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# Internet and Mobile Technologies for Development: Game-changing Opportunities for Latin America

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# **Internet and Mobile Technologies for Development: Game-changing Opportunities for Latin America**

## **Panel Proposal**

### **Topic:**

Recent surveys show that Latin America is home to approximately 10% of the world population and possesses nearly 10% of its wealth. This data alone should be enough to justify the importance of this region. However, nearly 50% of the inhabitants of Latin America live in dire poverty, without access to clean water, adequate housing and education. In other words, they are unable to satisfy their basic human needs and, worse still, they don't even have the opportunity and freedom to make choices in their own lives. On the other hand, the rules of competition of the digital economy are largely based on knowledge, digital connectivity, and ubiquitous capabilities. Businesses in developed countries find opportunities based on their ability to use the Internet and mobile technologies to reach customers and to achieve transactional efficiency. However, there is an increasing body of evidence that shows that such an understanding of development is too simplistic and does not take into account the specificity of local geographies, cultures and social structures.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this panel is to exchange view-points and build a common understanding of game-changing opportunities for using the Internet and mobile technologies in Latin America, according to a post-developmental paradigm, in order to help building an actual Latin American body of knowledge related to the use of these technologies for sustainable development in this region.

### **Panelists:**

All panelists have published vastly in journals and conferences, and they have been involved in various professional organizations in numerous ways. These brief bios focus on their research interests.

### **Facilitators:**

Dr. Luiz Antonio Joia, Fundação Getulio Vargas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His research interests include: strategic use of IT, e-Business & e-Government, educational technology (e-Learning), evaluation of public policy on usage of educational technology, evaluation and management of intellectual capital and knowledge in public and private organizations, IT and Development, and managerial paradoxes. He is the head of the *e:lab* - Research Program in e-Government and e-Business within the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration (EBAPE).

Dr. Guillermo Rodríguez Abitia, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Mexico City, Mexico. His interests are in business intelligence, IT and strategy, cross-cultural issues of IT, IT in small and medium enterprises, and IT in developing economies, as well as other areas. He serves as the Director for Research, Development and Innovation at the General Direction of Academic Computing Services (DGSCA).

#### Invited panelists:

Dr. Khaled Al-Share, Emporia State University, Emporia, IL, USA. Department of Accounting and Information Systems. His research interests include management information systems, systems development, end-user computing, cross-cultural studies in IS, distance education, and data envelopment analysis (DEA).

Dr. Scott McCoy, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, USA. His research interests include: cross-cultural issues in IS, human-computer interaction, and telecommunications policy. He is an operations and IT associate professor at the Mason School of Business.

Dr. Aurora Sánchez, Universidad Católica del Norte, Antofagasta, Chile. Her research interest include strategic information systems and small and medium enterprises. She is an associate professor and director of the Center for Research in Enterprise Technology Management (CIGTE).

Dr. Martin Santana, Universidad ESAN, Lima, Peru. His research interests include digital businesses, enterprise systems, and knowledge management. He is a main professor of operations and IT.

Dr. Ignacio Ania, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Mexico City, Mexico . He is the General Director for Academic Computer Services at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He has a long experience in the software industry. His research interests include the improvement of organizational performance and competitiveness through IT.

Dr. Martha García-Murillo, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, USA. Her research interests include institutional and information economics and information economics, the impact of regulation of business behavior and factors that affect infrastructure deployment. She is an associate professor and the director of the Master's program in Telecommunications and Network Management.

#### **Panel Format**

The first part of the session will be a general 15-minute introduction, given by one of the facilitators. This introduction will provide general information about the Latin American region, including economic indicators, quality of life, digital access, Internet penetration, competitiveness and IT use, education, and other relevant issues. Afterwards, each of the panelists will be asked to provide a general view of the topic, lasting 5 minutes each. The last part of the panel will consist of 6 specific questions listed below, followed by questions from the audience. Each question will be allotted a maximum of 5 minutes. A 5-minute summary will be done by the moderators to wrap the session up.

#### Panel Discussion Questions:

1. Are Internet and mobile technologies actual tools for development?
2. How replicable is competitiveness based in digital interconnectivity across international borders?

3. What are the challenges and opportunities for developing economies to capitalize benefits from mobile and Internet technologies?
4. Is Latin America different in this regard to other developing regions?
5. What would be the main strategies to make Internet and mobile technologies game-changing instruments for Latin America development?
6. Provide some final thoughts