



Who we are



ITEMS INTERNATIONAL
Strategic Consulting in a Digital World

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About the Global Forum / Shaping the Future

The “Global Forum / Shaping the Future” www.items-int.com is an annual, independent, international and invitation-only event dedicated to business and policy issues that affect the successful evolution of the Information Society. It is a not-for-profit initiative of Items International and the Sophia Antipolis Foundation.

Since its inception in 1992, the Global Forum brings together international key actors and experts from advanced economies - the USA, Canada, Western Europe and Asia - and increasingly from developing countries, including countries of the Mediterranean fringe of Europe, countries upgrading their telecommunications infrastructure, such as Russia and the Central and Eastern European countries, and Mexico in the sphere of NAFTA.

The “Global Forum / Shaping the Future” provides a neutral platform for the identification of representative trends, the discussion of latest developments in the ICT sector and divergent points of views. The expertise of its speakers selected from the ICT industry, regulators and implementing agencies illustrates the complexity of the ICT landscape and contributes to a solid contemporary knowledge base.

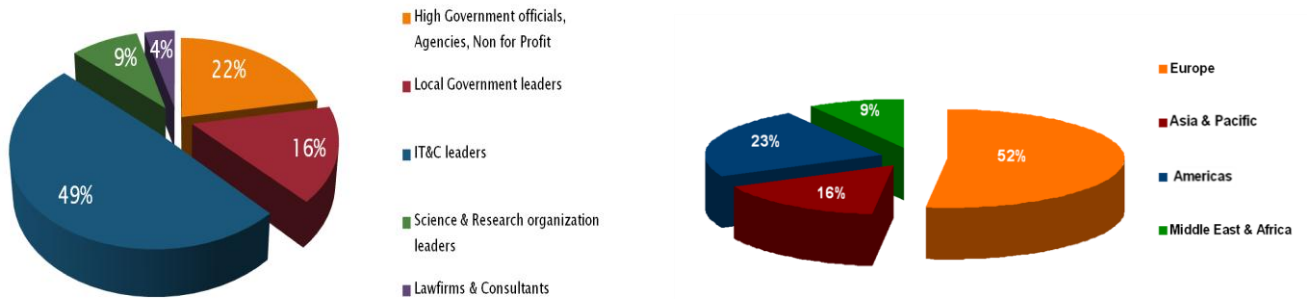
As a high profile and international think tank bringing together government, business and civil society, the Global Forum acts as a catalyst for a wide range of communications applications. It supports the creation of synergies between suppliers and users of communications applications and assists in connecting practical applications and innovative ideas. The Global Forum provides the ideal opportunity for its participants to jointly develop imaginative solutions in partnership during formal and informal face-to-face discussions during the days of the event and afterwards by electronic networking.

The “Global Forum / Shaping the Future” is sponsored by organisations around the world, interested in sharing and influencing global IT agendas, and enabling business and government leaders from all sectors of the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) communities to meet and work with suppliers and service providers.

Each year, the “Global Forum / Shaping the Future” succeeds in bringing together the diverse expertise of more than 300 high-profile delegates, including both industrial leaders and senior policy makers, from more than 40 countries. After 16 years of networking, the Global Forum is today much more than just another ICT-conference, but a real networking event connecting practical applications and innovative ideas – and first and foremost people. The warm and creative atmosphere of the Forum provides best conditions for people to get and to work together and to establish new partnerships, collaborations and other valuable contacts. The fact that many leaders stay beyond their speaking slots, listen intently to others speakers, and participate actively in hallway conversations provides evidence that this concept is successful.

Global Forum – Profiles of Attendees

Each year, the Global Forum / Shaping the Future is attended by more than 300 high-level participants coming from more than 40 countries from all continents. Over the years 60 countries have been represented at the Global Forum.



Our highly valued speakers and audience come from the following sectors:

- Senior Officials from the European Commission, EU-25, Europe, United States, South America, Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Africa other Governments, including Competition Entities and top Regulators
- Regional / National / Local Authorities
- Representatives from International Organizations, including ENISA, ETSI, ICANN, ICC, INTUG, ITU, WTO, WSIS...
- Fixed & Mobile Providers and Media Companies (Telecom, Satellite, Broadband, Internet, Wireless, MVNOs ...)
- Equipment and Software Providers
- Content and Information Providers
- Computing Companies
- Application Editors (e-Business, e-Content, e-Government, e-Health, e-Learning,...)
- Utilities
- Business Users: SME's, MNCs; Banking, Insurance & Finance Analysts
- Smartcard Manufacturers
- R&D Centers and Clusters
- Defence Experts
- Lawyers
- Regulators
- Standards Organizations
- Non-profit Associations
- User Groups and Consumer Advocates
- Think Tank Representatives & other Opinion Leaders

The Global Forum / Shaping the Future attracts sponsorship from both private and public sector organisations interested in sharing and influencing global IT agendas.

Global Forum / Shaping the Future The Organisers



ITEMS INTERNATIONAL
(www.items-int.com)

Items International is an international consulting firm based in Paris, dedicated to Information & Communication Technologies strategies. ITEMS International is specialized in digital technologies and services: broadband, Internet, broadcast and software. The company's activities cover:

- Strategic consultancy on telecommunications, market segmentation, support to the development of European businesses in the US, Japan and other countries, as well as of foreign businesses in Europe.
- Research and development in areas such as regulatory policy and economic aspects, interconnection issues, Information & Communication Technology (ICT) market research and international comparative analyses, strategic development for industrialists, operators and local/ regional/ national authorities.
- Items annually organizes the “Global Forum/Shaping the Future” think tank in association with the Sophia-Antipolis Foundation, the European Commission and a number of international sponsors and experts.
-

Dr. Sylviane Toporkoff, Founder Partner of Items International, President Global Forum, created and launched the “Global Forum/Shaping the Future” initiative in 1992 and has run the event for over a decade now all over the world. Her academic research and numerous contributions to private and public sector projects all over the world, including the European Union, has enabled her to build a unique and high-quality network of relationships among those who shape the future of our society, throughout Europe, the United States, Japan, South East Asia, Latin America and elsewhere.



FOUNDATION SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS

The French Sophia Antipolis Foundation was created in 1984 by Senator Pierre Laffitte, and received state-approval for playing a fundamental role in the development of scientific and cultural activities.

The purpose of the Foundation is to encourage the exchange of ideas and cooperation in scientific, industrial and cultural matters at a national, European and international level, in order to create a new entrepreneurial culture, thereby turning Sophia Antipolis into an experimental laboratory for the future.

Sophia Antipolis is a Science Park taking pride in being internationally recognized as one of the most dynamic and fastest growing technological and scientific hubs in Europe and a “best practice” site for innovation.

Global Forum/Shaping the Future Sponsors Over the Years



access2democracy, ActiveMedia, Afiliass GLOBAL REGISTRY SERVICES, Alcatel-Lucent, AMERICA Online, afnic, ANUIT, American Chamber of Commerce in Romania, ASTRA, Audi, AVAYA, at&t, Best of MEDIA GROUP, BOEING, BT, CANAL+, CASSIDIAN CYBERSECURITY, COPENHAGEN CAPACITY, Capgemini CONSULTING, TECHNOLOGY, OUTSOURCING, cnes, CONFINDUSTRIA SERVIZI INNOVATIVI E TECNOLOGICI, EUROPEAN COMMISSION, CommTime Cast, COMVERSE Network Systems, consip, COSMOS BUSINESS SYSTEMS A&E, TURN Key SOLUTIONS COMPANY, COSMOTÉ, CriticalPath, ΔAEM CITY OF ATHENS - IT COMPANY, Deloitte, DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAYCARY, D Soft, DPI DIGITAL POLICY INSTITUTE, EADS, eBay The World's Online Marketplace®, eGOVERNMENT, ENGINEERING INGEGNERIA INFORMATICA, EurActiv PolITech, ERICSSON TAKING YOU FORWARD, etra European Telecommunications Resilience & Recovery Association, etno, ETSI World Class Standards, EUROMÉDITERRANÉE, european privacy association, European-American Business Council, EVERSHEDS, FASTWEB, Finmatica, flexite.BPMS BUSINESS PROCESS MANAGEMENT SUITE, FNTM, FORUM P.A., france telecom, GDF SUEZ BY PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE, GINI, GLOBAL TRUST CENTER Enabling trust in the digital world, global cities dialogue, GE, GUERRATO S.p.A., GOV2U, Health Robotics, hp, HUAWEI, HUGHES NETWORK SYSTEMS - EUROPE, IBM, InfoCert, innovation AMERICA, intel, ICL a Fujitsu company, iDOON CipherMe, e-Ja CipherMe, ISTAR, Itima Informatica Technologie Management, IN TOUCH, INTRACOM TELECOM, IS-practice Program Management in Information Society, Aico Patronato del Presidente della Repubblica Italiana, KIPLING, Kodak, Lambda, Net, LA POSTE, LDCOM NETWORKS, LATHAM & WATKINS LLP, Leighton Innovation as standard, City of Malmö, MEDEF, Microsoft, ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΜΕΤΑΦΟΡΩΝ & ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΩΝ Δικτυώνουμε το Μέλλον, MOTOROLA, MPA MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION For Global Audiences, National Association of BROADCASTERS, nestor, netsize Mobile Business & Entertainment



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OMNILOGIC

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The Development Agency for the North East of England



Serving the Public Interest



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SES GLOBAL SIEMENS



COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF STOCKHOLM



STEPTOE & JOHNSON ATTORNEYS AT LAW

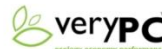


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THALES



UNISYS



Virginia BUSINESS WITHOUT BORDERS



Wethington International LLC



WHITE & CASE



XEROX GLOBAL SERVICES



The Global Forums – 20 Years of Networking

Since 1992, eleven interactive events were held in the USA, Japan and Europe, with the support of the European Commission, and also of prominent hosts and sponsors.

The Global Forum investigated “The Merits and Drawbacks of Cooperation and Competition in Telecommunications” in Washington and New York in 1992. It subsequently extended the dialogue to Europe in Rome in 1993 and Paris in 1994 where Japan joined in.

A “Forum on Communications” took place in Kyoto in 1995, followed by a road show with demonstrations on “Cities and Local Development in the Information Age” in New York, Washington, San Francisco and the Silicon Valley.

Together with the Sophia Antipolis Foundation and Professor Sergio Antocicco of the University of Rome, ITEMS International organised the first “World Forum on Smart Communities: Shaping the Future” in Sophia Antipolis, France and Rome, Italy in September 1997.

In 1998, ITEMS International curated a Global Forum on “Shaping the Future” in Paris, together with the Foundation Euromed Com, headed by Pierre Laffitte, the French Senator for Alpes Maritimes.

In 1999 and for the Millennium, the Global Forum took place in the science park of Sophia Antipolis, in France, under the aegis of ITEMS International and the Foundation Sophia-Antipolis. They focused respectively on “New satellite and terrestrial applications” and “The future of a global e-society”.

In 2001, the Global Forum took place in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, United Kingdom. It was hosted by the city administration which provided access to hands-on demonstrations of its many ICTs applications. Newcastle City Council chose the Global Forum as the occasion to sign a memorandum of cooperation on ICT for civil society between several cities from the North East of England and Scotland.

In 2002, the Global Forum moved to Washington DC in the USA. It examined the promise of broadband services towards the multimedia and knowledge society.

In 2003, the Global Forum took place in the historical Palazzo Taverna, situated in the heart of Rome, Italy. The main topic of discussion was on how “Connecting Communities & Businesses in a knowledge based economy”.

In 2004, the Global Forum on Shaping the Future moved on to Malmö, Sweden. The topic under discussion was how to promote as well as how to deal with the challenges of ‘The Broad Convergence’.

In 2005, the Global Forum took place under the topic “The Broad convergence – Act II” in the historic Palais d’Egmont in Brussels - a site where history has been written and a centre of European diplomacy. In the tradition of the past think tanks, the Global Forum 2005 provided a platform for governmental representatives, the private sector, the users, and the academia to meet and discuss the various challenges of the evolution of the Information Society today and in the future.

In 2006, the Global Forum took place in the wonderful City Hall of Paris under the topic “Digital Convergence: Ways towards a more competitive, mobile and inclusive knowledge-based society”.

In 2007, the Global Forum moved to the historical and magic City of Venice. The topic under discussion was “Global Convergence 2.0- Integration & Innovation”

In 2008, the Global Forum took place in Athens, Greece; the theme was COLLABORATIVE CONVERGENCE, Users Empowerment in the Global Digital Economy.

In 2009, the Global Forum has been organized in an historical place of the city of Bucharest: The Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest, Romania. The main theme was: ICT & The Future of Internet, Opportunities for Stimulating & Reshaping the Economy.

In 2010, for its return in Washington DC, the Global Forum 2010 took place in the Marvin Center, George Washington University. The main topic discussed was: ICT For an Empowered Society, A Smart and Innovative World.

In 2011, for its 20th edition, the Global Forum 2011 took place in the Palais d'Egmont, Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on November 7th & 8th. The main focus of this edition was Vision For the Digital Future, *Mobilizing Organizations and People for Sustainable Growth*.

In 2012, the 21st edition of the Global Forum/Shaping the Future took place in the Grand Hotel in Stockholm, Sweden on November 12th & 13th. The Global Forum 2012 focus was SHAPING A CONNECTED DIGITAL FUTURE, *Visions, Challenges, Opportunities for Organizations and People in a Smart World*.

1992-2012 GLOBAL FORUM / SHAPING THE FUTURE

November 2012	Stockholm, Sweden	Shaping a Connected Digital Future Visions, Challenges, Opportunities for Organizations and People in a Smart World
November 2011	Brussels, Belgium	Vision For The Digital Future Mobilizing Organizations and People for Sustainable Growth
November 2010	Washington DC, USA	ICT For an Empowered Society A Smart and Innovative World
October 2009	Bucharest, Romania	ICT & The Future of Internet Opportunities for Stimulating & Reshaping the Economy
October 2008	Athens, Greece	Collaborative Convergence Users Empowerment in the Global Digital Economy
November 2007	Venice, Italy	Global Convergence 2.0 – Integration & Innovation Building the Collaborative Knowledge Society
November 2006	Paris, France	Digital Convergence: Ways towards a more competitive, mobile and inclusive knowledge-based society The Broad Convergence Act II: Promoting Services for Businesses & Communities in a Global Knowledge Based Economy
November 2005	Brussels, Belgium	The Broad Convergence: Promoting Services & Applications for Businesses & Communities in a Knowledge Based Economy
November 2004	Malmö, Sweden	Connecting Businesses & Communities: ICT strategies in an Emerging Knowledge Based Economy & Society
November 2003	Rome, Italy	The Promise of Broadband Services
October 2002	Washington DC, USA	Expanding the Global e-Society
October 2001	Newcastle, United Kingdom	Towards a Global e-Society
October 2000	Sophia-Antipolis, France	New Satellite and Terrestrial Applications
November 1999	French Senate, Paris, France	Networked Communities
November 1998	Sophia-Antipolis, France	Smart Communities Forum: Economic Development in a Global Information Society
September 1997	& Rome, Italy New York / Washington /	
June 1996	San Francisco / Silicon Valley, USA	Smart Communities Forum: US Tour of Cities and Regions
September 1995	Kyoto, Japan	The Second Europe / Japan Forum on Communications
June 1994	Paris, France	Europe / Japan Forum on Cooperation and Competition in Communications
June 1993	Rome, Italy	Europe / United States Meetings on Cooperation and

January -February 1992 Washington / New York, USA Competition in the Field of Com. Europe / United States Meetings on Cooperation and Competition in Telecommunications

What Participants Say over the years...

