



LETTER FROM HERNANDO DE SOTO

In 2007, the Property Rights Alliance (PRA) established the Hernando de Soto fellowship as a means of producing the International Property Rights Index (IPRI). Now in its fifth edition, the IPRI remains the most comprehensive international measurement of property rights around the world. The first edition compared the efforts of physical and intellectual property rights protection in 70 countries. The 2011 Index has grown to examine 129 countries.

With each new year, the link between economic prosperity and property rights protection becomes increasingly clearer. The 2011 IPRI once again emphasizes the evident connection between countries with the greatest economic strength and countries with the strongest protections of property rights. Looking at the trends found in the past four editions of the IPRI, the latest Index continues to show advancements in property rights protection around the world, while drawing attention to the improvements that must be made, especially the extension of more universal property rights.

Now that the correlation between economic well-being and property rights has been established, it is imperative to continue improving property rights on a global level. Weak property rights are most commonly seen in the developing world. As the citizens of these countries are in the greatest need of economic growth, it is crucial that their physical and intellectual property be granted protection. This Index, and similar efforts, seek to educate politicians, economists, academics, and entrepreneurs about the necessity to protect property rights around the world.

Due the vast quantities of data necessary to compile the IPRI, the task of doing so is far from easy. I congratulate Kyle Jackson, for his efforts in developing, researching, and producing the 2011 edition of the *International Property Rights Index*.

Warmest regards,

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