

Ladies and Gentlemen -- dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is my great pleasure and honour to welcome you to the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Global Forum / Shaping the future and to open the Global Forum 2007 here in Venice. It is wonderful to be able to welcome so many old friends as well as new faces to this magnificent place.

Why in Venice this year?

Venice represents history but also future.

Venice is preparing its future in many ways and there are 8 new spaces ready to develop ICTs for investors such as the lido where you have for exemple the Cita del cinema, the Parche Vega dedicated to nanotechnologies, or The beautiful Arsenale a great place for research center.

There is also a plan in ICT from 2007 to 2011 that offers to finance projects up to 70 per cent ; In + the local Cofindustria is available for partnerships.

Venice welcome 20 million tourist each year, this offers a lot of opportunities!

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to the City of Venice and his Mayor Massimo **Cacciari** for being so involved and offering the concert and the dinner tonight, the Azienda ULSS 8 di Asolo for their efficiency in helping organize the forum, **Principe** Aliata for helping in hosting this conference in this beautiful setting of the Giorgio Cini Foundation. Combining history, culture,

science and innovation in an exceptional way, the Foundation has already hosted a number of illustrious and significant gatherings, such as two G7 meetings in 1980 and in 1987, and the First World Conference on the Future of Science in 2005. It is definitely a perfect spot to reflect and discuss technological issues affecting the Knowledge Society of tomorrow.

I would like to express my gratitude to Zanardo who offers this splendid cocktail in the palazzo pisani Moretti yesterday night.

Thank you also to the main sponsors of the Global Forum 2007, which are:

Oracle, IBM, Telecom Italia, Qualcomm, Consip, eGovernet, Verizon, Postelink, AT&T, Venis, Guerrato, White & Case, Sagem Security Safran Group, the Wireless Internet Institute, Intema - Informatica Technologie Management, Veneto Banca, Zanardo, General Electric, the National Association of Broadcasters, Afilias, Alcatel-Lucent, EADS, Proxim Wireless, ETSI and -- as a matter of course -- all our supporting institutions. All these organisations represent in an excellent way the spirit of cooperation and dialogue in which the Global Forum was born and which continues to make the Forum a unique event.

This year's Global Forum will continue its tradition of being a premier think-tank for presenting and discussing leading edge technological development and innovative solutions. The subject of the discussions for the coming two days is a

very complex one and there are various aspects to consider. However, we have an excellent program comprising 9 high-level sessions that cover a variety of interests and disciplines related to the Forum's topic "Global Convergence 2.0 - Integration

Each session will deliver some recommendations that will be forwarded to the governments after the Forum

& Innovation “.

Furthermore, we innovated by adding 2 workshops at the end of the day that the Global Forum is very happy to host this year for the very first time.: The w2i workshop dealing with “Digital cities: Broadband wireless for better managed and safer communities” as well as the Awarding Ceremony of the World Summit Award for the most innovative eContent products in the world.

They are on the program and you are welcome to join them;

I sincerely hope that this year's Global Forum will result in an increased awareness of the problems and possibilities related to convergence in the context of social networking in all its many forms and a better knowledge of the experiences gained so far.

I am looking forward to two days of fascinating speakers, interesting panels, rich discussions and fruitful networking – and I hope you will enjoy it!

*[Announcements related to the organisation of the GF, e.g., sessions, lunches, gala dinner etc]*

For sessions this morning

Session 1 Arrazzi room

Session 2 Barbantini

It is advertised everywhere and you can ask at the registration desk

You have on your USB keys the speaker profiles so it gain time in presenting speakers.

At the end of the day Boats.

Now let me introduce the mayor