Global Forum 2012

I hope that you have had some time to rest after the fabulous Global Forum 2012.

It was indeed a first-class event filled with interesting presentations & discussions as well as impressive cultural & social arrangements. You both did a fantastic job in preparing this and keeping it all up to the Grande Finale. Bravissimo!

I am sending you my warmest and sunniest regards from the Sultanate of Oman and looking forward to seeing you soon again!

Ingrid Andersson, Senior Advisor Patient Certificate Scheme, Sweden

I really wanted to thank you for those 3 days full of beautiful encounters and inspiration.

The organisation was perfect and left all the space for conviviality and exchanges.

Thank you again & thank!

Stéphanie Bacquere, Founder nod-A, France

Thank you. it was such an interesting experience. Our seminar was a success.

Paolo Barichello, Chief Information Officer, Azienda U.L.S.S. n. 8 di Asolo, Italy

Thanks. It was a pleasure to have participated in such a well-organized and interesting event.

Michael Bartholomew, President & Board Member Center for Social Responsibility in the Digital Age; Belgium

Thank you again for this invitation and for the quality of the presentations which I attended.

The participants with whom I discussed confirmed me their interest for Global Forum, at the same time as place of networking and as source of professional information.

Jean-Marc Benammar, Chairman Grand Large Export, France

Thank you for inviting me. I truly appreciated the meeting. I am more than happy to attend and present at next years' conference.

Cecilia Bergh CEO Mando AB, Sweden

It was for me a great pleasure to participate in this important conference and to get acquainted;

Ahmed Bounfour, Professor University Paris-Sud; General Rapporteur, ISD research programme, CIGREF Foundation, France

Thank you very much for involving me in this great event. GF2012 was very interesting and I liked very much to be there as a presenter.

Matteo Cavallini, Head of Security, Consip S.p.A Italian Public Procurement Agency, Italy

I also greatly appreciated the think-tank, the presentations and the networking. I am proud of Pascal who brought a touch of exotism with his topic.

I appreciated to also reconnect with member of the European Commission

Mariane Cimino, International Relationship ITG, France

On behalf of Gemalto I would like to congratulate you on this very good Global forum and the excellent level of speakers. It has been a very busy session, but fruitful with many contacts. There are so much to do in that ICT area... let's shape the future...

Brigitte d'Heygere, Seniro Vice-President Strategic Business Plans Security BU, Gemalto, France

Congratulations on another successful forum.

Amadou Daffe, CEO and Co-Founder Coders4Africa, USA

All our congratulations to you & your partners for this Global Forum which was a beautiful success!

The venues were magnificent, as well the City hall, the National Museum that the sessions rooms of the Grand Hôtel, the reception and the meals of excellent quality, as for the speakers and the contents of the sessions, the wide participation and the already available feedbacks are a beautiful illustration!

We have all been pleased to participate in this grand Forum in Stockholm and we are proud to have attracted a so many audience in the most beautiful of the rooms, the choice of the Mirrors room was perfect!

Isabelle de Mèredieu, General Manager WIL-European Network for Women in Leadership, France

I thank you for your welcome in Global Forum. In what concerns us, this event took place in ideal conditions with a perfect organization.

Congratulations to you and to your team!

Florence Nnanga-Dupre, Technical Legal Expert & Business Advisor, CASSIDIAN Cybersecurity- an EADS Company

Just a short note to say I very much enjoyed the conference, and hope to participate again in such an event in the future.

James M Fraser, Principal & Vice-Chancellor University of the Highlands and Islands, UK

Thank very much. It was an interesting meeting.

Francisco García Morán, Director General DG INFORMATICS, European Commission

Thank you again for the invitation. The Global Forum is always a very pleasant moment allowing to meet an interesting community in a beautiful frame!

Congratulations because all this likes a lot you

Marie-Françoise Guyonnaud, Director, FONDATERRA, European Foundation for Sustainable Territories, France

It was also a good event with Global Forum this week in Stockholm. The part that I attended gave a lot of food for thought (and the dinner in the evening was also very nice, both food and company).

Magnus Härviden, Research and Space Counsellor, Swedish Permanent Representation to the European Union

It was my first participation at the Global Forum and it was a experience very enriching, be it the presentations of very good level or the networking opportunities. I really wanted to thank you warmly for this fascinating and perfectly organized moment.

Sébastien Heon, Director - Political Affairs, CASSIDIAN Cyber Security, France

Thank you so much for the great experience! I'm looking forward to join the Global Forum 2013.

Bruno Iafelice, Executive Director, Italian Institute for Technology Entrepreneurship, Italy

It was once more great to be part of the Global Family, enjoyed Stockholm very much!

Hugo Kerschot, Founder Is-Practice, Belgium

It was as usual, fascinating and rich, and I am always very glad to see again all those who, during these last years, helped me to progress.

Éric Legale, General Manager Issy Media, City of Issy-les-Moulineaux, France

Many thanks. An excellent conference, as always.

Andrew Lipman, Partner Bingham McCutchen, USA

Thank you for an excellent event and extremely professional preparations and performance. It was a great pleasure working with you and talk to you, particularly during the dinner.

Göran Marklund, Deputy Director General VINNOVA – Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems, Sweden

I much enjoyed the forum, and look forward to seeing you next year.

Toru Nakaya, Director-General, Institute for Information and Communications Policy, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Japan

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to participate in the Global Forum. I would like to express my gratitude to you for this opportunity.

Hamlet Navasardyan, Head of Armenian Branch Office of ISTC, ABO ISTC, Armenia

It was a pleasure to participate and to contribute to the Global Forum conference.

Alexander Nilsson, Senior Programme Manager, VINNOVA-Swedish Governmental Agency For Innovation Systems, Sweden

It was a wonderful conference and I was very surprised at being able to see the hall for Nobel Prize Reception!!

I think this time Global Forum was one of special one. How wonderful if I could attend second day and dinner!!

Thank you and see you next year!

Eikazu Niwano, Producer Research and Development Planning Department, NTT Corporation, Japan

I really wanted to thank you warmly and tell you how much I enjoyed this edition of the Global Forum. It has been the source of many very interesting exchanges, encounters with people of great qualities and all in a very pleasant climate. Thank you also for your invitations in the evening. Dinner with the Governor of Stockholm was exceptional, both ceremonial and very simple relations at the same time. The ending event evening with your friend Helena was very nice and showed great quality and strength of your friendship... Encore a big thank you and congratulations,

Pascal Poitevin, Head of Department, Secretary Committee Strategy of Information Systems, Institut de l'Elevage, France

Thank you for the invitation. It was very interesting.

Congratulations for the success.

Luis Rodriguez-Rosello, Head of Unit "Network Technologies", DG CONNECT, European Commission

We had a particularly wonderful time at this year's Global Forum, Sylviane. For one thing, the presentations were excellent. For another thing, the setting was spectacular. We so enjoyed Stockholm. For a third thing, the hospitality was outstanding from beginning to end.

All the best,

Thomas J. Rosch, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission, USA

It was my pleasure to attend and participate. I really enjoyed it.

Claudia Selli, E.U. Affairs Director, AT&T, Belgium

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity...

Again - thank you for the opportunity and I am looking forward to seeing you again at the next event

Dan Shoemaker, Director and Senior Research Scientist International Cyber Security Education Coalition (ICSEC) for U.S. DOD, Department of Defense, USA

We also truly enjoyed the event.

David Soldani, Vice-President Huawei European Research Centre HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES, Germany

First of all, congratulations for this new edition of the Global Forum, beautifully organized and very interesting especially with the various aspects of cloud computing which has been the focus of many presentations. The venues where the Global Forum held its various gala dinner could be the subject of a high-level artistic publication (City Hall of Paris, Luxembourg Palace, La Fenice in Venice, the Egmont Palace and Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels, the National Museum of Stockholm which contains tables that are worth including some Delacroix and Watteau. Thanks and congratulations

Jean-François Soupizet, Principal Advisor, Close-the-Gap, Belgium

I wanted to thank you on behalf of Qualcomm and Isabella for the organization of the GF 2012, which was a great success. Equally impressive the gala dinner and the event with Madame Governor.

Alin Stanescu, Government Affairs, Qualcomm Europe, Belgium

On behalf of the Verizon team able to join for the Global Forum in Stockholm, thank you for all of your efforts to put together an excellent event in great venues, good networking and excellent sessions.

Theresa Swinehart, Executive Director Global Internet Policy, Verizon Communications, USA

Thanks for your hospitality and well preparation. I really enjoyed the conference and your hospitality.

Yoshio Tanaka, Professor Tokyo University of Sciences; Emeritus Councilor National Institute of Advances Industrial Science and Technology – AIST, Japan

I look back at a successful and enjoyable ICT Global Forum 2012 - thank you!

Wout van Wijk, EU Public Affairs Manager, Huawei Technologies, Belgium

I just wanted to thank you very much for inviting me to speak at the Global Forum 2012 and to tell you how much I enjoyed the whole forum. You do a wonderful job of organizing this event, and I can see your experienced and capable hand in everything about the event. It was stimulating and intellectually exciting topics and material, and clearly the participants you have engaged reflect the high level of expertise and intellectual ability that you have strived to maintain, a major feat for any conference.

Paul Wormeli, Executive Director Emeritus, IJIS Institute, USA

Thank you for a great conference!

Pēteris Zilgalvis, Head of Unit, Health and Well Being, DG CONNECT, European Commission

Global Forum/Shaping the Future

Thank you again for hosting another excellent Global Forum. Judging from the calibre of participation this was the best Global Forum ever and I think you deserve tremendous credit for pulling together so many diverse and talented individuals from across political, business, and academic institutions. There were many excellent intellectual presentations. You have a special audience and a special gift for bringing people together.

There is no substitute for physical meetings

Anyway, I hope you can tell that I am a big fan of the Global Forum and will be delighted to participate and support you in the future. Thanks so much for including me again this year. C'est fantastique!

Steven Adler, Program Director, IBM Data Governance Solutions, IBM Corp., USA

Hello and thanks for a wonderful event.

Pras Anand, Journalist/EU Correspondant, Social Computer Mag, UK

Congratulations on a very successful Global Forum. I was very impressed with the high level and the diversity of the discussions as well as I was fascinated by exceptional quality of your organization.

Raphael Attias, Director Innovation & Development, ORT France, France

Thanks for providing the opportunity. I was impressed by the activity and venue.

Pieter Ballon, Research Leader, IBBT-iLab.o & IBBT-SMIT, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Thank you for a memorable event!

Robert Bell, Executive Director, Intelligent Community Forum (ICF), USA

"Just want to send you a short message to congratulate you on a well organized Global Forum this year (as last year). Thank you very much for inviting me. I met several people with common interests, and I am already discussing further collaboration with some of them."

Lasse Berntzen, Associate Professor Estfold University College, Norway

Again congrats for a great event. Overall, as always a great network of people and minds.

Elena Bonfiglioli, Senior Director Health, Public Sector, Microsoft EMEA

Thanks you once again for a very stimulating conference.

Peter F Brown, Chair, CEN eGovernment Focus Group Austrian Federal Chancellery, ICT-Strategy Unit, Austria

Thank you Sebastien & Sylviane.
it was my pleasure to participate - Organization of the event was really great and I've enjoyed it.

Isabella Chiodi, Vice President, IBM EU Unit, Office of the Chairman EMEA, IBM

It was a delight to work with you all at the Global Forum. Thank you, -- I thought the attendance at this Global Forum was unparalleled- very knowledgeable crowd and genteel too!

Patricia Cooper, Chief, Regional & Bilateral Affairs, FCC International Bureau, USA

Thanks for all, the opportunity to explain my point of view and to appreciate the other ones and also for the gentleness!

Fiorello Cortiana, Senator, Italy

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate to those two captivating days. I was very impressed with the high level and the diversity of the discussions as well as I was fascinated by exceptional quality of your organization. Besides the important actuality of the subject, this forum allowed me to get a lot of contacts which will be fruitful for my Ministry in a long term.

Sophie Coutor, Civil Administrator ; Chargée de Mission, Ministère de l'intérieur, France

Congratulations for this fantastic Global Forum.

Edith Cresson, Former French Prime Minister- Presidente Fondation Ecole de la Deuxième Chance

On behalf the whole Coders4Africa management team and members I would like to send a THANK YOU and tell you how much Ali & I enjoyed the Global Forum. The committee did a great job in putting it all together and we especially enjoyed the networking and the museum tour. It was a very productive and thoughtful function for us. We were able to acquire solid contacts with different organizations and corporations. The cocktail meeting you invited us after the conference was very nice of you. It allowed us to get to know you at a very personal level. Please let us know if you need anything from us. As promise, we will make sure that for the next forum we bring on board high profile ICT representatives from Africa.

Again, a GREAT job done by the Global Forum committee and now we are looking forward to the Stockholm Forum in 2012.

Amadou Daffe, CEO and Co-Founder Coders4Africa, USA

I found the program of great interest and appreciate your efforts to put the program together.

Robert Deller, President Markess international, USA

All my congratulations for a very successful think tank. Allow me also to express all my admiration for the work that you achieved.

Myriam De Greef, Owner & Director, 27plus, Belgium

Just a small word of sincere thanks for the invitation in Global Forum.

I appreciated the opportunity to moderate the session on the new gTLDs. The choice of panelists was excellent and their presentations gave a clear panorama of the diverse types of applications whom we can anticipate as well as main stakes.

The Forum was also, an excellent opportunity to make new meetings.

Bertrand de la Chapelle, Member of the Board, ICANN

Thank you for this successful think tank and your warm welcome

Alain Ducass, Consortium Representant, PEPPOL Pan-European Public Procurement Online, France

Congratulation for your very nice and fruitful symposium

"A wonderful pleasure to join you and participate in this excellent event. I appreciate the opportunity and I look very forward to continued communications together and participation in the future.

Would like to refer back to a few that I thought added great value and generation of ideas for innovation and growth in collaboration."

Michael Dziekan, Director of Research & Solutions Strategy, Cognos an IBM Company, USA

I wanted to thank you for everything you did and for your organization efforts before and during the Global Forum

Nehal F. El Naggari, Ministry of State for Administrative Development, Egypt

Thank you again for having me speak at the Global Forum. The conference was a huge success and you did a fantastic job....as usual. You had a great selection of top-notch people attending and it was great meeting a lot of them.

Robert Flaim, Supervisory Special Agent, US Department of Justice – FBI, USA

It was our first time at the Event and a pleasure. I would also like to thank everyone for their support to make it a success.

Bosco Eduardo Fernandes, Head of Corporate Research, Huawei European Research Centre, Germany

I want to express you all my warm congratulations for the event and to repeat my thanks for the invitation. With the hope to be able to be one of you in Sweden!

Jean-Christophe Finidori, President FUSART & Consultant Independant Expert de l'Internet, Belgium

Thank you, It has been a really interesting experience, I learned a lot.

Thank you again and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Cristina Flesia, Professor, Department of Physics, University of Ferrara, Italy

Warm thanks. It was really, a great experience.

Piero Formica, Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Jonkoping University, Sweden

Thank you once again for this excellent conference and the splendid framework as well as for your positive feedback on the presentations of the European Commission. I am sure that the conference has contributed to creating or strengthening networks of contacts.

Peter Friess, Project officer, Directorate D: Network and Communication Technologies, European Commission

It was a pleasure to be there..as always !

Gabrielle Gauthey, Executive Vice President, Global Government & Public Affairs, Alcatel-Lucent, France

I wanted to thank you so very much again for inviting me to participate in the Global Forum.

This year's Global Forum was an incredibly impressive event – engaging, high level speakers, breath taking setting and exquisite food. All in all – a perfect combination!!!

