# Education and Knowledge: The New Commodities and Main Drivers

Manuel Figueroa, Ph.D. President, VERNET, Inc.



## Our world today

We are at a turning point in Technology and the History of the World

Competition is changing internationally

**Education Drives Productivity and Innovation** 

Workplace, jobs and skill demands are changing

A world where value creation will be fast, fluid and increasingly disruptive

Only the connected will survive



## **Digital Natives**

Today's students – Digital Natives - think and process information fundamentally different from their predecessors.





### **Digital Natives**

Digital Immigrant Instructors (pre-digital age) are struggling

Digital Natives parallel process and multi-task

They prefer graphics to text

Prefer Random Access (Hypertext)

They function best when networked

Prefer Games to "serious" work



### Opportunity

WWW: Whatever, Whenever, Wherever

Large digital native population in Latin America

Substantial Technology Infrastructure Development in the Caribbean

US-Standards based curriculum development

Large higher-education footprint in the Caribbean

Opportunity for Export

