

# THE INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE OF COMMERCE

### WHY ENGLISH MATTERS

English is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world today. Over 1.12 billion people speak English, yet only around a quarter of those are native speakers.<sup>1</sup> English-language proficiency is helping different countries, communities and cultures around the world communicate effectively using a common language.

English is widely perceived as the language of opportunity and plays a key role in supporting global economic development. Improving the English-language proficiency of a nation's individual citizens can help that country raise educational standards and support better economic performance,<sup>2</sup> while enabling meaningful participation in international diplomatic and cultural events.

Investing in English-language education enables governments and their citizens to take advantage of the public and private sector opportunities that exist in today's global economy.

## **Global Leadership**

More than 600 government organizations from 25 different countries trust the *TOEIC*<sup>®</sup> program to assess everyday and workplace English-language proficiency.



# Worldwide Usage

Government entities across five continents use the *TOEIC*<sup>®</sup> assessments to support their English language learning goals, including within healthcare, travel and hospitality, food services, and the police and military.



## **Guiding Top Economies**

The *TOEIC*<sup>®</sup> program is used by organizations in 9 out of 10 of the world's largest economies.<sup>3</sup>







### GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS' USE OF THE *TOEIC®* PROGRAM

Government entities around the world, including the Seoul Metropolitan Government, the Indonesian Ministry of National Education and the U.S. Embassy in Brazil, already benefit from using TOEIC test scores to support their programs to improve English-language proficiency.

The TOEIC program is helping to improve the English-language proficiency of citizens worldwide in a variety of ways. It supports educational reform by determining how to improve proficiency among targeted stakeholders' groups. Additionally, it's being used to enhance various enrichment programs, while some countries include it in their public school national assessment programs.

## IMPROVING ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY WITH THE *TOEIC®* PROGRAM

The TOEIC program is the global leader in English-language assessment for the workplace and everyday life, measuring all four communication skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Effective communication in English is essential in many different areas of life – from raising educational standards and cultivating global talent with an international mindset, to hosting high profile events with worldwide significance and a universal audience.

An English-proficient community is one that can help develop a country's economy by doing business overseas effectively, negotiate with foreign parties to attract investment or export goods and services, and engage positively with tourists and visitors. The TOEIC program sets the global standard for English-language assessment, providing reputable data and English-language standards that enable informed and unbiased decisions, while also supporting continued development to improve proficiency levels.

<sup>1</sup> https://www.babbel.com/en/magazine/the-10-most-spoken-languages-in-the-world <sup>2</sup> https://hbr.org/2013/11/countries-with-better-english-have-better-economies <sup>3</sup> Based on data from International Monetary Fund. 2018.

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<sup>4</sup> https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/03/the-link-between-english-and-economics

"The Seoul Metropolitan Government makes every effort to cultivate global talent with an international mindset to become one of the global top 5 cities in the future. In an effort to achieve this goal, language training programs for its employees have been introduced and improved. Along with this, TOEIC programs have been taken throughout the year to measure achievement and improve English. As encouragement, special incentives are granted to those with superior TOEIC results."

 Kim Gyeong Hee, Human Resources Development Division, Seoul Metropolitan Government, South Korea

## RAISING EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

Improving English proficiency has been shown to correlate with increased economic performance and higher living standards,<sup>4</sup> promoting governments to identify ways to build English communication skills, whether through teacher enhancement initiatives or by providing wider access to basic English-language skills. The TOEIC program supports both of these goals by providing accurate evaluations of communication strengths and weaknesses to create individual development plans that boost skills appropriately – for teacher and student.

### SUPPORTING A GLOBAL MINDSET

Communicating in English is essential in many situations, including when hosting high profile international events, where English is often the common language used. Event organizers need staff with the appropriate level of English-language proficiency to welcome international visitors, assist key participants, and help ensure that the event runs smoothly. TOEIC test scores provide accurate, objective evaluations of English-language proficiency across a range of skill levels. Easy to compare, the scores help you screen and select candidates and volunteers with the required skills.



To learn more about the *TOEIC*® program visit **TOEICglobal.com** or contact your local ETS Preferred Network office.



For 40 years as an industry leader, the *TOEIC*<sup>®</sup> program has set the global standard for assessing English-language communication skills needed in the workplace. The TOEIC assessments are the most widely used worldwide with 14,000+ organizations across more than 160 countries trusting TOEIC scores to inform the decisions that matter.

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