For once again hosting an elegant and informative event at this year's Global Forum.

Julia Glidden, Managing Director, 21c Consultancy Ltd, UK

Many, many thanks for inviting me to the Global Forum. It was a real pleasure meeting you and so many great new people and already "old" industry friends.

Nico Grove, Assistant Professor, Infrastructure Economics & Management, Bauhaus-University Weimar, Germany

« Thank you very much for your invitation in Athens. It was very interesting. »

Stephane Grumbach, French director of the Sino-French IT Lab LIAMA, INRIA, China

On behalf of all of us at e-Ja in Poland and CLAN in Scotland I would like to thank you and your efficient Global Forum team for the opportunity to have participated in this exciting and prestigious event. We greatly enjoyed all of it: the sessions, the discussions, accompanying events, the plentiful opportunities to meet others, Brussels itself, and last, but not least, your competent hospitality. I do sincerely hope and wish you that each next Global Forum will be even more successful than its predecessor because the event truly deserves it.

Igor Hansen e-Ja & CLAN Systems Ltd, Poland

"First and foremost of all: thank you so much for another great conference, which gave us (and the Chinese delegation in particular, of course) a splendid opportunity to connect to the international discussions on convergence. I think I can see on behalf of every group member: We all enjoyed the conference and the social setting very much!"

Thomas Hart, Regulatory Expert EU-China Information Society Project, China

"I would like to congratulate you on the success of this edition of the Global Forum. It has been a great pleasure for me to be involved in this event on "Shaping the Future.

ITEMS International has done a great job both in the organisational aspects and in bringing together speakers of very high level.

All the presentations were most interesting, and to have them available online is of great use for us. "

Marta Cimas Hernando, Advisor of Francisco Ros, State Secretary for Telecommunications and Information Society Ministry of Industry, Spain

Just a note to thank you for including ESOA to speak at this year's Global Forum. It was a pleasure for me to participate in your very successful event, especially on the panel with Woody Kerkeslager. Thank you for this opportunity.

Aarti Holla-Maini, Secretary General, European Satellite Operators Association – ESOA

It was a very good event; well executed and many terrific speakers and attendees. You both do such a great job. My hat off to you, sir!

I just wanted to congratulate you and your team on once again organizing and executing a marvelous event. I enjoyed speaking to the attendees and other speakers. The whole event was well received. Again congratulations and thank you for your kindness during the event.

John Jung, Chairman, Intelligent Community Forum (ICF), USA

"Congratulations for the success of your conference."

Irene Kamberidou, Senior Lecturer of the University of Athens & Member The European Centre for Women and Technology –ECWT-, Greece

It was our pleasure to be able to participate in the Forum early this month. It was both very informative and inspirational. We have appreciated also the meeting arrangements that you have made with governments. We truly appreciate the efforts you have taken for us.

Hiroko Kasahar, Research and Consulting Division, Japan Research Institute Ltd. Japan

It was a great pleasure to attend the Global Forum. I have really enjoyed the exchanges

Christoforos Korakas, Project Manager, ACCESS2dEMOCRACY, Greece

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to participate at the Global Forum. The event was very well organized bringing together very bright minds and key officials on a common platform to share ideas and thoughts on the important topic of Convergence. I greatly benefited from attending the event.

Sai Sandeep Krishna, National Institute for Smart Government, India

You have done a fantastic job and all team members were very cooperative. I was impressed with the quality of both the presenters and delegate and met interesting people.

See you next year!

Professor Louis Lareng, France

Congratulations for the Quality of the Global Forum and thank you so much for having been associated.

Eric Legale, Managing Director Issy-Media, City of Issy-les-Moulineaux

Thank you for a great opportunity. The panel was most interesting and I am so pleased I could talk about the World Bank's vision and work towards Open Development in that context.

It was a great pleasure to participate and look forward to next year's Forum! You did an amazing work and the result was indeed a success. Thank you.

Elisa Liberatori Prati, Chief Archivist Manager, World Bank Group

I really appreciated the possibility to join the Global Forum. You had been able to create a marvellous program. Sessions were interesting and atmosphere challenging. Thanks a lot.

Suvi Lindén, Special Envoy for the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, ITU, Sweden

I would like to congratulate you on a successful conference and to thank you for inviting me to participate. So many interesting people created a stimulating forum and good conversation and ideas.

Judith G. Logan, U.S. Department of the Treasury, International Affairs, USA

For me and Mario it was a great pleasure to be part of the Global Forum

Massimiliano Lisa, Amministratore Delegato, Leonardo3 Srl, Italy

"Thank you for the invitation and the opportunity to be part of this great event".

Rolf Lührs, Head of Department for Interactive Communication, TuTech Innovation GmbH, Germany

It was a great pleasure meeting you and to have participated in the Global Forum that have been a great experience.

Ranjit Makkuni, President, Sacred World foundation, India

Thank YOU, Sylviane! The pleasure was all mine.

Robert McDowell, Commissioner Federal Communications Commission - FCC, USA

I appreciate all your hospitality that you gave me at Global Forum.

It is always a wonderful conference, and I can exchange information regarding many topics and be inspired through the conversation with many VIPs from various kinds of sectors and companies/entities.

I am very honoured that I could attend the wonderful conference.

Eikazu Niwano, Senior Research Engineer NTT Corporation, Japan

"I found it a very interesting event where it was possible to exchange ideas with very knowledgeable participants."

Thomas Nogues, Director of Technology EMEA, Motion Picture Association, Belgium

Before the holiday season takes over and the New Year begins, I just wanted to make sure I took the opportunity to officially thank you for inviting me to participate in this year's Global Forum. This year's forum proved to be the best so far, which is saying quite a bit, since the previous two were incredibly thought-provoking themselves. So, I expect that the Global Forum will continue to be a valuable venue for us to exchange ideas and information.

So glad this year's conference was such another huge success and very happy we were able to continue our longstanding sponsorship and participation.

Brent Olson, Vice President - Public Policy, AT&T, USA

I would like to thank you for inviting me to this international event. The Global Forum is one of the rare conferences which allows participants to get useful contacts in both convivial and professional atmosphere with a real thought on the ITs' future and usefulness in every continent of the globe.

Congratulations!

Pierre Pecastaings, head of Mission, French Ministry of Economy and Finance

A big « MERCI » to you! It was fascinating!

A big "Thank you": It was intense and very instructive: I am delighted to have participated in global forum this year, You have the art to combine the skills.

Alice Pézard, Président de Chambre, Cour d'appel de Paris, France

"Thank you for the feedback and for including me in your program. I continue to believe this is one of the best events for networking with global government and industry leaders."

Todd Ramsey, Managing Director, US Federal, IBM Corporation, USA

Sylviane, this is just a note to tell you that Kitzi and I absolutely LOVED the Global Forum. It was a great program.

The conference itself was very rich in its content, and, as usual, the social events were spectacular. We count ourselves as very fortunate to have been invited. In the meantime, again please accept our gratitude for this very special occasion.

Thomas J. Rosch, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission, USA

My session was fascinating.

Gérald Santucci, Head of Unit, D.4: Networked Enterprise & Radio Frequency Identification - RFID-, European Commission

"Congratulation for another successful Global Forum."

Miriam Sapiro, President Summit Strategies International, USA

It was a pleasure to be there and participate in a very interesting session. I am sure my Managing Director is looking forward to next year opportunity to join.

The networking part with the attendees was also very interesting.

Roberto Saracco, Telecom Italia Lab

« I am particularly anxious to thank you for this edition (publishing) of Global Forum. There were many meetings and interesting and fruitful discussions. »

Philippe Scheimann, CEO Ayala Alternative Organizational Consulting, Israel

Thank you for your invitation in the Global Forum. I found that your event was of very high level and I was able to make some interesting meetings.

Eric Seulliet, President SMARTSYSTEM, France.

First you are to be congratulated for once again providing excellent leadership and vision for putting together this year's Global Forum. I think everyone had a great time and made or re-established good contacts. I guess you hear this each year when people say how can you top this?! I know how much work goes into an event like this but you are by far the most talented and gifted person I know who can get such wonderful people and venue together!

Alan Shark, Executive Director, PTI Public Technology Institute, USA

"It was a very interesting event and hopefully even useful!"

There were very interesting sessions and speakers. I've caught some new project ideas that could be of success in our area. As I said, it was a pleasure to participate in Athens."

Kaj Söderman, Project Manager Archipelago Networks LTD, Finland

I am back in the office today and I just want to send you a follow-up note to congratulate you on a very successful Global Forum!!

It was wonderful and I know everybody really enjoyed it--all of your hard work, efforts and advance planning really paid off!

With best regards et a bientôt,

Christina Speck, Office of International Affairs, US Department of Commerce, USA

Thank you so much for your hospitality and for inviting me in the wonderful City Hall of Paris. Guillaume and I, have met a lot of interesting and high level people during the lunch. It was a pleasure to share our ideas on convergence.

Please receive my kindest regards.

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate, Federal Communications Commission- FCC , USA

Thank you for the feedback, I also enjoyed it!

Paul Timmers, Director Directorate H: ICT addressing Societal Challenges, DG INFSO, European Commission

I wish to thank you for the interesting information that was given at the Global Forum. My collaborator Marc Caen, who represented me at the event, has briefed me about certain aspects which were discussed. A further reflection on the future of our Infomatin and Knowledge Society is indeed an important matter. I will have a discussion about the Forum with my collaborators and I will let you know what the items are that we consider worthy of being discussed at a next Global Forum.

Luc Vanneste, Director General Institutions and Population, SPF Interior, Belgium

Thanks very much and I were pleased to see such large participation. You have also succeeded in attracting a significant number of persons from the Commission, which seems to suggest, you have hit a cord that others probably did not succeed in.

Aniyan Varghese, Programme Manager, ICT for Government and Public Services, DG INFSO, European Commission

A true thanks for the great opportunity to have been able joining this powerful network! True appreciation and good luck with the next year edition in Sweden

Olivier Vanden Eynde, Managing Director, Close the Gap, Belgium

I want to congratulate you on another outstanding Global Forum and thank you for including me in the event. It was superb! High quality on substance. Outstanding representation, sponsorships and speakers and exceptionally well-managed.

Your Forum is always such an outstanding event. You continue to contribute to the international dialogue on information technologies and their economic, financial and political implications.

Olin Wethington, Lawyer, USA

"Thank you for organizing this wonderful event. It was my pleasure to join you and the other participants this week."

Jim C. Williams, Senior Vice President & Chief Technology Officer Motion Picture Association of America, Inc., USA

Congratulations of what was, once again, a very good Global Forum.

David Wood, Councillor, Newcastle Upon Tyne City Council, UK

Global Forum 2011

Congratulations on a superbly arranged and performed Global Forum 2011! It was a pleasure to participate, as always. We greatly appreciated the interactive and constructive session on women leadership/entrepreneurship.

I would also like to thank you sincerely for your kind support and collaboration in regard to the GINI hearings, which worked out very well.

Thomas Andersson, Professor, Senior Advisor of Science, President of the Board, IKED

Many thanks and congrats for the beautiful Forum in Bruxelles! Everything seemed great.

Nicola Farronato, Co-founder, CEO B-sm@rk Ltd ; Co-founder, Managing Director at Lifestylentrepreneur.org ; President at YEAM - Young European Avantgarde Minds

Thank you for your warm welcome in a venue as pleasant as the Palais d' Egmont. I appreciated the quality of the speakers, the audience and the professionalism of the organizing team.

Marie-Françoise Guyonnaud, Director, Fondaterra, France

Many thanks The conference in Venice was outstanding.

The Global Forum was a tremendous success and keeps getting better and better, every year. I look forward to next year's Forum in Stockholm.

Andrew Lipman, Partner and Head of Telecom Group, Bingham McCutchen, USA

I am the one that should be thanking, due to the high level of the event, but also to the genuine and open exchange of thoughts and ideas that I was able to attend during the Forum.

Also your kindness and support together with the quality of the venue and chosen locations made GF 2011 a truly remarkable event.

Hoping to participate in other initiatives

Paulo Magina, CEO & President of the Board ANCP, The Portugese National Agency for Public Procurement

Thank you , and once again it was a great pleasure to participate in such a prestigious and exciting event! Congratulations are due to all the team. I certainly look forward to 2012 in Stockholm.

Jeremy Millard, Senior Consultant, Danish Technological Institute, Denmark

I would like to thank you for the excellent trip to Brussels. My participation in the GF was very important and useful for me and I'm sure I can use the experience I obtained in my future job. Thank you very much for all your help and hospitality.

Hamlet Navasardyan, Head of Armenian Branch Office of ISTC, Armenia

The Global Forum 2011 had an impressive list of participants and of speakers; well done!

Fabio Colasanti, President International Institute of Communications

I appreciated your meeting and your organization. It was a nice experience for me given my formation. I will happy if possible to join you in 2012!

Giuseppe Novelli , Head of the Human Genetics Research Unit, The Tor Vergata University of Rome, Italy

Thank you for hosting an amazing Global conference in Brussels.

I have connected with many people in the Middle East through your conference to support & empower Arab women of the future.

Rachel Petero, Managing Director, GENVIVA Ltd, the United-Kingdom

Thank you. It has been a great pleasure as it is, as usual a high standard and very stimulating event.

Looking forward to see you in Stockholm in 2012.

Luis Rodriguez-Rosello, Head of Unit Future Networks, DG INFSO, European Commission

Congratulations for this Forum in Brussels! It was a pleasure to acquaint you.

Veronique Scheer, Project Manager, City of Luxemburg, Luxemburg

I have just received the images of the Global Forum 2011 and I was able to estimate all the scale of the event and the success which it constituted. All my congratulations to you for this success which year after year consolidates

The 20th edition of the Global Forum was a remarkable success

Jean-François Soupizet, Principal Advisor, Close-the-Gap, Belgium

Global Forum 2009

"I wanted to thank you and your team very much for having had the opportunity to participate at the Global Forum in Athens and present our party profiling tool 'EU Profiler' for the EU elections 2009

I enormously appreciated the warm welcome at this wonderful place in the city of Athens, the interesting conversations with so many participants as well as the inspiring exchanges about the projects among the session 8 participants."

Gabriela Felder, National Competence Center for Research -NCCR- Zurich University, Switzerland

Global Forum 2008

"The Global Forum 2008 was a huge success. Thank you!"

Susan Fisenne, Confidential Assistant Office of Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate, USA

"This is just a quick note to say how much I appreciated the opportunity to attend the Global Forum in Athens which I found richly rewarding and stimulating and I'd like to thank the conference organisers (and speakers) for a great job. There were excellent presentations which could served as useful reference points for some time to come".

Kevin A. Painting Senior Programme Coordinator, Communication Channels and Services Department (CCSD) CTA

"Thanks to both of the Global Forum 2008 the high level of organizational proficiency and the very useful and interesting professional part. I will definitely want to be present at the next event as well" :-)

It was a pleasure for Marianna to participate on such a wonderfully organized and professionally challenging event. Congratulations and keep up the good work!"

Marianna Posfai, leader of the eHungary Project, eHungary Center, Hungary

"It has been a great pleasure for me to meet you in Athens, and to take part in The Global Forum 2008 "Shaping the Future".

The Global Forum enables governments, corporations and representatives of the civil society to meet and share different points of view in order to work together on the evolution of the Information Society, which I believe is the required approach. As geographic and social barriers vanish, the challenges we face become global and demand efforts that go beyond the powers of local authorities.

I would like to congratulate ITEMS International, and especially both of you, on the success of this edition of The Global Forum. The presentations of all the speakers were most interesting, and to have them available online is a very useful initiative.

