



# Cominnowealth

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## Welcome

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This is the first newsletter of Commonwealth Innovation Hub. The Hub has been established to tap and unleash the innovation potential of the Commonwealth. The first volume has three thrilling short stories and an exciting announcement. The first story is about the development of Commonwealth Innovation Index – an index that will help benchmark Commonwealth countries and generate healthy competition amongst them to be more innovative. The second story tells the tale of an emerging partnership between the Commonwealth Secretariat and Global Innovation Fund. The two organizations have joined hands to establish a Fund to provide financing for incubating and accelerating impact-oriented ideas and innovations. The third story is of Rwanda as an innovative country engaged in a number of cutting-edge technology initiatives. Rwanda, for example, has become the first country in the world in adopting performance-based regulations of drones in its national airspace. The last section contains an announcement of the Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation Awards. These awards will be launched at CHOGM in April 2018. I hope you will keep on reading this newsletter with interest and also contribute stories to it. I look forward to receiving your feedback. Get in touch by writing to: [innovation@commonwealth.int](mailto:innovation@commonwealth.int)

# Commonwealth innovation index

The Commonwealth will be developing an innovation index, to provide a tool that allows member states, organizations and citizens to benchmark themselves against countries of the Commonwealth.

The United Nations World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) publishes an annual Global Innovation Index (GII), designed to capture the richness of innovation in society, and recognize that innovation includes social, business, and technological innovations.

The latest version (2017) of GI measures innovation across 127 countries representing 92.5% of the world's population and 97.6% of the world's GDP. It measures innovation based upon innovation inputs: how institutions, human capital, infrastructure, and market and business environments foster innovation; and innovation outputs, covering knowledge and technology outputs, and creative outputs. The following tables depict commonwealth countries ranking in GI.

Member States	Ranking	
	Global	Commonwealth
United kingdom	5	1
Singapore	7	2
Canada	18	3
New Zealand	21	4
Australia	23	5
Malta	26	6
Cyprus	30	7
Malaysia	37	8
South Africa	57	9
India	60	10
Mauritius	64	11
Brunel Darussalam	71	12
Kenya	80	13
Jamaica	84	14

Member States	Ranking	
	Global	Commonwealth
Botswana	89	15
Sri Lanka	90	16
Trinidad and Tobago	91	17
United Republic of Tanzania	95	18
Namibia	97	19
Rwanda	99	20
Uganda	102	21
Mozambique	107	22
Pakistan	113	23
Bangladesh	114	24
Malawi	115	25
Cameroon	117	26
Nigeria	119	27
Zambia	124	28

# Commonwealth innovation fund

The Commonwealth Secretariat and the Global Innovation Fund (GIF) have agreed to promote innovation that can accelerate inclusive and equitable socio-economic development across the Commonwealth. An understanding has been signed between the two organizations to collaborate and mobilize resources to this end.



GIF and Commonwealth Secretariat will work together to establish the Commonwealth Innovation Fund (CIF). It will use the GIF's existing due diligence processes for sourcing, evaluating, and investing to generate a high-quality portfolio of enterprises that are aligned with the Commonwealth Secretariat's priorities. GIF will also manage the Fund and its investments. The Commonwealth Secretariat and CIF donors will play an active part in the governance of this Fund.

The CIF will deploy grant, equity, and debt investments to support innovators across the Commonwealth to accelerate the development, testing, and scaling-up of evidence-based and market-tested innovations. The Commonwealth Secretariat and GIF will jointly pursue funding commitments from Commonwealth countries with the ability and willingness to fund this new initiative. The target size will be UK£ 25 million of initial commitments to pilot and prove this new model.

The Commonwealth Secretariat and the GIF will remain committed to transparency and accountability in governing and managing this Fund. The donors will receive regular progress reports and thorough analysis of the potential for impact for all investments. GIF and Commonwealth Secretariat will also collaborate to exchange knowledge, information, ideas and experience in areas of common interest such as innovation, entrepreneurship, and impact assessment.



# Rwanda at the Cutting Edge of Innovation

Rwanda has prioritized technology as a means to achieve economic transformation. Rwanda launched a joint project with the Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which was opened by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in March 2017. The partnership between the WEF and Rwanda focused around co-designing a policy framework for the safe use of drones. In January 2018, Rwanda became the first country in the world to adopt performance-based regulations for drones.

These pioneering regulations could pave the way for the safe introduction of drones worldwide. Regulators will be able to stipulate safety standards for drones, but will also take their missions and operations into account. This could allow for more operators whose objectives are related to global health, international development and humanitarian response. It could be useful for other countries to use Rwanda as a model to help craft their own frameworks relating to the governance of emerging technologies.

The first implementation of drone delivery in Rwanda occurred in 2016, when drones were used to deliver supplies, including blood and vaccines, to rural hospitals. Over three thousand deliveries have been made since then. As outlined in its "Vision 2020", Rwanda will continue to focus on science and technology, including ICT, noting that these are cross-cutting areas through which the aspirations of the Vision 2020 can be realized. Rwanda also hosts the Smart Africa Secretariat in Kigali.

# Secretary-General's

## INNOVATION AWARDS



The Commonwealth Innovation Awards will be launched by the Secretary-General at London CHOGM. These awards will recognise and celebrate ideas and innovations that have significant potential for impact to deliver Sustainable Development Goals.

The innovation awards will be given in four categories – Youth-led, women-led, social and business innovation. There will be three awards in each category. Winners will receive Secretary-General's medal (Gold, Silver and Bronze) as well as a cash prize and certificate.

The winners will be invited to receive their awards and speak about their work at a Commonwealth Innovation Conference to be organised by the Secretariat and its partners. The award - winners will also be provided with other support such as mentoring by Commonwealth partners such as the Global Innovation Fund. Further details will be available at [www.cominnowealth.org](http://www.cominnowealth.org) in late April.