On 21-23 June Mexico hosts the OECD Ministerial Meeting on the Digital Economy. The first ministerial of its kind on this subject (then called “electronic commerce”) was held in Canada in 1998, and the second one in Korea in 2008; hence Mexico is the third country to have this distinction and the first Latin American country to organise and lead this undertaking. As the use of information and communications technology (ICT) is favourable for productivity across a large number of strategic industries in any economy, we have chosen “Innovation, Growth and Social Prosperity” as this year’s theme, three goals that can hardly be achieved without the impetus of digital technology.
The digital economy is here, and growing every day, sometimes in surprising ways. As ministers gather for major meetings in Paris and Cancun, government leaders should be in no doubt about the key role they must play in securing the digital economy’s future as a driver of productive and inclusive progress.

Digital economy: Why a brighter future could be in our pocket

Andy Wyckoff, Director, OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

The digital economy is here, and growing every day, sometimes in surprising ways. As ministers gather for major meetings in Paris and Cancun, government leaders should be in no doubt about the key role they must play in securing the digital economy’s future as a driver of productive and inclusive progress.

Full article  http://oe.cd/1nj

Protecting digital consumers

Nathalie Homobono, Director-General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF), and Chair, OECD Committee on Consumer Policy

When the OECD adopted its first E-commerce Recommendation in 1999, online spending on so-called e-commerce was well-below 1% of total retail spending. Fifteen years later, the figures have jumped to almost 8% in the EU and more than 11% in the United States. This is no longer some future trend: e-commerce is here.

Full article  http://oe.cd/1o5

Jobs and skills in the digital economy

Vicenzo Spiezia, OECD STI Directorate

To many workers, the words “digital technologies” may evoke one simple, dismaying image: a human-like robot sitting at their desk, doing the work that they used to do! To speed up job creation in the digital economy, investment in data and digital infrastructure is essential.

Full article  http://oe.cd/1o6

From people to things: Building global connectivity

Gaël Hernandez, Verena Weber, OECD STI Directorate

The Internet has already connected more than three billion users across the globe and about 14 billion devices. Connectivity will be fundamental in the era of the Internet of Things.

Full article  http://oe.cd/1o7

Openness and digital innovation

Now more than ever, the digital economy is the economy. Digital technologies, or Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), are boosting trade, innovation, entrepreneurship, and with them growth and social wellbeing. Those benefits depend on openness.

Full article  http://oe.cd/1o8

Bridging policy silos to boost trust online

Three out of four people access the Internet everyday across the OECD. But one-third of those daily users don’t yet buy online. Why not? Trust is one reason, and it is putting the vitality of the digital economy at stake.

Full article  http://oe.cd/1o9

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www.OECD-iLibrary.org
See also www.oecd.org/internet
Canada
Building the innovation mindset
Navdeep Singh Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development
Innovation is daring to do things smarter, faster and better to improve our everyday lives. I believe innovation needs to be one of Canada’s defining values.

Mexico
Digital Mexico
Alejandra Lagunes, Chief of the National Digital Strategy, Office of the Presidency
In 2013 we reformed the Federal Law of Telecommunications, a reform which recognises access to Internet as a fundamental human right and as the tool that represents the backbone for the digital economy.

France
Forging a digital society
Axelle Lemaire, Secretary of State for the Digital Economy
Digital innovation is an opportunity—for governments, for business, for the public, and for the way in which they relate to each other.

United Kingdom
Towards a digital strategy
Baroness Neville-Rolfe DBE CMG
Given the pace of change, soon it may no longer make sense to speak about the “digital” economy, as it will simply be part of the “everyday” economy. The UK Government will shortly be publishing a Digital Strategy.

Egypt
A gateway for our sustainable development plan
Yasser ElKady, Minister of Communications and Information Technology
Egypt’s digital technology sector has promising prospects: it is the second fastest growing economic sector in the country and has the potential to lead the development and growth process on all fronts.

Robots versus workers?
Anna Byhovskaya, Policy Advisor, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)
A clash between robots and workers is unlikely. Rather, disruptive technology can make workers more efficient without replacing them, and raise profits, while maintaining or increasing a company’s workforce.

Ensuring a secure Internet of Things
Leonard Cali, Senior Vice President, Global Public Policy, AT&T
The Internet of Things presents vast opportunities for governments and businesses to improve efficiencies, serve their customers or constituents better, and enter new markets or provide new services. As IoT develops, it is essential that security-by-design be a core feature of the connected device ecosystem.

Promoting innovation, protecting privacy
Marc Rotenberg, President and Executive Director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, Washington DC
Few issues are of greater concern to Internet users today than privacy protection. Everyone wants the benefits of Internet access, but few want to sacrifice their privacy or face the risk of cyber theft as a consequence.

Open season
Geoff Huston, Chief Scientist, APNIC
Behind a dazzling veneer of high technology, the Internet is still just another form of the public communications space. Its openness might not be as positive as it first seems.