The motto of The Global Forum 2008 "Collaborative Convergence: Users Empowerment in the Global Digital Economy" is totally in line with the concerns of Spain on these issues. As I had the opportunity to explain in my presentation, convergence has become the new paradigm. One of the goals of our "Plan Avanza" is to improve IT technological awareness and usage for all citizens, focusing on areas such as e-Government, e-Education and e-Health.

Spain is deeply committed to the development of the Telecommunications sector and the Information Society, and thus we are willing to participate in any future events of this nature.

I would also like to thank you on behalf of the entire Spanish delegation for your kind attention towards us."

Francisco Ros, Spanish State Secretary for Telecommunications and the Information Society

«Once again thank you very much for the Global Forum 2008 in Athens, evrybody agree that it was a huge success. Everything was excellent : the 'organisation, the quality of the speakers, The depth of the debates, the exceptional site and the welcome»

Gérald Santucci, Head of Unit, D.4: Networked Enterprise & Radio Frequency Identification - RFID-, European Commission

"My sincere congratulations for the Global Forum that I had the privilege to attend in Athens."

Mario Soares de Freitas, Director Icp-Anacom, Portugal

"Thank you very much for your feedback and congratulations for the organization of this high profile event in Athens."

Nina Trifonopoulou, PR & Citizenship Specialist, Microsoft Hellas, Greece

Thank you very much for your kind words and let me assure you that it was a great pleasure for me to participate in this year's Global Forum 2008.

Anne Marie Vesdrevanis, DG INFSO - European Commission

"It was really very nice to meet you in Athens this year. You have finished another great Global Forum.

Hope to meet you again in the near future."

Xu Junqi, Deputy Director, China Academy of Telecommunications Research, Ministry of Information Industry, China

Global Forum 2007

*Greetings from Ottawa! I am writing to thank you for the successful global forum you put for us. I was very happy to be there. I learned a lot about many different things. I made some good contacts and I am looking forward to see you again next year at the Global forum 2007
Merci!*

Youssef Berbash, ICT Resercher, Ottawa Global Marketing, Ottawa Centre for Research & Innovation, Canada

Thanks so much for allowing me to sit in on the Global Forum 2007 in Paris. Although my time was very limited this time, I thought the format, attendees and content were excellent and very interesting.

This type of platform to share on so many topics and levels is rare. I was proud to be a small part and hope to be more involved in the future.

LaVeta Gibbs, Directeur IP Telephony, Cisco systems, USA

I was extremely pleased to participate to the 16' Global Forum held in Venice!

Francesco Serra, Engineer, Noemalife spa, Italy

Global Forum 2006

I am sending you these few lines to thank you for your hospitality and the great opportunity you have given us in the framework of the Global Forum 2006. This edition of the forum has been the occasion to establish valuable contacts and to initiate new projects. The remarks on the forum I heard from other participants have been extremely positive, especially from the U.S. attendees, and I share them:

- this is my favourite event in the year; I attend each time; the content is rich. Bravo and thank you

Michel Chevallier, Secrétaire d'Etat, Chancellerie d'état, Switzerland

Thank you so much for inviting me to participate in the Global Forum 2006. You have done a fantastic job. Thank you for the USB key given during the Forum, the speaker profile was very useful. Following the Global Forum, I have been invited to work in a workshop in the framework of the European Program « e-governnet ». Thank you!

Jacques Gautier, Project manager in broadband networks & services, Conseil Général du Finistère, France

Thank you again for inviting me to Paris last week. I enjoyed the conference and made many new friends.

John Jung, Chairman, Intelligent Community Forum (ICF), USA

I want to express my sincere gratitude for having invited our Company to participate in the Global Forum 2006 Shaping the Future. It was of tremendous value for me to have the opportunity to talk and discuss topics on ICT with many qualified participants. They were always absolutely friendly and ready to share opinions and find common interests. I'm very glad that I've become acquainted with you. Forum's well thought-out program made me see the high quality of organization and great work done by its management during years. I'm sure all participants felt very comfortable at the event. The Forum encouraged me to generate new ideas and widen my business outlook. As first participants from Ukraine we would like to maintain our business relationships and involve Ukrainian ICT community to International and Global Opinions exchange if you don't mind certainly.

Maria Konskaya, VP Finance and Strategy Department PDS ltd, Ukrainia

I would like to thank very much for the invitation to attend the 2006 Global Forum. It was a great experience and I and Tigran enjoyed very much the inspiring meetings and the company of the international community gathered on that occasion. We were able to establish and strengthen contacts which are very useful for the endeavours of the OSCE Office in Yerevan to support Armenias international IT activities. May I also express my respect for the excellent organization of the event and the hospitality we had the privilege to enjoy, not least due to your outstanding personallity.

Jeannette Kloetzer, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Yerevan office, Armenia

You have all done a good job. The conferences were of high standard and run in a professional manner. I enjoyed my stay in Paris.

Nitya Karmakar, Professor, University of Western Sydney, Australia

Thank you very much for the excellent organisation, the warm hospitality and the opportunity to present some of our ideas and realisations in providing support to enterprises. I would like to add that you made an excellent choice regarding the premises; I have been impressed by the splendour and the beauty of the City Hall of Paris. I will also remember the various interesting meetings during the conference. A great success! It is with great pleasure that I will join you next year if you decide to renew this experience.

Cristina Martinez Gonzalez, ICT for Enterprise Networking, European Commission

First, congratulations and my personal thanks to you both on another very enjoyable, bracing and successful Global Forum! It was a great privilege and pleasure to participate in Global Forum 2006 in Paris. The content, environment and networking were excellent with many new friendships and potential partnerships being established. It was also my first and very enjoyable boat trip "under the bridges of Paris".

Tracey Pitt Chief Executive ETR²A, UK

Thank you for the invitation and for a great event. I liked it very much and I have got a lot of new contacts in the ebusiness world. I am looking forward to the next event, Global Forum 2006, and I hope that you will provide us with date and place as soon as you know.

Terje Tøndel, Managing Director, ETIS, Belgium

Thank you for the excellent organisation of the Global Forum 2006, in an interesting location and with many interesting participants.

Dirk Van Rooy, Principal Scientific Officer, Directorate-General Information Society and Media, European Commission

Thank you for the invitation at Global Forum 2006! It was a really well done Forum and for me personally, it was very useful.

Stan Virgiliu, Initiator and Manager, Vidaco Identity Management, Romania

Thank you for all your hospitality which was shown in Paris last week. First, the Global Forum was very well organized by Items International, and was very useful to know many VIPs in ICT world. We really enjoyed the Gala Dinner Cruise, and the lunch at the magnificent room in the Paris City Hall.

Kotaro Watanabe, Senior Manager, NTTCommunications, Japan

Global Forum 2005

Thank you so much for inviting me to participate in the 2005 Global Forum. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting the government officials and industry leaders who are helping to shape the course of electronic commerce- it was a truly exciting event.

Additionally, the venues you selected around the Forum were nothing short of spectacular. The Global Forum is quite an accomplishment- you should be very, very proud.

Jon Leibowitz, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission, USA

On behalf of Motorola, I would like to thank you for our opportunity to participate in the Global Forum 2005. You are to be congratulated for organizing a very worthwhile and lively event to which we are proud to associate our name. The wealth of ideas and thought leadership this forum has generated together with the tremendous opportunities it gave us to network with business and government leaders certainly ensures Motorola's admiration and support for your endeavours. Again, many thanks! Félicitations et Bravo!!

Lizanne Scott, Senior Director Government Relations Europe Government & Enterprise Mobility Solutions, Motorola, Inc

First of all I would like to congratulate you for the Global Forum 2005 success. I think that it was a very high level event. The Global Forum is one of the rare conferences which allows participants to get useful contacts in both convivial and professional atmosphere with a real thought on the ITs' future and usefulness in every continent of the globe. All ingredienst are combined to make the innovating ideas succeeding and to speed up new ones. Thank you for all what you do.

Edouard Varvarian, General Manager, iDDOON, France

Global Forum 2012 – Stockholm, SWEDEN



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Visions, Challenges, Opportunities for
Organizations and People in a Smart World

MONDAY 12TH & TUESDAY 13TH, NOVEMBER, 2012
GRAND HOTEL, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN



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Items International is an international consulting firm based in Paris, dedicated to Information & Communication Technologies strategies. ITEMS International is specialized in digital technologies and services: broadband, Internet, broadcast and software.

ITEMS proposes a various range of consulting assistance: Strategic studies, Market analysis, International benchmarks, Technological Analysis, Business plans, Due diligence, Roll out assistance.

Created in 1994, the company has a long experience in strategic and marketing consulting, networking, knowledge sharing and transfer.

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The different backgrounds and the versatility of our consultants lead to a unique company's expertise in the areas of ICT strategies, project management, services and usages.



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The French **Sophia Antipolis Foundation** was created in 1984 by Senator Pierre Laffitte, and received state-approval for playing a fundamental role in the development of scientific and cultural activities. The purpose of the Foundation is to encourage the exchange of ideas and cooperation in scientific, industrial and cultural matters at a national, European and international level in order to create a new entrepreneurial culture, thereby turning Sophia Antipolis into an experimental laboratory for the future. Sophia Antipolis is a Science Park taking pride in being internationally recognized as one of the most dynamic and fastest growing technological and scientific hubs in Europe and a "best practice" site for innovation.



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Without the help and generosity of our sponsors, it would not have been possible to organise such an event. Even if these organizations are evolving in a world of competition, their support shows that they are fully aware of the importance of both formal and informal face to face discussions and the great opportunity the Forum offers to its participants to develop imaginative solutions in partnership and to create a global network based on friendly relations.

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Global Forum 2011 – Brussels, BELGIUM



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MONDAY 7TH & TUESDAY 8TH, NOVEMBER, 2011
PALAIS D'EGMONT, BELGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



ITEMS INTERNATIONAL



Items International is an international consulting firm based in Paris, dedicated to delivering Information & Communication Technology strategies.

Created in 1994, the company has a long experience in strategic and marketing consulting, networking, knowledge sharing and transfer. ITEMS International is specialized on ICT-related projects and initiatives and has carried out various international studies in a vast range of ICT-related fields for private Telecoms and public and private institutions, including the European Commission and the French government.

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BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE



IS-practice is a Program Management Office that delivers project management and high-level advice for major projects within the international and national public sector in the broader field of the Information Society. The goal is to bring together specialized parties for ambitious research and consultancy projects. IS-Practice is an initiative of Hugo Kerschot, whose years of experience in both the private and the public sector will be valuable for companies and organizations that wish to realize projects in a multidisciplinary setting within the framework of the European Information Society. IS-practice is based in Brussels, Belgium at less than 5 minutes from Schuman EU offices.



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Global Forum 2010 – Washington DC, USA



ICT FOR AN EMPOWERED SOCIETY A SMART AND INNOVATIVE WORLD



MONDAY 8TH & TUESDAY 9TH, NOVEMBER, 2010
MARVIN CENTER, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON DC, USA

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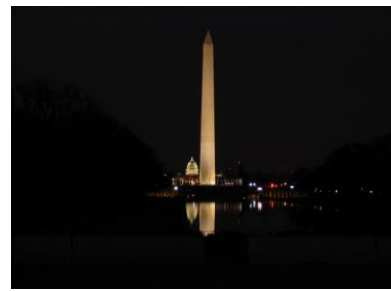


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GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY (GW, GWU, or George Washington) is a private, coeducational comprehensive research university located in Washington, D.C. The university was chartered on February 9, 1821 as The Columbian College in the District of Columbia by an Act of Congress. It is the largest university in the nation's capital.



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Global Forum 2009 – Bucharest, Romania



ICT & THE FUTURE OF INTERNET

Opportunities for Stimulating & Reshaping the Economy



MONDAY 19TH & TUESDAY 20TH, OCTOBER, 2009

PALACE OF THE PARLIAMENT, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

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MINISTRY of COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION SOCIETY, Government of Romania

The mission of the Ministry of Communications and Information Society is to create solid premises that will ensure the transition to the Information Society in Romania. Changes in all domains: in administration (e-government), in business (electronic commerce), in education (long distance education), in culture (multimedia centers and virtual libraries) and in the manner of working (long distance working).



ANCOM, National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications of Romania

ANCOM is the national regulatory authority for communications of Romania, the institution that sets the rules for the national communications market and manages the radio spectrum and numbering resources. Further information about ANCOM can be found on www.ancom.org.ro.



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Global Forum 2008 – Athens, Greece



COLLABORATIVE CONVERGENCE

Users Empowerment in the Global Digital Economy

TUESDAY 21 & WEDNESDAY 22, OCTOBER, 2008

ZAPPEION MANSION, ATHENS, GREECE



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HELLENIC MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE, SPECIAL SECRETARIAT FOR DIGITAL PLANNING

The Special Secretariat of Digital Planning of the Hellenic Ministry of Economy and Finance plays a predominant role in the implementation of the Operational Program "Information Society" in Greece. The Operational Program for IS (OPIS) has been formed in order to promote IS in Greece in a cohesive and comprehensive fashion. It follows the European and International

Policies concerning IS. Digital Greece plays a crucial role in the shaping of the national policy for the development of IT in the economy and in the public administration.

Professor Vassilios Asimakopoulos has been the Digital Planning Secretary Special since the 5th of April 2004.



CITY OF ATHENS

The enchanting capital of Greece has always been a birthplace for civilization. It is the city where democracy was born and most of the wise men of ancient times. The most important civilization of ancient world flourished in Athens and relives through some of the world's most formidable edifices.

Nikitas Kakkamanis, a medical doctor, former European parliamentarian and government minister, became Athens' 50th mayor at the beginning of 2007. He is very involved with his international responsibilities. The City of Athens has developed a series of modern IT systems to accommodate not only the internal needs of the Municipality of Athens but also to facilitate citizens in their everyday life.



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Global Forum 2007 – Venice, Italy

Alto Patronato del Presidente della Repubblica Italiana
Haut Patronage du Président de la République Française
Patrocinio del Ministro Italiano per le Riforme e le Innovazioni nella Pubblica Amministrazione
Patrocinio della Confindustria Servizi Innovativi e Tecnologici



GLOBAL CONVERGENCE 2.0 INTEGRATION & INNOVATION

Building the Collaborative Knowledge Society

MONDAY 5 & TUESDAY 6 NOVEMBER, 2007
FONDAZIONE GIORGIO CINI, VENICE, ITALY
Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore, Venezia



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CITY OF VENICE



Venice is an extraordinary city, a unique place in the world, but it is also a usual place where people live, work and study. Venice is one of the most visited cities in the world. In Venice, every day, the Mayor and the Councillor can both meet "ambassadors" from all over the world, to discuss important matters in the field of art, culture, finance, science and politics, and meet their own citizens: Information and Communication Technology must be at the service of this peculiar city.

According to the Mayor Massimo Cacciari policies, ICT projects in Venice are therefore oriented to the creation of communication infrastructures and services for people living, working or studying in the city (i.e. local e-government, portals of the various services, the broadband network for the local government,...) and for the nearly 20 million tourists visiting Venice every year (i.e. the "Value Added Services" - the new network of services supporting transport, the access to artistic and cultural resources, global information and communication, mobility...).



ULSS 8 of Asolo

Realizing an organized plan of e-health, the Corporation ULSS 8 of Asolo achieved some best practices: the digital clinical Report File (depository) with 6 millions of case histories on line; a system of information's tracing RFID for sick person / trained nurse / drug; the self bringing of personal clinical history for each private citizen; the clinical reports are consulting on line from the private citizen; an evolved system of e-learning and of multimedia e education; the financial management with digital signature.

