

Iain M M Gillespie



Iain Gillespie is Head of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Science and Technology Policy Division. The Division works with the 30 OECD member countries as well as some 70 non-members to develop international consensus on a wide range of scientific and technological policy issues including, governance of international cooperation on science, technology and innovation to meet global challenges, social innovation, new forms of innovation and the wide range of other OECD work on innovation policy. The Division also works on research infrastructure and funding and human resources for science and technology, and incorporates OECD's programme on biotechnology policy as well as work on other emerging and converging technologies such as synthetic biology and nanotechnology. Iain was previously Head of the OECD's Biotechnology Division, from its creation in 2005 to the formation of the current Science and Technology Policy Division in early 2009.

Iain worked in academia (UK and Middle East) and in the biotechnology industry (Agricultural Genetics Co Ltd, Cambridge) before joining government service in 1991. He held policy posts in the UK Departments of the Environment, of Health and of Trade and Industry as well as in the Cabinet Office where he ran a small policy unit in support of the UK's Chief Scientific Advisor (the now Lord May) developing advice on issues as diverse as climate change, human cloning, the use of scientific advice in policy making and risk. Just before joining OECD, Iain ran the highly successful Pharmaceutical Industry Competitiveness Task Force (PICTF), reporting to the UK Prime Minister. Iain is a scientist by training with a PhD in Microbiology. He also holds an MA in International Relations and European Politics and an MBA with specialisms in knowledge management and innovation. He was educated at the Universities of Edinburgh, London and Kent at Canterbury, as well as the Open University in the UK, and prior to that at George Heriot's School in Edinburgh. Iain is a member of the GlobalScot network. He is married with a son.