

SYNOPSIS – UNIVERSITY LECTURE - DARRELL WEST OF THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION'S MOBILE ECONOMY PROJECT

As emerging economies around the world look for ways to facilitate economic growth and economic inclusion, it is important to consider the transformative power of mobile technology. The increasing accessibility, capability and affordability of smartphones and other mobile devices, is enabling countries to attain increasing levels of connectivity and enhance socio-economic development.

Darrell West, Vice President & Director of Governance Studies at The Brookings Institution and founding director of the Center for Technology Innovation, has published “The State of the Mobile Economy¹, which describes the impact that the mobile economy has had on new industries as well as how it revolutionized both business practices and public and societal improvements worldwide.

The rapid global expansion of mobile technology and pro-innovation policies is transforming economic opportunity for millions. As connectivity and mobile services spread, access to critical government services, business resources, educational materials and health care services is greatly improved.

Following on Darrell West’s presentation as part of MASTEL’s Indonesia Innovation Summit on April 28th, he would be honored to speak to students regarding the current and potential impact of the mobile economy to the benefit of social and economic development including:

- Examples of successful models for innovation;
- The significant differences across nations in how much they invest in innovation and create new ideas;
- Enabling the involvement of the global mobile eco-system
- And the importance of research and development, intellectual property and infrastructure;

Mobile technology is narrowing the gap between developed and emerging economies and reducing rural and urban socio-economic disparity within individual nations. In fact, studies show that mobile technology adds as much as 0.2 percent annually to GDP in high-income nations and 0.11 percent in low-income nations².

Accessibility, capability and affordability of mobile devices is growing yet there remains significant room for further advancement. In order to realize the full benefit of wireless connectivity, government, industry and other stakeholders combined play an important roles in enabling a knowledge-based economy.

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http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2014/09/10%20state%20of%20mobile%20economy%20west/state%20of%20mobile%20economy_v13.pdf

² The Brookings Institution, “The State of the Mobile Economy, 2014: Its Impact and Future”, Darrell West. Source cited from Harald Gruber, and Pantelis Koutroumpis. “Mobile telecommunications and the impact on economic development,” *Economic Policy* Volume 67, July 2011, pp. 387-426. <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2014/09/10-state-mobile-economy-2014-west>