The ULSS of Asolo takes part to international actions on digital developments.



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Global Forum 2006 – Paris, France

DIGITAL CONVERGENCE

Towards a more competitive, mobile and inclusive knowledge-based information society

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 2006
HÔTEL DE VILLE de PARIS, FRANCE
5 Rue Lobau – 75004 Paris



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- Strategic consultancy on telecommunications, market segmentation, support to the development of European businesses in the US, Japan and other countries, as well as of foreign businesses in Europe.
- Research and development in areas such as regulatory policy and economic aspects, interconnection issues, Information & Communication Technology (ICT) market research and international comparative analyses, strategic development for industrialists, operators and local/ regional/ national authorities.

Items annually organizes the "Global Forum / Shaping the Future" think tank in association with the Sophia-Antipolis Foundation, the European Commission and a number of international sponsors and experts. Dr. Sylviane Toporkoff, Vice-President of Items International, created and launched the "Global Forum / Shaping the Future" initiative in 1992 and has run the event for over a decade now. Her academic research and numerous contributions to private and public sector projects all over the world, including the European Union, enabled her to build a unique and high-quality network of relationships among those who shape the future of our society, throughout Europe, the United States, Japan, South East Asia, Latin America and elsewhere.



FOUNDATION SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS

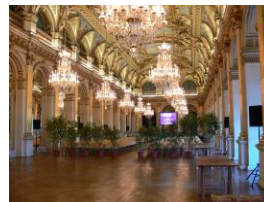
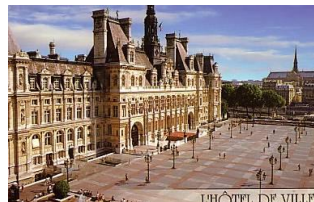
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CITY OF PARIS, The Digital City



Paris, one of the leading ICT cities in the world, disposes of a unique network in terms of coverage and the number of Internet providers offering high speed connections. Universal Internet service will be offered for free to the Parisians by 2008 – this also includes WiFi for a 100% coverage in the near future. Several hundreds of companies working in the ICT sector are located in Paris and its neighbouring departments. The ICT sector alone generated more than 300,000 jobs in the region. As regards the social dimension, the City of Paris benefits from an important network of associations deeply rooted in the life of the city's districts. They support the efforts of the municipality by providing access to ICT for those who don't have access elsewhere. Paris also possesses a strong potential of technological projects emanating from high level universities and a large number of internationally recognized research institutes



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International Press Coverage Over the Years

Global Forum 2012

NETWORKWORLD

This story appeared on Network World at <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2012/111612-huawei-264358.html>

At the link above, Network World has published this Global Forum dispatch. It has already been reprinted or linked 57 times around the world so far.

Huawei aims for global domination

Chinese telecom giant details plans to become a player in cloud computing, networking, and handsets

By Jay Gillette, Network World November 16, 2012 12:49 PM ET

Network World - STOCKHOLM, Sweden -- Stockholm hosted the 21st annual Global Forum this week, highlighted by forecasts of a heated-up world market in telecommunications, innovative R&D policy, and burgeoning e-government services.

The telecommunications industry as a whole appears to be recovering and prospering worldwide, and the meeting marked the powerful emergence of China on the world technology market, with Chinese telecom giant Huawei continuing to build its new international profile in its second year as a Global Forum sponsor.

Last year in Brussels, Huawei made a marketing splash through a commanding presence at Global Forum 2011. At Brussels, Huawei reported \$28 billion in revenue. That year the enterprise employed 110,000 people, with 51,000 of them outside of China.

In 2012 at the Stockholm Global Forum, Huawei said revenue increased to \$32.4 billion during its last fiscal year. Huawei produced a further \$16.2 billion in revenue for the first half of 2012.

Huawei now has 150,000 employees, with 61,000 of them in research and development. The company has built five R&D centers in Europe and participates in over 130 standards bodies. Huawei boasts of serving one-third of the world's population today.

In strategy, Huawei seeks to move beyond its foundation as an infrastructure vendor into divergent technology sectors, including cloud computing; handset development to rival [Apple](#) and Samsung; and networking expertise to compete with [Cisco](#).

Huawei wasn't the only vendor to make a splash at the Global Forum. Alcatel-Lucent described its own current approach to information technology: The company sees it not just as a communication device but instead, "a life device." They say that the network is best visualized as "the connection from the cloud to the hand."

As such, the net worth of this life network is more valuable than ever, and its impact is greater than ever. For example, Alcatel-Lucent reports that the day the Apple [iPhone 5](#) was put on sale in New York City, network traffic there jumped 6%.

The company expects to engineer its own networks to deliver handset bandwidth at 10Mbps for every user, comparable to DSL levels today. They expect household bandwidth to be configured at 100Mbps per subscription. Alcatel-Lucent characterizes this ambitious enterprise as "the electrification of the 21st century."

Global Trends

Africa is emerging as the "new frontier" of [wireless](#) communications. Africa has jumped from 4.5 million people online in the year 2000 to 110 million in 2010. There are now 246 million mobile phones, and an astounding 700 million SIM cards in the 54-country continent.

Global Forum often forecasts world trends in the information and communication industries. Invitation-only delegates this year came from 35 countries and international organizations such as the European Commission and the World Bank, augmented by delegates from corporations large and small, and multiple government agencies.

The conference, often called "the Davos of IT," focused on innovation, especially as influenced by the open-innovation movement. The theme was "Shaping a Connected Digital Future: Visions, Challenges, Opportunities for Organizations and People in a Smart World."

The theme was given special emphasis from Global Forum's main French sponsors, the ITEMS International consulting firm, and the Foundation Sophia Antipolis, the first "smart community" and research science park, created in 1984.

Global Forum 2012's third lead sponsor was "INNOVA: The Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems," a 200-person R&D promotion group since 2001. Sweden is also the only country with an official "Digital Champion," Jan Gulliksen, whose purpose is to promote digital literacy and capacity-building across the population

A need for rational business incentives was repeated by several company speakers in the annual Global Forum policy panel, led by Andrew Lipman, head of the Telecom Group of the Washington, D.C. law firm of Bingham McCutchen.

Open Innovation an overriding theme

This year's Global Forum was driven by energetic discussion of innovation, reflecting Europe's lead in collaborative R&D theory, especially the "Open Innovation" movement.

Open innovation is a concept originally popularized through a seminal 2003 book by the American Henry Chesbrough, now a professor at Berkeley. The Europeans have militantly pursued the principle and built it into research policies and multilateral organizational funding.

Europe's Open Innovation Strategy and Policy Group (OISPG) summarizes the new movement in five parts: Networking; Collaboration; Corporate Entrepreneurship; Proactive Intellectual Property Management; and Research & Development for competitive advantage in the marketplace.

On the Global Forum's 2012 Open Innovation panel, Bror Salmelin updated the European Union's approach. He said, "We would like strongly to communicate a more modern view on open innovation. We need to go far beyond, towards crowdsourcing, co-creativity and collaborative open innovation ecosystems."

In an intriguing application of Maslow's hierarchy of human needs updated for future enterprises and organizations, Salmelin outlined a new hierarchy of organizational necessities, from "cost-savings" on the bottom, to "organizational agility" on the top, as follows:

- organizational agility
- innovation culture
- cross-organizational collaboration
- employee satisfaction
- customer satisfaction
- revenue generation
- cost-savings

Successful organizations start with cost-savings at the foundation and drive up to organizational agility at the peak, with increasing impact on organizational success all the way up the scale. Each layer supports the one above, and the one above energizes the layer below.

Global Forum 2012 was led by Dr. Sylviane Toporkoff, president of Global Forum, and a founding partner of sponsor ITEMS International. She noted the next Global Forum will re-engage in fall 2013, at a European venue to be announced early next year.

Jay Gillette is professor of information and communication sciences at Ball State University, director of its Human Factors Institute, and a senior research fellow and officer at the Digital Policy Institute.

Global Forum 2011

Benton Foundation, November 7th 2011

FCC Commissioner McDowell Opposes Unlicensed Spectrum Set Aside

Submitted: November 7, 2011 - 8:29pm

Originally published: November 7, 2011

Source: [Broadcasting&Cable](#)

Author: [John Eggerton](#)

Location: Brussels, Belgium

Speaking to the Global Forum in Brussels, Federal Communications Commission member Robert McDowell pitched using a combination of already allocated unlicensed-use spectrum in the TV band - the so-called "white spaces" - with better spectrum management by cellular companies as a way to address the current spectrum needs of all those new smartphones and tablets.

"We should work together to encourage wireless providers to deploy enhanced antenna systems more aggressively and provide targeted consumer education on the benefits of using femtocells, both of which are ready off-the-shelf," said Commissioner McDowell. But he does not support setting aside a large continuous swath of unlicensed spectrum - as some computer companies have been advocating - as part of the current push to consolidate broadcasters and reclaim their spectrum for wireless auctions. "At this early stage, it is not apparent that we should stop the progress well under way in the white spaces arena to create a solution for a problem - an alleged shortage of unlicensed spectrum in the 700 MHz Band -- that may never exist." And then there is the budget issue. "Given today's unprecedented budget deficits, I question whether the U.S. can afford not to auction any and all spectrum recovered in this band," he said.

<http://benton.org/node/104911>

The Hill.com, November 7th 2011

FCC's McDowell opposes setting aside more TV spectrum for unlicensed use

By Gautham Nagesh - 11/07/11 01:29 PM ET

Republican Federal Communications Commission member Robert McDowell touted the benefits of unlicensed spectrum but said he opposes setting aside a further swath of TV airwaves for unlicensed use during a speech in Brussels on Monday.

McDowell emphasized that unlicensed spectrum and the smart networks that take advantage of it are crucial to helping expand the availability of wireless broadband Internet access, pointing to the FCC's decision last year to open up the unused spectrum between TV channels, known as "white spaces," for unlicensed use.

"Although highly technical in nature, the effect will be simple for consumers. In fact, they may not notice anything different, except that they will experience — and no doubt appreciate — higher speeds and expanded coverage when connecting to the Internet," McDowell said.

"This new and robust connectivity will spark the creation of as-yet unimagined applications for both personal and business uses."

But McDowell said he opposes further consolidation of TV channels so the FCC or Congress can set aside a large swath of the 700 MHz band of spectrum for unlicensed use. He said such proposals are premature and that the timeline of pursuing that approach is "murky at best."

At this early stage, it is not apparent that we should stop the progress well under way in the white spaces arena to create a solution for a problem — an alleged shortage of unlicensed spectrum in the 700 MHz Band — that may never exist," McDowell said.

McDowell said the point of the white spaces effort was to maximize efficiency and gain benefits from under-used spectrum. He also pointed out that such a large, contiguous block of spectrum would be clearly defined, exclusive and easily transferable, making it an appealing resource to be auctioned off to raise revenue.

"Given today's unprecedented budget deficits, I question whether the U.S. can afford not to auction any and all spectrum recovered in this band," he added.

McDowell closed by pointing to efforts currently under way to take advantage of the white spaces and predicted that the new advances will have an even larger impact on the economy than the development of Wi-Fi.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/hillicon-valley/technology/192149-fccs-mcdowell-opposes-setting-aside-more-tv-spectrum-for-unlicensed-use>

Broadcasting & Cable, November 7th 2011

FCC Commissioner McDowell Pitches Unlicensed Spectrum Use

Also says cell government should encourage cell companies to be more efficient spectrum users
By John Eggerton -- Broadcasting & Cable, 11/7/2011 10:15:27 AM

FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell pitched using a combination of already allocated unlicensed-use spectrum in the TV band - the so-called "white spaces" - with better spectrum management by cellular companies as a way to address the current spectrum needs of all those new smartphones and tablets.

That came in a speech to the Global Forum in Brussels Monday, according to a copy of his speech.

"We should work together to encourage wireless providers to deploy enhanced antenna systems more aggressively and provide targeted consumer education on the benefits of using femtocells, both of which are ready off-the-shelf," said McDowell.

But he does not support setting aside a large continuous swath of unlicensed spectrum - as some computer companies have been advocating - as part of the current push to consolidate broadcasters and reclaim their spectrum for wireless auctions. "At this early stage, it is not apparent that we should stop the progress well under way in the white spaces arena to create a solution for a problem - an alleged shortage of unlicensed spectrum in the 700 MHz Band -- that may never exist." And then there is the budget issue.

"Given today's unprecedented budget deficits, I question whether the U.S. can afford not to auction any and all spectrum recovered in this band," he said.

McDowell pointed out that even if the government started now to reclaim and auction spectrum, it would take a decade for the new capacity to start delivering that capacity for wireless companies.

In the meantime, he suggested, government should press wireless companies to do more with what they have. "Consumers reap the greatest benefits when public policy aims to bring more spectrum to market while also promoting spectral efficiency," he said.

Broadcasters have been arguing that too much attention has been put on taking back broadcaster spectrum and not enough on figuring out how much there is, who has it, how efficiently it is being used, whether it is being hoarded for business reasons - increased demand means increased prices for those who might want to sell it.

http://www.broadcastingcable.com/article/476342-FCC_Commissioner_McDowell_Pitches_Unlicensed_Spectrum_Use.php?rssid=20065

NETWORKWORLD

This story appeared on Network World at

<http://www.networkworld.com/news/2011/111411-huawei-global-forum-253072.html>

Huawei wows Global Forum

By Jay Gillette, Network World November 14, 2011 03:52 PM ET

Brussels, Belgium -- The 20th annual Global Forum last week highlighted the growing power of Asian information industries, plus the formidable technology challenges facing IT professionals who grapple with increasingly urgent integration requirements as systems converge and people become more mobile.

Called "the Davos of IT," Global Forum often forecasts world trends in the information and communication industries. The invitation-only delegates came from 29 countries and multiple international organizations, such as the European Commission and the World Bank. This year's conference focused on "Mobilizing Organizations and People for Sustainable Growth."

Telecommunications as a whole and Asian information industries in particular have been spared the worst impacts of the financial downturn for the most part. Asian companies are on the move, notably the Chinese telecom power Huawei which had a commanding presence at Global Forum. The \$28 billion

company employs 110,000 people, with 51,000 of them outside of China. Taking a page from IBM's book, many of its international employees are from the local regions.

For example, Bosco Eduardo Fernandes, originally from Portugal, is head of the company's European Research Centre in Germany, one of 20 R&D facilities worldwide. Huawei invests 10% of its annual revenue in R&D and notes that 46% of its employees are engaged in R&D work.

As part of the Global Forum Open Innovation panel, Fernandes presented Huawei's strategy to establish its presence in IT solutions, lead in network development, and expand in devices. It intends to establish itself as a consumer brand, excel as a telecom carrier, and expand in the enterprise market.

Ao (Leo) Sun, Huawei's Brussels office and European Affairs president, shared the company's view that the cloud computing era has arrived, but that it's still too soon to fix strategies and vision. He called for more cooperation between players and for global cloud standards. Many speakers noted that United States companies are ahead of the rest of the world in the cloud computing arena and in research and development overall.

Another company looking to expand globally is the Japanese company KDDI, which has a reputation for innovation and an international reach already spanning 26 countries. The company's "3M Strategy" said Kan'ichiro Aritomi, KDDI Vice-Chairman, focuses on "multi-network, multi-device, multi-use." Wi-Fi is the approach they use to link networks in mobile phones, Fiber to the Home, Wi-Max, and CATV networks.

With revenue of more than \$40 billion, KDDI intends to "utilize the expertise we have gained in Japan to aggressively develop consumer business overseas."