The ups and downs of information jobs
Publishing, telecommunications, the audiovisual industry and broadcasting taken together are an important source of value-added growth in OECD countries despite accounting for less than 4% of total OECD employment.

Employment growth in information industries
Annual change in % and in thousands of persons, 1999-2013

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933272849

For more information, including ministerial and official statements, visit the Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting website at www.oecd.org/cancun2016

http://oe.cd/1oa
http://oe.cd/1od
http://oe.cd/1of
http://oe.cd/1oe
http://oe.cd/1og
For an optimistic revolution
Alexander Stubb, Minister of Finance, Finland
The world has seen more than one industrial revolution and another one is already upon us. We should face it as optimists.

Full article: http://oe.cd/1nY

The digital disruption of productivity
Diane Coyle, Professor of Economics, University of Manchester and Fellow, Office for National Statistics
The UK’s tallest mountain is Ben Nevis in Scotland. Recently, it became one metre taller, standing now at 1,345m rather than 1,344m above sea level. Of course, the mountain did not actually grow.

Full article: http://oe.cd/1nl

In with the in-crowd
Anindya Ghose, NEC Faculty Fellow, NYU Stern School of Business
Over the last few years there has been increased interest among start-ups in using Internet-based platforms to crowdsource a wide variety of resources, including funding, labour, design and ideas. Does this approach work?

Full article: http://oe.cd/1nk

Code is the poetry of a better world
Linda Liukas, Author, Computer Programmer
Code is the next universal language. In the 1970s punk rock drove a whole generation. In the 1980s it was probably money. For my generation, the interface to our imagination and to our world is software.

Full article: http://oe.cd/1nm

A mystery in the machine
Pedro Domingos, Professor in Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Washington
Algorithms lie at the heart of machine learning, which, in turn lies at the heart of much of modern life—from online shopping to intelligence gathering. But most of us know little about these powerful tools and how they work. Is this wise?

Full article: http://oe.cd/1nn

Digital transformation in Chile: A roadmap to strengthen its governance
Barbara Ubaldi, Senior Project Manager, and Rodrigo Mejía Ricart, Junior Policy Analyst, OECD Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development
The digital revolution has drastically changed societies. People work and relate on the move.

Full article: http://oe.cd/1nl

Maximising the benefits of the Internet economy
Daniel Sepulveda, US Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State
The open Internet combined with today’s emerging technologies has launched the information revolution and is powering the global digital economy. Everyone has a stake in that development.

Full article: http://oe.cd/1nK

Digital innovation: What does it really mean?
Paul Chaffey, State Secretary in the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation
Some weeks ago the last video rental store in Oslo closed down. In 1990 there were 3,500 such stores in Norway. Today there are only a few left. How could that happen?

Full article: http://oe.cd/1nM

OECD Business brief: Jobs in the digital era work differently
Jacques van den Broek, CEO Randstad Holding NV
“We are the children of a technological age. We have found streamlined ways of doing much of our routine work: Printing is no longer the only way of reproducing books. Reading them, however, has not changed.” Lawrence Clark Powell

Full article: http://oe.cd/1nn

OECD Business brief: The ascendancy of digital trade: A new world order?
Jacques Bughin, Director, McKinsey Global Institute
An estimated 211 terabits of data, which is the equivalent of 8,500 entire Wikipedias, flow across borders every second. Some 50 million small companies are now on Facebook alone, double the number in 2013.

Full article: http://oe.cd/1no

Data-driven innovation
Data-Driven Innovation explores the potential uses for and issues of this era of “big data”, providing a resource from which to see the big picture, with the promises and risks for well-being and productivity.

Full article: http://oe.cd/1np

Philanthropy, digital payments and financial inclusion
Emile Romon, OECD Global Network of Foundations Working for Development (netFWD) and Sabrina Sidhu, Better Than Cash Alliance
Access to financing can contribute to inclusive social and economic development. How might digital transactions help? Here’s how.

Full article: http://oe.cd/147

Why technology matters for advancing women’s financial inclusion
Beth Porter and Nancy Widjaja, UNCDF, and Keiko Nowacka, the OECD Development Centre
Women are consumers, business owners, farmers, employees and entrepreneurs. They are dependent on market systems and need access to finance to manage their livelihoods.

Full article: http://oe.cd/1nr

Tackling dementia with big data
Dementia is an umbrella term coined to embrace all the chronic brain disorders.

Full article: http://oe.cd/1q

E-government generation
Are digital tools simplifying our interactions with public authorities?

Full article: http://oe.cd/1B

Multimedia

OECD Forum 2016: From a pre-digital to a digital economy
http://bit.ly/234QtHg

OECD Forum 2016: Health and productivity in the digital economy

Digitisation is shaping the future of work
http://bit.ly/1WVHFQI

www.oecdobserver.org/digitaleconomy2016