



GFCC
Global Federation of
Competitiveness Councils



INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

The Power of Knowledge and Leadership

Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils and the International Economic Development Council Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Washington, DC (October 23, 2015) [Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils](#) (GFCC) and the [International Economic Development Council](#) (IEDC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at IEDC's 2015 Annual Conference October 5, 2015. The GFCC and IEDC are internationally recognized membership based organizations with the common goal to strengthen the innovation capacity of communities in the United States and beyond. The GFCC and IEDC are seeking to strengthen their alliance through this MOU.

After the signing, Roberto dos Reis Alvarez, GFCC Executive Director said, "IEDC is such a content rich organization... we are all excited at the GFCC with the opportunity to develop joint initiatives. The GFCC has members coming from 25 countries and there are many synergies in relation to the agendas that our members work – both at the national and subnational areas – and the expertise in the IEDC network. The GFCC can also serve as platform for IEDC members to expand their global connections. "

JoAnn Crary, CECD, IEDC chair and President of Saginaw Future Inc., added that, "I am proud to sign and formalize the memorandum of understanding to further our relationship. GFCC goals and principles align well with IEDC and both of our members will benefit from this relationship. "

Jeffrey Finkle, president & CEO of IEDC, added that, "GFCC and IEDC members will both benefit from this memorandum of understanding and the products it will deliver. I look forward to what the future holds and information sharing that will occur."

The MOU aims to build a collaborative partnership in four ways:

- Strengthen the capacity of our organizations for the benefit of our members;
- Contribute to the enhancement of U.S. competitiveness through the support of innovative public policy solutions;
- Promote competitiveness and economic development at the global level by identifying and promoting successful best practices;
- Foster economic resilience in communities by disseminating relevant knowledge and information.



Photo caption: Roberto Alvarez, GFCC executive director, (right) and JoAnn Crary, IEDC's Board chair, signing the MOU to promote cooperation between IEDC and GFCC.

About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,700 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.iedconline.org

About Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils

Founded in 2010 by competitiveness councils and economic development organizations from the United States, Brazil, Korea, Egypt, Russia, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia, the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC) is an ever-expanding network of organizations committed to enhancing national and global prosperity and fostering cross-national sharing of knowledge. The GFCC is headquartered in Washington, DC, USA, and has more than 30 members coming from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

GFCC members are private sector competitiveness councils and government organizations that have strong linkages with private sector and work in the promotion of competitiveness at the national and/or subnational level. As stated in the foundational GFCC Global Competitiveness Principles, "significant private sector involvement" is critical for the involvement in the GFCC.

The GFCC understands that competitiveness is a result of the interplay between cost and value structures in economies. A strong emphasis on the capacity that countries and regions should have to create value and innovate is an important component of the GFCC agenda. The GFCC is a network of doers, including organizations and leaders that are changing realities on the ground in their countries, regions, states and cities. The GFCC aims at promoting cross learning within the membership and beyond, taking advantage and leveraging the network's knowledge assets.

In addition to catalyzing the exchange of practices within its network, the GFCC has an expanding portfolio of products and initiatives. Included in that are the GFCC annual report on Best Practices in Competitiveness Strategies, the path-breaking Competitiveness Decoder™ (decoder.thegfcc.org) – a data-based tool developed to visualize key drivers of national competitiveness – and the high-profile GFCC’s Annual Meeting and Global Innovation Summit. www.thegfcc.org/

Media Enquiries

Akia Garnett, IEDC – Washington, DC (202) 545.7323 or agbrew@iedconline.org

Kathryn Tinker, GFCC – Washington, DC (202) 969.3399 or ktinker@thegfcc.org