Mobility and convergence

Technology convergence and social mobility have arrived, and are now inseparable. Speakers called for USA-style abilities for citizens to move and settle beyond the boundaries of their home state or region. For example, a German could spend most of his work career in Great Britain and retire on a pension in Spain. Thus social systems integration is a huge business, promising to make citizen access easier, restrict bureaucratic corruption, and diminish client fraud from duplicative claims in multiple jurisdictions across civil borders.

The impact of IBM's extensive European operations and its "smarter cities" strategic initiative was also evident. Such integrated systems and services are a major focus of IBM worldwide. Harry Van Dorenmalen, chairman of IBM Europe, outlined what he called three "game changers" for this era:

The first is "Team Play" among knowledge institutions in universities, governments, and industry. He added that the key to progress affecting people in their lives will be the participation of mayors and municipal leaders, he said.

Second, the use of global talent will be a driver, with increasing participation of young technologists.

The third is leadership. Against a backdrop of Greek government crisis and the resignation of Italy's Berlusconi, Van Dorenmalen challenged the delegates as he concluded: "it starts and ends with leadership. Are we ready to change and shift direction? That's the question for you to think about on your drive home tonight."

Information technology drives growth

According to Constantijn van Oranje, a cabinet member for the European Commission's Digital Agenda, new growth is 50% driven by Information and Communication Technology (ICT). He called for deeper investment in R&D in Europe, which lags the United States, and also continued engagement with regulation. Even the threat of regulation, he said, motivates self-regulation and co-regulation.

U.S. Federal Communications Commissioner Robert McDowell cited studies showing global telecommunications spending will jump from \$4.3 trillion now to \$5.31 trillion in three years. The Internet does disrupt employment, he said, but builds it too. For every job lost, the Internet allows the growth of 2.6 more jobs. McDowell called for more and smarter spectrum allocation for mobile and "unlicensed cognitive networks" which he says represent the future of the Internet.

In a related presentation, Federal Trade Commissioner Thomas Rosch said the FTC emphatically should not take the Federal Communications Commission's path on net neutrality as some have suggested. He said in light of the FCC's tangled struggle with the 1996 Telecom Act's distinction between telecommunications and so-called "information services," FTC should steer clear, as its very jurisdiction could be called into question, he argued.

The 2011 Global Forum was held in the Palais d'Egmont of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Sylviane Toporkoff, President of Global Forum, and a Founding Partner of sponsor ITEMS International, announced that the next Global Forum will be in fall 2012 in Stockholm, Sweden, which was designated "Intelligent Community of the Year" two years ago.

Gillette is professor of information and communication sciences at Ball State University, director of its Human Factors Institute, and a senior research fellow at the Digital Policy Institute. He can be reached at jaygillette@bsu.edu.

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Global Forum 2010

NETWORKWORLD

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Global Forum 2010 spotlights trends in "Open Innovation" and Broadband Economic Development

By Jay Gillette, Special to Network World, Network World
November 12, 2010

With a theme of advancing economic development worldwide, the 19th annual Global Forum met this week in the U.S. for the first time since 2002.

Called "the Davos of IT," Global Forum's annual themes often track world trends in the information and communication industries. Attracting invited participants from 28 countries, this year's talks focused on the theme, "ICT for an Empowered Society: A Smart and Innovative World."

Japan, for example is pursuing a "Smart Cloud" development strategy. It takes as given that there is a foundation of advanced infrastructure, and is now targeting applications with greater user participation and market uptake.

Yasuhiko Taniwaki, of Japan's Global ICT Strategy Bureau, notes that by next March, Japan will have 90% penetration in fiber-to-the-home, and 98% of subscribers will have 3G mobile devices. "So we have the broadband infrastructure," he said, and the challenge now is to increase uptake from the current 60% use of broadband services, when in fact Japan effectively has 100% availability.

In contrast, the United States is still working on a national broadband policy. Former FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein, now Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Services (RUS) program, used the conference to reinforce his agency's Nov. 9 announcement that it will partner with the FCC's continuing development of the national broadband plan. The RUS program will add value by its long experience and database of information on rural communications deployment, he said.

Numerous questions arose in the conference about the FCC's way forward in policy, after the midterm elections. FCC representatives, including Chairman Julius Genachowski, said policy initiatives already announced will continue.

Potential conflicts on [network neutrality](#) or spectrum reallocation were not emphasized, so those issues continue to loom unresolved in the United States policy arena.

Europeans, however, are incorporating communications policy as part of advancing the region's development. A new "Europe2020" economic initiative counts information and communication technology as one of its seven pillars of support. In May, the European Commission released its ["Digital Agenda for Europe,"](#) with the vision "Every European Digital."

The "Digital Agenda" includes a heavy emphasis on research and development investment. Europe lags in information and communications R&D at 17% of total ICT spend, compared with the United States at 29% of ICT spend. Government innovation and support for R&D need new investment, and new intellectual premises, the Europeans argue.

Francisco García Morán, of the European Directorate General for Informatics, introduced his organization's new initiative on "Interoperability Solutions for Public Administration." Funded at 164 million euros for the next five years, its purpose is to coordinate eGovernment framework, policies and law, services, and generic tools across the EU's 27 member countries.

Europe now leads the world with six of the top 10 eGovernment countries. The "Digital Agenda" seeks to develop eGovernment actions support the EU's policy of allowing any European to be an entrepreneur, to work, to study, to retire, in any European country.

Concerns about shortcomings in R&D have also led the Global Forum to focus on new approaches and intellectual ideas for innovation. The largest session in the conference was titled "Open Innovation: Strategies and Policies," with 13 speakers.

Following the approach of California-Berkeley professor Henry Chesbrough, Europe's Open Innovation

Strategy and Policy Group identified five key elements in the new innovation process:

1. Networking
2. Collaboration involving partners, competitors, universities, and users
3. Corporate entrepreneurship, corporate venturing, start-ups and spin-offs
4. Proactive intellectual property management: to buy and sell intellectual property and so create markets for technology
5. Research and development (R&D): for competitive advantage on the marketplace

However, session chair Bror Salmelin, of the European Commission, said the open innovation movement needed to advance beyond the Chesbrough foundations:

"We would like strongly to communicate a more modern view on open innovation. We need to go far beyond, towards crowdsourcing, co-creativity and collaborative open innovation ecosystems," Salmelin declared.

In that spirit, for the first time ever, the Global Forum introduced a new session emphasizing female technology engagement called "Global Network for Empowering Women's Innovation and Entrepreneurship."

Its keynote speaker was the U.S. State Department Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, Melanne Vermeer.

She was followed by a panel of 11 women leaders from public organizations and international companies, including Verizon, Microsoft, HP, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), the FCC, AT&T, among others. Session moderator was attorney Thaima Samman, president of the European Network for Women in Leadership.

Vermeer cited research that in developing regions, a woman is 21% less likely than a man to own a phone. Women are two-thirds of the untapped market in mobile telephony. Now mobile equipment operators are working to cut in half the ownership gap.

This initiative is encouraged and assisted as appropriate by USAID and the U.S. State Department. The State Department has also launched "Tech Women", an international program bringing female technical professionals to the U.S. for business-to-business internships.

Encouraging girls early to go into technical careers was seen as critical. This is the "pipeline behind the pipeline" for technical talent, as the panelists termed it.

Linda Zecher of Microsoft said the number of women majoring in computer science now has dropped about half. There are fewer girls taking science classes at lower education levels. Some reasons may be that girls perceive teachers favor boys in science classes; girls don't see science as "cool"; some girls won't settle for grades lower than "A" for any class, so they avoid hard science classes. To counter the trends, Microsoft for example has a program called "DigiGirls," a mentoring program to help girls early in their educational experience to orient themselves toward technology careers.

The 2010 Global Forum conference was held at George Washington University. Sylviane Toporkoff, president of Global Forum, and a founding partner of sponsor ITEMS International, said the next Global Forum will be held in Asia or in Europe, with the city still to be announced, in fall 2011.

Gillette is professor of information and communication sciences at Ball State University, director of its Human Factors Institute, and a senior research fellow at the Digital Policy Institute. He can be reached at jjillette@bsu.edu.

[Read more about data center](#) in Network World's Data Center section.

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Conference Update

Countries With High, Low Broadband Adoption Both Need to Boost 'Net Usage, Panelists Say

While countries with strong broadband penetration may be looking for ways to make broadband applications more of an “everyday” experience, many people in developing countries still need to develop online experience, according to panelists at a forum on information and communications technology (ICT).

Speaking during a Nov. 8 session on collaborative government at the Global Forum in Washington, whose theme this year was “ICT for an Empowered Society,” **Jeremy Millard**, senior consultant at the Danish Technological Institute, said that the next step in Denmark is to move to “everyday e-government,” rather than e-government that people use only two or three times a year. Initial e-government applications, such as paying taxes or submitting license applications, make government’s job easier for government, but don’t address the everyday needs of citizens, he said.

Samia Melhem, senior operations officer in the Global ICT Department at the World Bank Group, said that in many developing countries, there is “no tradition of writing on the Internet.” In such an environment, “our biggest asset is the educated youth in these countries,” she said.

Ms. Melhem also said there is a “myth out there ... that government ... can do this by themselves.” She said that when she visits e-government efforts, “I see one or two tired IT guys — rarely women — and they are saying, ‘Please, tell them to outsource.’”

In response to an audience request to react to the idea put forth by Finland last year that all citizens should have a right to broadband connectivity, Ms. Melhem said, “As more and more lifesaving services are delivered over broadband, how can you deny that?”

During a Nov. 8 session on broadband investment, Rural Utilities Service Administrator **Jonathan S. Adelstein** said that his agency was able to leverage loans to “stretch” \$2.5 billion in budget authority for the Broadband Initiatives Program into \$3.5 billion in loans and grants. He emphasized the importance of broadband connections to rural areas, saying that businesses won’t locate where there is no broadband service and “young

people won’t stay” where there is no broadband, adding that “the biggest problem for rural areas is outmigration.”



Michael Bartholomew, director of the European Telecommunications Network Operators Association (ETNO), said he sees “a strong convergence of both the U.S. national broadband plan and Europe’s digital agenda,” adding that he “would like to see a transatlantic digital plan.” He noted that the European Union’s digital agenda goals call for all European households to have access to 30 megabits per second connections by 2020 and for 50% of households to subscribe to 100 Mbps service by that date.

Thierry Zylberberg, executive vice president—strategic partnerships and general manager of the health line of business at France Telecom, said that “all sorts of [e-Health] applications don’t require broadband. However, some of them will need broadband. Where you want to transfer medical images, you need broadband,” he said, as well as for teleconsultation.

During a Nov. 8 keynote session, **Jean-François Junger**, who heads the ICT Sector for government and public services (DG INFSO & Media) at the European Commission, said that the political priorities of the European digital agenda are user empowerment, which includes user-driven services and transparency; a single European market; and efficiency and effectiveness.

Asked whether the U.S. would be moving to online voting anytime soon, **Tom Wilkey**, executive director of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, said, “We are taking a very cautious approach to e-voting.” He added that the ECA is working with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and “hope we will be able at least to provide states and localities some best practices, standards, and technologies” for online voting. “If there’s anything that will drive [online voting], it will be our zeal to accommodate our overseas voters,” he said.

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Industry-Government Collaboration Urged

Panelists during the forum's opening keynote session argued for industry and government collaboration to move forward "next-generation" ICT, while generally agreeing that there is no single "magic bullet" that will work in all situations.

Jose Fernandez, assistant secretary for economic, energy, and business affairs, at the U.S. State Department, said that "cooperation and dialogue on this issue is unavoidable."

Kathy Brown, senior VP-public policy development and corporate responsibility at Verizon Communications, Inc., agreed that there needs to be collaboration. "Government cannot make decisions without industry; industry cannot exclude government."

Gabrielle Gauthey, EVP-global government and public affairs at Alcatel-Lucent, said, "A new law is not needed. What is needed is to work together in envisaging ... what is reasonable network management [and] what is reasonable transparency."

Responding to a question about encouraging broadband adoption, FCC Chief of Staff **Edward Lazarus** said, "I don't think the adoption problem can be tackled by government alone." Rather, he said, industry and government "have to work together."

However, the approach will have to vary from one country to another, according to Federal Trade Commission Chairman **Jon Leibowitz**. There's "no magic bullet" for governments to use in addressing ICT issues, despite globalization he said, adding that "different nations have different regimes."

Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission Chairman **Konrad Von Finckenstein** agreed that there is "no magic bullet."

Speaking about cloud computing and Japan's "smart cloud strategy," **Yasuhiko Taniwaki**, director of the ICT Strategy Policy Division in Japan's Global ICT Strategy Bureau, said that it's important to have ways "to share the best practices of each country." However, he said that it's "too early for standardization" on smart cloud technology, but he called for avoiding "excessive 'lock-in'" to a particular approach.

Mr. Leibowitz said that the FTC is taking a "two-pronged approach" to privacy and Internet fraud, to ensure that people feel secure when using the Internet. One prong is enforcement, and the other is the policy function that the FTC has started using "more in the last 10 years," he said, although he emphasized that the agency

has had a policy-setting function since its establishment. He noted that the FTC hopes to issue its pending report on privacy "probably before the end of the year."

As for some of the things the FTC has seen in developing the report, Chairman Leibowitz said, "Our sense is that privacy policies have become way too long." He also said that the FCC wants to encourage "privacy by design." He added that companies "shouldn't collect information they don't need" and shouldn't retain information after they no longer need it. "We also want to see more transparency and consumer choice," he said.

Mr. Leibowitz said that the FTC is working "very hard" on memorandums of understanding with enforcement agencies in other countries for cross-border sharing of confidential information, which is authorized by the SAFE WEB Act.

Francisco Garcia Moran, director general-informatics (DIGIT) at the European Commission, said that the vision of the EU2020 digital agenda is for ensuring every European is digital, "avoiding the digital divide," and developing e-government services. E-government interoperability should "allow entrepreneurs to set up business anywhere in Europe," he said, so that EC citizens can "study, live, work, and retire in any country in Europe."

Net Neutrality Urged for Cloud Computing

As the European Union pursues its digital agenda, making Europe "cloud-ready" will be one of the goals, and "cloud providers need net neutrality," according to an official from the European Commission.

Maria Tsakali, a scientific officer in the European Union's Information Society and Media Directorate-General, said that European Commissioner for Digital Agenda Neelie Kroes "agrees with the FCC" in its approach to network neutrality and has "added" two more network principles to those espoused by the FCC: "the ability of national regulators to ensure a minimum level of service" and "transparency measures to assure consumers get what they pay for."

Another panelist, **Reinhard Wieck**, managing director-U.S. for Deutsche Telekom, said that two areas in technology policy on which Europe "is a little bit ahead" of the U.S. are privacy and efficient use of spectrum. European regulators enforce policies against spectrum "warehousing" by forcing licensees that don't use their spectrum to give it back, he said.

Session moderator **Andrew Lipman**, a partner in the law firm of Bingham McCutchen LLP and head of the

TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORTS

firm's telecom group, asked the panel to predict what would be discussed at a regulatory policy panel five years hence.

Brent Olson, assistant VP—public policy at AT&T, Inc., predicted that “more and more what you're going to see is the need for cross-border balancing and coordination” regarding which rules apply as users' networks are in one country and their data is in another.

Rick Whitt, Washington telecom and media counsel for Google, Inc., said that the increasingly important role of the Web “doesn't necessarily create new issues but

casts new light on ones that have been out there.”

Jean-Pierre Chamoux, a professor at the Université Paris Descartes, said that the tension between rapid change in technology and business and slow change by government “is the problem we always cope with in technology and telecommunications.”

