When we succeed, our members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions. www.iedonline.org

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