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New Broadband Internet Ecosystem Comparison Index Identifies Current Net Vitality Leaders

The United States and the United Kingdom retain their top-tier status from 2015; China, Germany and Canada replace South Korea, Japan, and France as leading broadband Internet ecosystem countries.

Washington, D.C., March 7, 2018 —The Telecommunications Research and Policy Institute today released at the National Press Club an updated analysis by Stuart N. Brotman, Howard Distinguished Endowed Professor of Media Management and Law, and Beaman Professor of Communication, at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Brotman's study, *Net Vitality 2.0: Identifying the Top-Tier Global Broadband Internet Ecosystem Leaders*, revisits the pioneering research approach first developed in 2010, which highlights countries that are leading on a global basis in their deployment and use of broadband applications and content; devices; and networks. In 2018, these top-tier countries are China, the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Canada (listed by population size). It is available at <http://www.trpiresearch.org>.

Based on indices developed by the United Nations, the World Economic Forum, and respected quantitative research organizations around the world, this study presents a unique Net Vitality Index as a composite metric for evaluation. The Index takes into account 38 factors, developed independently, to evaluate countries on an apples-to-apples basis, including a number of measures related to innovation that are critical to broadband Internet ecosystem development.

Professor Brotman indicates that the top-tier broadband Internet ecosystem leaders all recognize that government has a critical role to play in shaping Net Vitality. "These five countries have taken a variety of regulatory approaches," he notes, "but all share one commonality: they have benefitted the most when government challenges companies to raise their aspirations, increase the pace of innovation, and expand the scale of investments."

"The Open Internet remains a worthwhile policy goal," said Brotman, "but also too narrow a foundation for Net Vitality. Rather, the Wide Open Internet is what the United States and other countries around the world should be trying to achieve. The Wide Open Internet encompasses the broader goal of an efficient ubiquitous broadband Internet ecosystem with virtually unlimited applications and content available on multiple devices. Users should be

able to use the Internet at home, at work and on the run through a range of devices that access affordable high-speed fixed and mobile networks. This is what Net Vitality is all about.”

About the Author: *Stuart N. Brotman has extensive experience as a university educator, government policymaker, global non-profit executive, management consultant, and international communications and media lawyer. He has served in four Presidential administrations on a bipartisan basis, including as chief of staff at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and as a member of the U.S. Department of State Advisory Committee on International Communications and Information Policy. He is the author of the leading treatise on telecommunications and electronic mass media regulation, **Communications Law and Practice**, now in its 43rd edition.*

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