The forum was hosted by Paris-based consulting firm Items International, the Fondation Sophia Antipolis of France, and the George Washington University.

—*Lynn Stanton, lynn.stanton@wolterskluwer.com*

Daily, November 8th 2010

MORE 'NET USE, FROM DIFFERENT STARTING POINTS, URGED FOR DEVELOPING, DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

While countries with strong broadband penetration may be looking for ways to make broadband applications more of an “everyday” experience, many people in developing countries still need to develop online experience, according to panelists at a forum on information and communications technology (ICT) today.

Speaking a session on collaborative government at the Global Forum in Washington, whose theme this year is “ICT for an Empowered Society,” Jeremy Millard, senior consultant at the Danish Technological Institute, said that the next step in Denmark is to move to “everyday e-government,” rather than e-government that people use only two or three times a year. Initial d-government applications, such as paying taxes or submitting license applications, make government's job easier for government, but don't address the everyday needs of citizens, he said.

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Ms. Melhem also said there is a “myth out there ... that government ... can do this by themselves.” She said that when she visits e-government efforts, “I see one or two tired IT guys - rarely women - and they are saying, ‘Please, tell them to outsource.’”

In response to an audience request to react to the idea put forth by Finland last year that all citizens should have a right to broadband connectivity (TRDaily, Nov. 5, 2009), Ms. Melhem said, “As more and more life-saving services are delivered over broadband, how can you deny that?”

During a session on broadband investment, Rural Utilities Service Administrator Jonathan Adelstein said that his agency was able to leverage loans to “stretch” \$2.5 billion in budget authority for the Broadband Initiatives Program into \$3.5 billion in loans and grants. He emphasized the importance of broadband connections to rural areas, saying that businesses won't locate where there is no broadband service and “young people won't stay” where there is no broadband, adding that “the biggest problem for rural areas is outmigration.”

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During an afternoon keynote session, Jean-François Junger, who heads the ICT Sector for government and public services (DG INFSO & Media) at the European Commission, said that the political priorities of the European digital agenda are user empowerment, which includes user-driven services and transparency; a single European market; and efficiency and effectiveness, Asked whether the U.S. would be moving to online voting anytime soon, Tom Wilkey, executive director of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, said, "We are taking a very cautious approach to e-voting." He added that the ECA is working with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and "hope we will be able at least to provide states and localities some best practices, standards, and technologies" for online voting. "If there's anything that will drive [online voting], it will be our zeal to accommodate our overseas voters," he said.

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INDUSTRY-GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION VIEWED AS NECESSARY TO ICT ADVANCES

Panelists at a forum on information and communications technology (ICT) today argued for industry and government collaboration to move forward "next-generation" ICT, while generally agreeing that there is no single "magic bullet" that will work in all situations.

Speaking during the keynote opening session this morning at the Global Forum, whose theme this year is "ICT for an Empowered Society," Jose Fernandez, assistant secretary for economic, energy, and business affairs, at the U.S. State Department, said that "cooperation and dialogue on this issue is unavoidable."

Kathy Brown, senior vice president-public policy development and corporate responsibility at Verizon Communications, Inc., agreed that there needs to be collaboration. "Government cannot make decisions without industry; industry cannot exclude government."

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However, the approach will have to vary from one country to another, according to Federal Trade Commission Chairman Jon Leibowitz. There's "no magic bullet" for governments to use in addressing ICT issues, despite globalization he said, adding that "different nations have different regimes."

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COMMUNICATIONS DAILY—12 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2010

Government Input Critical for ICT, Forum Told

The urgency to solve privacy and security problems, the rise of mobile broadband use that leads to capacity crunches, and the emergence of digital media all call for the government to step up its efforts to better protect consumers, encourage investment and ensure the diversity of content, officials said at the Global Forum at George Washington University Monday.

Enforcement and policy are two approaches by the FTC to address privacy and security issues, Chairman Jon Leibowitz said. The consumers really don't understand the privacy implications and current privacy notices for the most part don't really solve the problem, he said. The commission will release a report by the end of the year outlining recommendations to offer clearer notice on data-collection practices and offer meaningful privacy safeguards, he said. Despite good practices by some companies, implementation of privacy practices has been too slow, he said. Right now it's hard to conclude that self-regulation is working well, he said. The industry should know that the Congress will step in if the industry can't protect privacy more robustly, he said, calling privacy and security a bipartisan issue. The FTC doesn't have rulemaking authority over the issue, he said. Another focus at the FTC is having international privacy dialogues with governments and groups around the world to ensure privacy protection benefits consumers across borders, he said.

The FCC is looking at government inputs like spectrum allocation and a Universal Service Fund revamp that are of great significance, said Eddie Lazarus, FCC chief of staff. The government also has a role in tackling economic issues of adoption, he said. The government itself is also an important player in the IT space, he said.

The agency also seeks to work with other countries on Internet censorship, cybersecurity and privacy issues, he said. These problems won't solve themselves, he said. Making more spectrum available is critical for the future of mobile broadband, said Tom Sugrue a vice president with T-Mobile USA.

With stimulus funds awarded, the Rural Utilities Service will continue to use its existing telecom and broadband loan programs to finance more broadband projects, said RUS Administrator Jonathan Adelstein. It's not just about building the infrastructure, it's also about building the business model, he

said. Jose Fernandez, assistant secretary for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs with the Department of State, urged governments around the world to promote innovation and development in the information and communications and technology (ICT) sector, advancing IT policy, protecting free flow of information and providing ICT support for other sectors. Digital technologies have caused and continue to cause major shifts in audience expectations and demands in Canada, said Konrad Von Finckenstein, chairman of the Canadian Radio TV and Telecom Commission. The fragmentation of traditional audiences and the challenge of new technologies have driven the industry into a wave of corporate consolidation, he said. Such consolidation means companies that own cable, satellite and Internet services, even wireless networks, now also have control over content, he said. It's critical to maintain a diversity of voices in the broadcasting system, he said.

Gabrielle Gauthey, an executive vice president at Alcatel-Lucent, urged public authorities to regulate telecom infrastructure sharing models to lower market entry barriers. Public authorities should also organize new competition models and foster competition and coverage, she said. The "explosion" of mobile data makes a new round of investment in networks absolutely necessary, she said. The rapid shift in consumer behavior toward data consumption is leading to network capacity crunch, she said. Privacy and security is a growing concern in Europe and there's not a consistent approach on data privacy, she said. Stakeholders around the world should work together on how to create better network resilience, she said.

In Japan, infrastructure coverage is moving ahead while the service lags behind, said Yasuhiko Taniwaki, a director with Global ICT Strategy Bureau in Japan. Tackling the gap between adoption rates and availability is a major task, he said. The Japanese government is encouraging cloud computing technology, he said. — ***Yu-Ting Wang***

Global Forum 2009

NETWORKWORLD

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<http://www.networkworld.com/news/2009/102709-global-forum.html>

Global Forum sees information technology driving recovery and boosting democracy

By Jay Gillette , Network World , 10/27/2009

Bucharest, Romania — Against a background of economic and political crisis, the 18th annual Global Forum this week met in Eastern Europe for the first time.

Global Forum highlights digital trust

The prestigious technology policy and development meeting emphasized the economic potential of information and communication technology (ICT) to pull the world into [recovery](#). The conference also underscored ICT's power to reinforce democratic movements in Eastern Europe and globally that are still experimental and potentially unstable.

Called "the Davos of IT," Global Forum's annual themes often track world trends in the information and communication industries. Attracting invited participants from 35 countries, conference panelists repeatedly emphasized this year's theme, "ICT and the Future of Internet: Opportunities for Stimulating and Reshaping the Economy."

The 2009 Global Forum was in part sponsored by the Office of the President of Romania and the nation's Ministry of Communications and Information Society. The head of state, President Traian Băsescu, addressed the delegates on the importance of information and communication technology to the future of his country and the region. Yet he cautioned that the industry must safeguard information integrity given widespread mistrust of state agencies and private enterprise institutions.

Băsescu said estimates of ICT impact on the Romanian economy showed it stimulates 4% of GDP savings annually through electronic payments; makes tax evasion difficult; and can result in a 10% to 15% decrease in the gray economy.

However, ICT providers and governments must assure both transparency and trust for end users, he said. Băsescu declared that given his country's prior history of governmental intrusion in personal affairs, citizens are rightly skeptical of providing ICT information, no matter how benign the application.

Băsescu spoke against a background of political crisis in Romania, as a parliamentary deadlock has resulted in calls for formation of a new government and the appointment of a new prime minister, the operational leader of government here. United States Vice President Joe Biden also visited the region this week to demonstrate American commitment to the region and its security.

President Băsescu also pointed out that the commitment to democracy may also be more compelling among the people of Eastern Europe, given that they have lived under repressive governments longer in modern times than people in more established democratic countries. Open governments with empowered people are more unusual, and more precious, he suggested, to people who have been deprived of them for long periods of their history.

Another notable plenary speaker was American ambassador Mark Gitenstein. Appointed by Barack Obama and in office in Bucharest only since July 2009, he is the first Romanian-American ever to serve in the position. Gitenstein said ICT is the economic engine that will propel continuing prosperity, especially here.

It is fitting that Romania is hosting the Global Forum this year, Gitenstein said, since ICT has been a major driver of economic development in the country. ICT here produces annual business revenues of 6.5 billion euros [\$9.77 billion], and 8% of GDP. ICT employs 50,000 workers, and the nation ranks third in global outsourcing services.

In other news, China's telecommunications and Internet growth is the continuing phenomenon of the era. According to the official Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), [China's](#) total population is 1.328 billion people, (54 % in rural areas). China's combined fixed and mobile telephone subscribers now number 1.03 billion—with 700 million mobile subscribers among them.

As of June 2009, Internet subscribers total 338 million, larger than the entire population of the United States. Of these, in August 2009, broadband users topped 97 million. The majority access the Internet through xDSL, accounting for 82% of the users.

Under the heading "Broadband as a driving force of the transformation of the economy and society of China," MIIT provided these statistics for the number of "Netizens" using each of these most popular Internet applications:

- SNS [Social Networking Sites]*, 300 million (*registration accounts)
- Online music, 289 million
- Internet news, 266 million
- Instant message, 244 million
- Search engine, 235 million
- Online video, 222 million
- Online gaming 217 million
- Email, 187 million
- Blog, 182 million
- BBS, 103 million
- Online shopping, 88 million

Xiaohui Yu of the MIIT indicated that "sales of e-commerce reached RMB 3.1 trillion [\$454 billion], 9.7% of the total retail turnover; the scale of B2C broke hundred billion RMB [\$14 billion]." Regarding e-government, he noted 100% of the branches of the central government, 100% of the province governments, 98.5% of the cities, [and] more than 95% of the county have portal Web sites" at this point for government services to Internet users.

Presenters from the China Academy of Telecommunications Research claimed [net neutrality](#) is not as pressing an issue in China as in the United States, but there have been a few recent cases where net neutrality policy would apply. For example, in 2008 a south China operator blocked or slowed traffic from competitor BT. There was another, compulsory tying case in 2007, where third-party advertisements were inserted without the agreement of users. Additionally, operators have introduced tiered services, with fast lane access to some subscribers who pay a premium for it.

The conference was held in the monumental People's Palace, the parliament building constructed by the Ceausescu government — the second largest office building in the world after the U.S.'s Pentagon. Memorably evoked by Herta Müller, winner of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Literature, the Ceausescu regime was notorious for repression and the use of extensive information apparatus for persecution of the population.

Sylviane Toporkoff, president of Global Forum, and a Founding Partner in sponsor ITEMS International, said it was symbolic of the changing era that Global Forum's open debates now take place in a building which once allowed no alternative opinions. It appears that against the shadows of political repression and global economic recession, information and communication technologies today are seen as guiding lights for a more hopeful 21st century world.

Global Forum 2010 will be held in the United States, most likely in Washington D.C. The 2011 meeting is planned for Asia, probably China, according to sources in the sponsoring organization.

Gillette is professor of information and communication sciences at Ball State University, director of its Human Factors Institute, and a senior research fellow at the Digital Policy Institute.

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Global Forum 2008

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Global Forum eyes digital trust, broadband race

By JAY GILLETTE, IDG
Published: October 28, 2008

This year's Global Forum met last week in this paradoxically ancient and modern European city, and celebrated technological advance while noting chaotic policy environment conditions.

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Called the "Davos of IT" after the prestigious Swiss economic-policy meeting, Global Forum 2008 focused on issues of digital trust and identity, the frantic international race for broadband leadership, and pressures for reregulation in a world enduring economic crisis.

In its 17th year, Global Forum 2008 brought together information and communication technology (ICT) professionals from more than 40 countries. Among the speakers from the United States were FCC Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate and FTC Commissioner J. Thomas

Rosch. The presentations ranged from strategic to practical, from industry-centered to public-policy concerns.?

Global Forum President and co-founder Sylviane Toporkoff, who's also professor and director of a University of Paris graduate business program, noted that global ICT accounts for 8% of the world's gross domestic product. The core of Global Forum topics today is convergence, not just of new technologies and services but also of access and content, she said.

Repeated issues with digital trust and identity dominated access concerns. One of the most intriguing organizations participating in the forum was the [Global Trust Center](#). This Swedish nongovernmental organization seeks to act as a clearinghouse of digital-identity policy and rights management. It plans a global trusted-identity repository, allowing anonymous "claimed identity" as one possible orientation.

French Senator Pierre Laffitte, originator of the [Fondation Sophia Antipolis](#), a "technopolis" community and industrial complex in the French Riviera, welcomed the delegates as a forum co-sponsor. Laffitte emphasized that promotion of advanced R&D in Europe and elsewhere requires public-private venture-capital networking.

Public-private venturing was the dominant theme marking broadband-development policy. Competitive providers were seen as able to deliver broadband to urban areas worldwide, but services to rural and developing regions will require government interventions in such forms as capital guarantees, municipal networks and technology-uptake education for users.

The Greek government, for example, has embarked on an ambitious plan to provide broadband to Athens, Thessaloniki, and Greece's 50 largest cities. Four million people of

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Yet Greece intends to provide broadband at 100Mbps downstream and upstream to all these cities early in the next decade, starting as early as 2010. These are goals met today only by Korea and Japan, the world's leaders, the general focus of which historically has been on the largest urban areas.

The European Union's 2008 average broadband-penetration rate is more than 21%. Eight member states are ahead of the United States' broadband-penetration rate. Europe has 99 million broadband access lines. The United States has 75 million broadband subscribers and a penetration rate of about 25%.

China has the largest total online population, with 250 million people online overall, but not necessarily using broadband. Forty percent of access, for example, is from Internet cafes, 30% from mobile phones.

In terms of IP addresses, China is second globally with about 6% of the world's total, following the first-place United States' 57%. China's IP-address growth is 34% annually. Mandarin Chinese is now the second-largest linguistic group on the Internet at 19%. English is first, at about 29%, while Spanish is third, at about 8.5%.

The U.S. FCC's presentations, along with the FTC's talk, emphasized deregulation and the encouragement of private capital investment in infrastructure deployment. The growth of U.S. broadband was noted, with spreading competitive conditions after statewide franchise deregulation at the state level.

Both FCC presentations repeated the set of four principles released in 2005 as continuing the FCC's recommended guidelines for broadband policy (consumers' right of content access; choice of legal applications and service; right to connect legal and nonharmful devices; and right to competitive service providers). According to the speakers, these nonbinding principles address issues of network neutrality, which the FCC followed in its recent decision against Comcast network-management practices.

The Global Forum 2008 program will be accessible at the organization's Web site. The speakers had only brief periods to make their points. This enforced a fast-paced and intense burst of information from each presenter.

