



Expanding ICT SMEs and ecosystem collaboration for digital competitiveness and economic inclusion

TOPIC:

**BUILDING PROGRAMS FOSTERING
OPEN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM**

WSIS Forum 2017

Friday 16th June (11h00-12h45, ITU Varembe Room G1)





OUTLINE

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2. Brief on GIFEC
3. Background to Open Innovation (OI)
4. Open and Closed Innovation Process
5. Critical Success factors of Open Innovations
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8. ICT and Open Innovation
9. Role of GIFEC
10. Significant Achievements
11. Benefits of OI to Ghana
12. Challenges





PRESENTER'S BRIEF DETAILS

ABRAHAM KOFI ASANTE

- Ag. Chief Executive of GIFEC
- Former Head of Graduate School, Ghana Technology University College
- Former Member of Parliament, Ghana (1996 - 2003) and ECOWAS Parliament (2000 - 2004)
- Project Management Specialist with over three decades of experience in Telecommunications, Energy, Technology and Mining Industries in both Public and Private Sectors in Ghana.





BRIEF ON GIFEC

- **Fund** was established in 2004
- **Vision-** Bridge the Digital Divide in Ghana
- **Mission-** Provide financial resources for the establishment of universal service and access for unserved and underserved communities.
- **Governance Structure:** Representatives of Government, Parliament, Regulator, Industry Forum as members of Board of Trustees





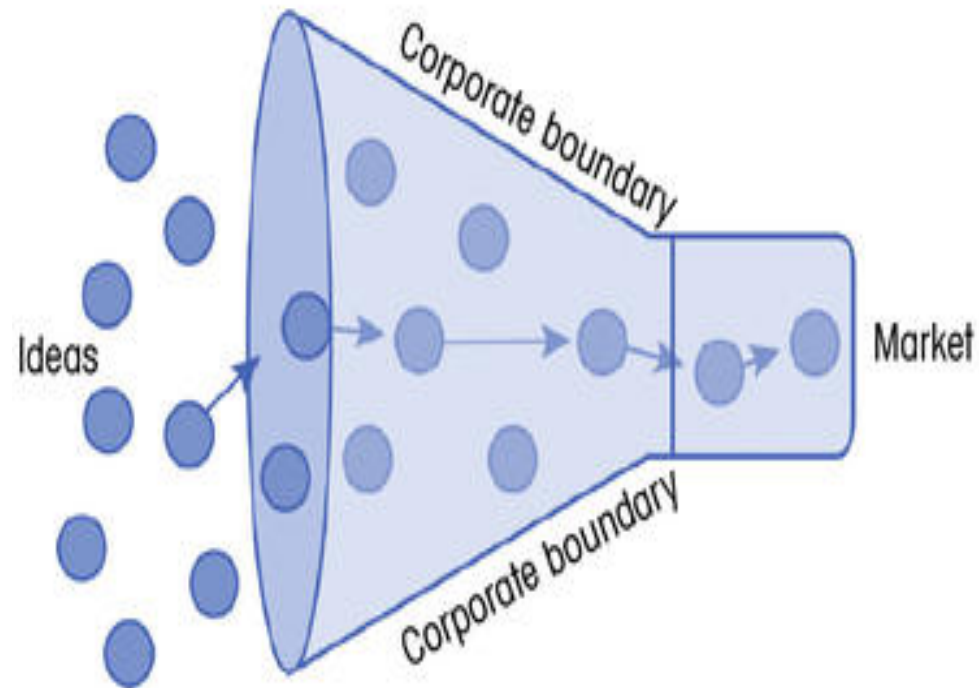
BACKGROUND TO OPEN INNOVATION (OI)

- **Genesis-** Concept popularized in 2003 by Professor Henry Chesborough, University of Berkeley
- **Open Innovation** is a paradigm that assumes that firms can and should use external ideas as well as internal ideas, and internal and external paths to market, as the firms look to advance their technology.
- **Closed innovations:** The process when new ideas, concepts and innovations are generated in house usually by a firm's internal Research and Development with little or no external knowledge.

