



# The New Information Economy: Internet & Mobility

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## The New Information Economy: Internet & Mobility

- The World is Flat: Without Borders
- Will Puerto Rico jump forward or fall behind?
- Example:
  - Broadband & Tele Conference



# The New Information Economy Characteristics

- Global
- Increased Productivity
  - (GDP/total number of hours worked in the economy)
- Innovation
  - use of IT to increase productivity
- Customer Centric
- Information as an economic resource and a product exchanged in markets
- Market deregulation



# The New Information Economy

- The world is flat: Without Borders
- Puerto Rico is not an IT island; it is part of the flat world
- Friedman, Thomas L.. The World Is Flat 3.0: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century. Picador; Trade Paperback Edition edition (July 24, 2007)
- Friedman, Thomas L. and Mandlbaum, Michael. That Used to Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World It Invented and How We Can Come Back. Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Sep 5, 2011)



# The New Information Economy

- Broadband links will be needed just as the telephone is used today.
- The transformation requires public policy changes in order to prevent “broadband divide”.



# The New Information Economy

- Will Puerto Rico jump forward or fall behind?
- The safe bet (pessimistic view) would be a 60% probability that Puerto Rico will fall behind
  - Due to regulation, bureaucracy and knee-jerk reaction for the government to do it rather than let the private market players develop the opportunity



# Will Puerto Rico jump forward or fall behind?

- Contrary to popular belief, there is a better than 60% probability that we will jump forward
  - Driven by economic crisis fueled innovation
- The decisions made during the next 12 to 24 months will set the stage

- Broadband & HD Tele Conference
  - Healthcare
  - Education
  - Business Conferences
- Mobility and SD (or low def) streaming video
  - USTREAM, Qik
  - New smart phones, tablets





## Example: Broadband & HD Tele Conference

- Optivon Hosted HD video conference service
- Videoconferencing 'robots' being developed by Bell Labs researchers include a low-cost camera and screen that swivels on a set of robotic shoulders, and sits at a meeting table just as another attendee.

# Example



**iBASTA YA!**  
P U E R T O R I C O

# How can we fail?

- We had planned to conduct a live high definition video conference during this presentation
- But.... There is a lack of broadband infrastructure
  - Hilton charged \$3,500 for a 3 Mbps connection
  - Even if we brought the connection they still charged too much.

# How we can fail?

- Government regulation
- Lack of support for innovation
- Disregard of global market forces

# Conclusion

- Puerto Rico must get ready to play in the new information economy....
- that is global in nature, and
- that is based on the best possible broadband infrastructure at reasonable costs, and
- that rewards innovation.



We can't fall off the World

