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President Global Forum

Welcome Speech

Ladies and Gentlemen, my dear friends, I am very pleased to open this 13th edition of the Global Forum in our host city Malmö.

Year after year, I am amazed that we are succeeding (with a lot of work!) in bringing together such a wonderful mix of key actors from different IT fields and cultures. This year we have 22 nationalities represented. This enables to discover different views and perspectives of the Information Society around the world which help each of us to build our own future.

As you know, the Global Forum Shaping the Future is an annual initiative of ITEMS International and the Sophia Antipolis Foundation.

This think tank would be impossible to build without the help and generosity of our Sponsors, which make this possible.

It is interesting to notice that even if they are in a world of competition, they fully understand, by helping us, the importance of both formal and informal face to face discussions and the great opportunity for the participants to develop imaginative solutions in partnership as well as create a global friendly network.

ITEMS International is very proud of the “Shaping the Future” approach that we are developing in many different ways for exemple in the field of eDemocracy, eGovernment and eEducation. Today in France is organised the first official eVoting experience and this an award for the work that we have done during the past four years with the European Commission, industrials, local authorities and Ministries of the Interior. You will have the releases of these different experiences on our website which has more and more success and the ITEMS team is at your disposal for furhter information.

Thank you for coming to Malmö even if some of you have taken tickets to Stockholm at first. Next time, please check with me before!

Now, just a little of logistics, we hope that the speeches will be not too long in the different panels to leave time for discussions and debates and go to the core of the issues.

However, please leave us your full PowerPoint or presentations and we will put them very quickly on our web site and continue to debate on it.

Thank you to all of you to have made the effort to come here and thank you again to the Governor, Bengt Holgersson, for this wonderful cocktail yesterday and to the Mayor of Malmö, Ilmar Reepalu as well as Eva Engquist, Director and Catharina Kramer, Business Development Manager, for Malmö Innovation, for their hard work.