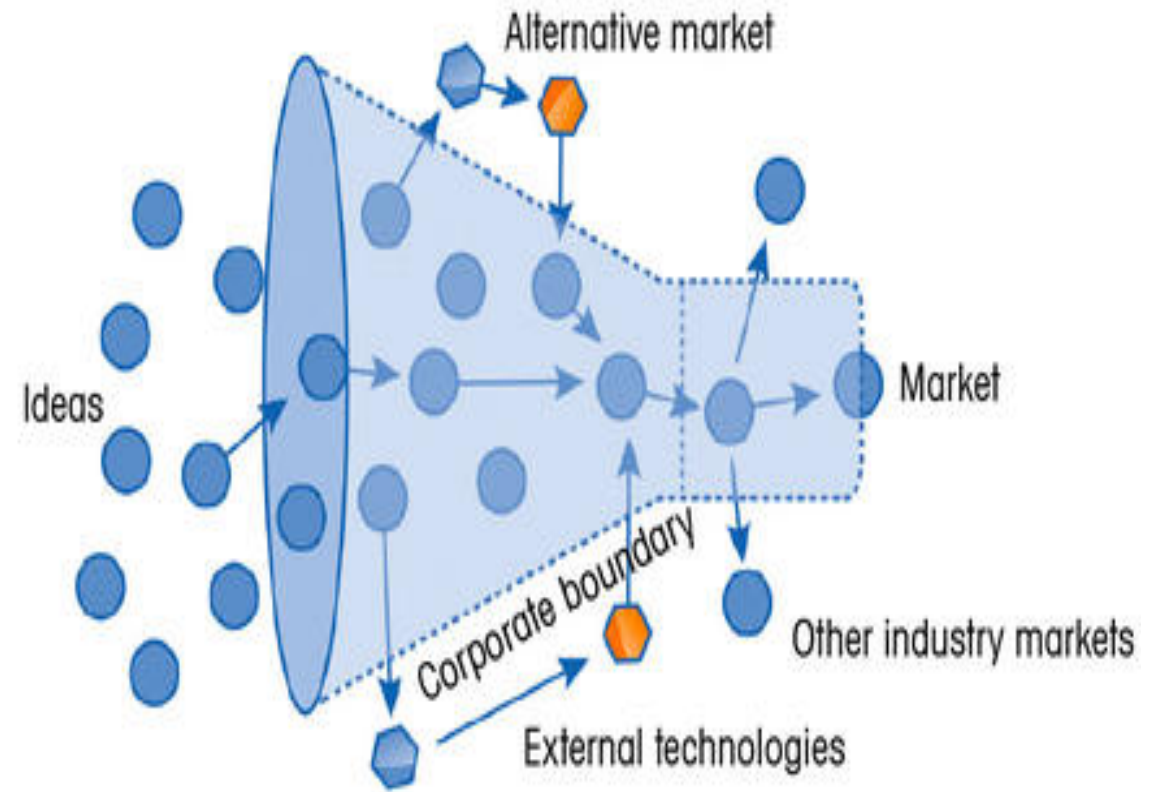


OPEN AND CLOSED INNOVATION PROCESS

Closed Innovation model



Open Innovation model





CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS OF OPEN INNOVATION

- ICT-Access to Internet
- Policies and regulatory framework
- Skills
- Entrepreneurship





GAPS IN GHANA'S OPEN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

- Policy weakness
- Inadequate funding: (Gross Expenditure on Research and Development as a percentage of GDP is 0.38% has stagnated from 2010 till 2015.)
- Inadequate Infrastructure
- Commercialization of local innovations
- Limited expertise (Technical, Policy, Academia)





GHANA'S DRIVE TOWARDS OPEN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

- Policy re-alignment, Regulatory framework to make innovations available to SMEs
- Technology parks, Innovation hubs, etc
- National Research and Innovation Funds
- Stimulate demand for Open innovations e.g Planting for foods and Jobs, Inner City and Zongos development, One District, one factory policy, One Village, one dam etc.





ICT AND OPEN INNOVATION

- Opportunities for firms particularly SMEs to leverage on existing external innovations
- Ability of firms to innovate faster
- Fostering networking and collaboration resulting in formal and informal learning opportunities



GIFEC'S ROLE

- Provide ICT infrastructure e.g Wifi, Telephony, Computers etc to SMEs
- Support to Innovation Hubs e.g Accra Digital Centre, Kofi Annan Training Centre
- Capacity Building (Coding skills)
- Facilitate commercialization of Start-ups e.g Digital for Inclusion (D4I)



Ghana Code Day: Developing Coding skills of children



SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Procurement of Satellite Hub for the provision of Broadband Services
- Infrastructure sharing for players in ICT sector
- Extending ICT support to Research Institutes, Universities, Science Resource centres etc.





BENEFITS OF OI TO GHANA

- Economic development- Job creations, income, productivity
- Technology and knowledge/Skills transfer
- Accelerate development in Science, Technology and Innovation
- Competitive business advantages to SMEs
- Low CAPEX for SMEs.





CHALLENGES

- Patency, Intellectual property and Legal issues
- Institutional leadership
- Assets Protection





Recognition of our efforts



I thank you for your attention, Merci