Because the conference took place just before U.S. elections, there was an intense and knowledgeable discussion by delegates on the presidential race. A nonscientific sample indicated overwhelming support for Barack Obama's candidacy among these international professionals.

Global Forum 2009 will be held in Bucharest, Romania, the first time the event will take place in an Eastern European venue.

Jay Gillette is professor of information and communication sciences at Ball State University, director of its Human Factors Institute, and a senior research fellow at the Digital Policy Institute.?

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On the Website www.items-int.com, you will find many selected articles about the Global Forum 2007 and Venice.

Blog www.salgues.net, well known and respected French blog with analysis and comments of some presentations given in Venice during the Global Forum 2007.

Global Forum 2006

www.itrmanager.com

Global Forum 2006

Implications et bénéfices de la convergence



Jeudi 09 novembre 2006

Par Guy Hervier. Pour sa quinzième édition, qui se tient à Paris cette semaine, le Global Forum s'est concentré sur la notion de convergence numérique dont on parle depuis longtemps, mais qui a fini par devenir une réalité. Une évolution lente, mais continue, qui couvre plusieurs dimensions, technique bien sûr, mais aussi sociale, politique, économique, administrative... Bref, il n'est pas un domaine d'activités qui ne soit impacté. « *Les maires sont les acteurs essentiels du développement des technologies de l'information, car si on se place au niveau des Etats, on ne*

peut que constater une accumulation d'échecs », constatait André Santini, d'Issy-les-Moulineaux, une des communes françaises les plus avancées dans ce domaine. Le maire de Taipei, Ying-jeou Ma, ne pouvait que confirmer cette assertion en présentant les initiatives qui ont notamment fait de sa ville la plus grande cité Wi-Fi au monde.

Taipei : plus grande cité Wi-Fi du monde

Partant du principe que l'espace physique était totalement saturé – Taipei compte environ 2,6 millions d'habitants sur une surface très réduite - il fallait donc organiser une nouvelle dimension, basée bien sûr sur les technologies de l'information. Lancé en 1999 lorsque Ying-jeou Ma est arrivé en poste, le programme Cybercity Initiative a été organisé en deux phases. De 1999 à 2002, il a consisté à construire une ville numérique (e-city) en mettant en place une infrastructure solide et une e-administration. Aujourd'hui, 88 % de tous les documents administratifs sont dématérialisés et sont traités numériquement, ce qui représente 500 000 chaque mois. La second phase s'est attaché à mettre en place ce que le maire de Taipei appelle une « mobile-city ».

Dans la première phase, la ville de Taipei a par exemple généralisé la messagerie électronique en offrant gratuitement une adresse à chaque habitant et en lui proposant des formations également gratuites. A ce jour, quelque 350 000 personnes ont bénéficié de ces prestations. « *Un jour, j'ai un reçu un mail me disant "Mon fils, tu avais l'air fatigué à la télévision"* » raconte Ying-jeou Ma. *J'étais plutôt surpris car j'habite jusqu'à côté de chez elle. Quand je lui demandé comment elle avait fait pour m'envoyer un mail, elle m'a tout simplement expliqué qu'elle avait utilisé un des points d'accès à Internet gratuit de la Ville et qu'elle s'était initiée grâce aux formations proposées par la municipalité. Plutôt surprenant pour une personne âgée de plus de 80 ans. Le lendemain, je lui ai acheté un ordinateur.* »

La deuxième phase a été baptisée B&O (Build & Operate) ; elle a permis d'ouvrir plus de 4000 points

d'accès à Internet et de toucher plus de 90 % des habitants de la ville. En juin 2006, Taipei a été certifiée la ville Wi-Fi la plus importante de la planète. « *Maintenant, forts de cette infrastructure, nous faisons la promotion de notre ville, conclut Ying-jeou Ma, auprès des sociétés européennes qui souhaiteraient s'implanter dans la zone APAC (Asie-Pacifique)* ».

Issy-les-Moulineaux joue la démocratie participative

André Santini ne peut que partager cette vision. Même si Issy-les-Moulineaux n'a pas la taille de Taïpeh, les réalisations n'en sont pas moins impressionnantes. Parmi les différents projets en cours, le maire de la ville a fait part de son dernier projet, le Fort numérique construit sur le fort historique qui a été conçu du temps de d'Adolphe Thiers avec comme objectif de protéger Paris de l'invasion étrangère, tout particulièrement venue de la Prusse.

« *Nous sommes aussi en train de mettre la fibre optique (FTTH ou Fiber To the Home) afin d'offrir le débit nécessaire aux applications d'aujourd'hui, mais nous nous heurtons à des difficultés, en particulier les gestionnaires d'immeuble* ». Issy joue la carte de la démocratie participative, notamment avec la diffusion des conseils municipaux sur une chaîne de télévision locale (IssyTV) et la possibilité aux citoyens de poser des questions en quasi temps réel. « *Suite à la mise en place de ces différents outils, nous avons constaté une plus grande implication des Isséens* », se réjouit André Santini.

Le logiciel, défi pour l'Europe

Passant à un niveau plus global, en l'occurrence à l'échelle du Vieux continent, « *la convergence devrait avoir deux conséquences majeures* », selon Edith Cresson, ancien Premier ministre et ancien commissaire européen, chargée de la science, de la recherche et du développement, « *sur l'industrie de l'audiovisuel et du cinéma avec une implication plus forte des opérateurs de télécoms et avec une importance croissante du logiciel qui est omniprésent et pour lequel l'Europe est très faible, par rapport aux Etats-Unis, mais aussi à la zone APAC (Asie-Pacifique) où le nombre de développeurs est en très forte croissance. Mais la situation n'est pas figée et rien n'empêche une redistribution des cartes. Le modèle Open Source constitue une réelle opportunité pour l'Europe* », a-t-elle conclu.

Pour qu'elle s'accomplisse sous les meilleurs auspices, « *la convergence doit être menée dans des conditions de saine concurrence*, enchaînait Thomas Rosch, commissaire de la FTC (Federal Trade Commission), l'autorité de concurrence américaine. *Et les occasions où cette concurrence peut être faussée sont relativement nombreuses : par l'innovation, la dynamique du marché, le cadre réglementaire, les fusions & acquisitions...* ». Bref, cela nécessite une surveillance de tous les instants.

Global Forum 2005

LETTRE INFORMATIQUE ET COLLECTIVITES LOCALES 26/12/2005

Documentation

Quelques sites internet

Institut Politech et résultats des European eDemocracy Award :

* www.politech-institute.org/edem_award.asp

** <http://leadershipblogging.com>

*** http://europa.eu.int/comm/commission_barroso/wallstrom/index_en.htm

**** <http://news.minnesota.publicradio.org/projects/2005/03/budget/>

***** www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm ; www.bundestag.de

Au Global Forum, deux journées de convergence

Il s'est tenu à Bruxelles les 7 et 8 novembre derniers, mais le Global Forum, en fait, existe depuis 1992. "C'est plus un lieu de réflexion pour le futur de la société de l'information qu'un forum", explique Sylviane Toporkoff, sa présidente. Il rassemble des experts internationaux d'origines diverses - organisations internationales, secteurs privé, public, télécoms, industrie du contenu... - de **plus de trente pays**. Chaque édition du Global Forum, commente la responsable, s'est tenue dans un lieu "symbolique" et en prise directe avec l'actualité des TIC : Bruxelles pour la proximité géographique avec la commission Europe, mais aussi New York, le Japon, Sofia Antipolis, le Sénat (France), Rome, Los Angeles, San Francisco... Le site internet d'Items International restitue bien cette volonté de diversité (des intervenants et des sujets traités) que promeut depuis des années le Global Forum. Le site constitue, à ce titre, une excellente ressource documentaire. L'occasion de découvrir, via les supports d'intervention des "speakers", les sujets évoqués au cours de l'édition 2005 : **l'impact de la convergence** (FCC américaine), la stratégie japonaise pour parvenir à créer une **"Ubiquitous Network Society"**, triple play sur mobile, le rôle des satellites dans la mobilité, **l'ouragan Katrina** et le rôle du régulateur (FCC américaine) dans la gestion du désastre, l'identification électronique, l'évaluation de l'administration électronique, les contenus dans un environnement de convergence, l'écologie des infrastructures numériques... Toutes ces personnes présentes au Global Forum ont en commun l'intérêt accordé à la convergence, insiste Sylviane Toporkoff. Mais alors que les thèmes abordés ont beaucoup évolué depuis la création du Global Forum - en 1992, on évoque la déréglementation à venir ! - 2005 est la première édition à se dérouler au moment où une réelle convergence apparaît. Ce qui ne modifie pas l'objectif du Global Forum qui est de continuer à demeurer le "Davos des TIC", et à garder constant le nombre de ses membres : 350 au maximum.

Agir en connaissance de cause

"Customize !" : c'est le conseil donné aux collectivités par Sylviane Toporkoff, présidente du Global Forum. Selon la responsable, les collectivités ne se penchent pas suffisamment sur la question de **l'adéquation des moyens** qu'elles peuvent mobiliser pour un projet, avec les besoins réels en l'occurrence. "Bien souvent, c'est trop ou pas assez", constate-t-elle. En matière de Wifi, il arrive que certaines portions de réseau sont développées alors que l'on sait pertinemment qu'elles ne serviront pas. Les collectivités doivent aussi **s'efforcer d'associer les citoyens à leurs projets**, explique Sylviane Toporkoff qui, par ailleurs, intervient comme consultante pour la ville d'Issy-les-Moulineaux en tant que vice-présidente d'Items. A Issy, commente-t-elle, la population est régulièrement consultée et informée (conseil municipal en ligne) : nous avons pris du temps pour expliquer ce qu'était le projet de crèche en ligne, mais c'était nécessaire. Naturellement, dans ce contexte TIC mouvant par nature, une **coopération internationale entre villes** devenait nécessaire : c'est ainsi qu'est né le Global Cities Dialogue (GCD), une autre initiative inspirée par Items. Rappelons, en quelques mots, que le GCD est un réseau international de villes "intéressées à travailler ensemble pour bâtir une société de l'information pour tous, basée sur le développement durable". Son président est actuellement André Santini (Issy), la vice-présidence revenant à Willi Lemke (Brême).

Quelques sites internet

www.items.fr/index_fr.php3

www.globalcitiesdialogue.org

www.items.fr/globalforum.php3?id_rubrique=75

26.12.2005 - LETTRE INFORMATIQUE ET COLLECTIVITES LOCALES n° 456 - page 7

Global Forum 2004

Dagens Industri, Wednesday 3 Nov. 2004
 (* Dagens Industri is Sweden's most important Business Journal.)

Ideas meet at IT mingle in Malmö

It has been called the Davos meeting of the IT industry. Tomorrow, 200 specially invited decision-makers from 25 different countries will meet in Malmö Town Hall for the Global Forum Conference.

“The Conference has two purposes. Firstly, to keep up-to-date with the new developments in the business and hence better understand the future, and; secondly, to be a meeting place for different actors and open up the networks”, says Sylviane Toporkoff, from the French company ITEMS International. ITEMS International organises the Global Forum in collaboration with the Science Park Sophia-Antipolis Foundation, the City of Malmö, as well as with a number of sponsors, such as the European Commission, Microsoft, IBM, and Sony Ericsson.

The conference aims at establishing different development projects in ICT and be a platform for discussions.

“Great opportunities”

The participants are often competitors on the market, but to the Global Forum you are invited to market your ideas and not your products, underlines Sébastien Lévy from ITEMS International.

“There will be great opportunities to meet, over a cup of coffee, the real top personalities in the industry, such as the CTO of Sun Microsystems, John Gage, or Microsoft’s chief of security, says Peter Höjerback, CEO for Øresund IT.

A number of delegates also come from national and international organisations, regions and cities.

The theme for this year’s conference is Convergence. One issue that will be debated is “e-learning”, computer aided distance education, another issue regards how IT can be used in order to give people better healthcare.

Øresund has IT cluster

The Øresund Region is a perfect exemple of convergence between healthcare and IT. In the Region you will find strong clusters of IT companies as well as the entire Medicon Valley. We work together in order to position the region, says Peter Höjerback.

The Global Forum has been held every year since 1992. This year’s edition will be held tomorrow and Friday (04-05/11) in Malmö Town Hall.

(Translated by Paulina Lundqvist, ITEMS International)

Sydsvenskan, Thursday 4 Nov. 2004



The Davos meeting of the IT world opens its doors in Malmö

SYDSVENSKAN
Torsdag 4 november 2004

IT-världens Davosmöte invigs i Malmö

► Malmö lockar till sig allt fler betydelsefulla konferenser. Idag invigs det som ibland kallas för IT-branschens Davosmöte. Global forum heter det två dagar långa IT-mötet med 200 inbjudna beslutsfattare från 25 länder.

Bland deltagarna finns dataföretagen Suns vice vd John Gage och Bulls vice vd Geraldine Capdeboscq, Microsofts europeiske ordförande Patrick de Smedt, Frankrikes tidigare premiärminister Edith Cresson och Pierre Lafitte som grundat den franska forskarbyn Sophie Antipolis.

Konferensen handlar dels om vad som kommer att hända i IT-branschen, dels om att skapa en mötesplats för aktörer och nätverk. Arrangör är franska Items International tillsammans med Sophia-Antipolis Foundation, Malmö stad och sponsorer som Sony Ericsson, IBM, Microsoft och EU-kommissionen.

Malmö is attracting more and more important conferences. Today is the inauguration of what is sometimes called the Davos meeting of the IT world. This two day long IT meeting, called Global Forum, gathers 200 invited decision-makers from 25 countries.

Among the participants the Vice President of Sun Microsystems, John Gage, the Vice President of Bull, Geraldine Capdeboscq, the Chairman of Microsoft EMEA, Patrick de Smedt, the former Prime Minister of France, Edith Cresson, and Pierre Laffitte, founder of the French Science Park Sophia Antipolis.

The conference deals partly with new developments and trends in the IT industry, partly with creating a meeting place for actors and networks. Organiser is the French company ITEMS International in co-operation with the Sophia Antipolis Foundation, the City of Malmö, and sponsors such as Sony Ericsson, IBM, Microsoft, and the European Commission.

(Translated by Paulina Lundqvist, ITEMS International)

Global Forum 2003

Adnkronos, 2 Nov. 2003

Thursday 6 and Friday 7 November will host at the Palazzo Taverna one of the most important international annual conference on ICT. 300 experts from governments, industry, academics and European Commission representatives will debate on diverse issues such as cultural, technological, regulatory, social, security and privacy, and economical issues, to shape the future of the information society.

The participants come from all over the world, Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Ireland, Morocco, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, etc... A delegation from the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) will participate.

This event is organised by Items International and the Foundation Sophia Antipolis and the opening will be held in the presence of the Italian Minister of Communications, Maurizio Gasparri.

ANSA, Rome, 1 Nov. 2003

Global Forum will design the future of ICT, Palazzo Taverna, Rome

ASCA (Daily News National Agency), 6 Nov. 2003

Privacy and technological developments, especially in the field of ICT, are creating difficulties. Privacy is necessary for the future of the ICT development. This was one of the aspects that were discussed at the Global Forum held in the Palazzo Taverna in Rome.

Il Sole 24 ORE (the Italian daily financial, political and economical newspaper), 5 Nov. 2003

What is the future of ICT? 300 experts from 28 countries will meet at the Global Forum in Rome, November 6 and 7, in the presence of the Minister Gasparri.

La Repubblica, 7 Nov. 2003

November 6th and 7th at the Palazzo Taverna, 300 experts from all over the world have debated on “connecting businesses and Communities”. This powerful and international forum has been very successful.



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