

FOIA MARKER

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NEWMARKET

yes

Facsimile

Date: 3/6/00

To: Gene B. Sperling
The White House
Phone: 202-456-6630
Fax: 202-456-2223

From: Nicholas Dowling
Vice President, The Newmarket Company, Inc.
Phone: 202-298-6300
Fax: 202-298-6276

Pages: 10

Subject: Invitation to June 22-23 Event in Washington DC on
"Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies"

Dear Mr. Sperling:

The technology revolution is dramatically changing business, culture, governance and society. It enables new economic opportunities, connects and creates new communities, and breaks down borders and isolation. Yet the uneven progression of international IT growth is creating a gap between wired and non-wired societies. While many economies are embracing the latest innovations in communications, information management, and E-Commerce, much of the world is failing to keep pace.

Barriers to entering the information economy include infrastructure, policy and regulatory issues, economic or government structural weaknesses, or even political backlash to a

path toward rapid change. Understanding these barriers as well as the implications of a continuing digital divide are essential for both technology companies and policy makers around the world.

To address these critical issues, The Newmarket Company has joined forces with Oracle, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and other leading technology companies to organize a three-part series of events will convene leading policy, technology, and economic experts from around the world to consider these critical issues in both a global and regional context. The Newmarket Company is the global intelligence and advisory firm founded by former US National Security Advisor Anthony Lake, former CIA Director John Deutch, and former Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce David Rothkopf.

On behalf of Tony, John and David, I would like to invite you to be a featured participant at our "Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies" (EMET) inaugural event in Washington, DC on June 22-23, 2000. You would be one of approximately ten distinguished experts that will lead discussions with CEOs, regional leaders, and technology executives on the prospects for technological growth in international markets. A description of the event and issues to be addressed is attached.

EMET will convene the most interesting and influential international technology figures from around the world. Other participants will include leading policy makers such as U.S. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson, former Cable and Wireless Chair Lord David Young, Singapore Minister of Trade and Industry George Yeo, and former US National Security Advisor Anthony Lake. We have also invited international technology gurus such as Nathan Myhrvold, Masayoshi Son and Vint Cerf.

Please contact me at the information below if you have any questions about the program. In addition, please have your staff contact Elaine Sanderlin, our coordinator for the event, to confirm your participation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Points of Contact

For questions about the program:

Nick Dowling
Vice President
The Newmarket Company
Phone: (202) 298-6300
Fax: (202) 298-6276
ndowling@newmarketnet.com

To RSVP or for other event questions:

Elaine Sanderlin
Event Coordinator
The Newmarket Company
Phone: (202) 298-6300
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esanderlin@newmarketnet.com



THE NEWMARKET COMPANY
PRESENTS

EMERGING MARKETS, EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

*A Series of Three International Events Addressing the Opportunities and Challenges of
Bringing Technology to New Global Markets*

Emerging technologies and the integration of global markets have created a volatile, fast-growing new economy with explosive implications for emerging markets around the world. Yet many regions and countries may be left behind. Barriers to entering the information economy include infrastructure, policy and regulatory issues, economic or government structural weaknesses, or even political backlash to a path of rapid change. Understanding these barriers as well as the implications of a continuing digital divide are essential for both technology companies and policy makers around the world.

This three-part series of events will convene leading policy, technology, and economic experts from around the world to consider these critical issues in both a global and regional context.

Attached are materials summarizing the three Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies (EM/ET) events:

EM/ET I: Global Perspectives
Washington, D.C.

June 22-23, 2000

EM/ET II: Asia - The Fragile Phoenix
Taipei, Taiwan

October 23-24, 2000

EM/ET III: Americas 2001 - New Growth and New Models
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

December 7-8, 2000

EMERGING MARKETS, EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Scenarios for Bridging the Global Digital Divide

Global Scenarios Series Event

Washington, D.C.

June 22-23, 2000

If there is one issue that touches all others in the world today, it is how the information revolution is changing business, economies, societies and the lives of individuals. Yet many regions, countries or localities are not yet wired into the new economy.

The Newmarket Company, internationally known for its scenario exercises, will bring together world government and business leaders to examine this issue in a three-event series looking at emerging markets and emerging technologies. This event will cover the range of technology sectors, from chips and cable to software and e-solutions.

Newmarket will convene 60-90 leaders from the world's most important developing and developed economies -- cabinet ministers, technology policy makers, legislators, chief executives, entrepreneurs and experts -- in Washington, D.C. for a two-day, closed-door discussion on this set of crucial global issues.

How can regional policy makers harness the global information revolution and bridge the growing gap between rich and poor within their borders, within their regions, within the world at large? What governing policies and structures are necessary to attract IT investment? What regulatory hurdles or harmonization must be addressed before real competitiveness can be achieved? What infrastructure requirements are necessary to attract technology investment? What is the promise of e-commerce and e-government? What will be the political, economic, security and social consequences for the country that embraces the information revolution -- or does not? How can information technologies offer policy solutions?

These and other questions will be addressed in Newmarket's unique, interactive format whereby participants game-out alternative futures and work together to understand implications, drivers, opportunities, and risks involved.

Scenarios to be explored during the event include:

- ❖ *The Global Disconnect: Bridging the Global Digital Divide*
- ❖ *Regulatory Chaos: Governing Challenges and Opportunities of E-World*
- ❖ *E-Stability: Social and Political Backlash to the New Economy*
- ❖ *Next Generation Disruptive Technologies: Biotech, Nanotech, Spacetech and Beyond*

This event will convene the key decision-makers who are shaping the technologies, the markets, and the regulatory, policy and purchasing decisions that will impact your growth in some of the most important, rapidly growing and complex markets in the world. Because the forum is interactive -- everybody always has an open microphone -- participants can raise the issues of greatest significance to them throughout.

Because it will be attended by key ministers, CEOs, policy makers and opinion-leaders, all participants will play a role in shaping outcomes in one of the most important public debates of our era.

Expected attendees include current and former senior U.S. policy makers such as U.S. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson and former U.S. National Security Advisor Tony Lake, international leaders such as Singapore Ambassador Chan Heng Chee and Inter-American Development Bank President Enrique Ingles, international technology gurus such as Nicholas Negroponte and Masayoshi Son, and other international and U.S. officials with expertise and influence on global technology issues.

This event in Washington D.C. is the first of a three-part series on Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies. Part II of the series will take place in Asia and will focus on the unique challenges and opportunities of technology as Asia emerges from the economic turbulence of the last decade. Part III of the series will take place in Latin America and will examine how the "new" economy is changing the shape of American economies and the north-south relationship.

For further information about participating in this event contact:

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Vice President
The Jewmarket Company
Suite 200
3301 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 298-6300
(202) 298-6276

ASIA 2001: THE FRAGILE PHOENIX
EMERGING MARKETS; EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES II

Scenarios for a New Generation of Opportunities, Challenges and Leaders

Global Scenarios Series
Taipei, Taiwan
October 23-24, 2000

Asia has made remarkable progress recovering from the regional and global shocks of the late 1990s. Reforms previously unimaginable are afoot across the continent, from the transformation of Korea's chaebols, to the coming entry of the PRC and Taiwan into the WTO, to increased transparency and political change throughout Southeast Asia. A new Asia is emerging.

The rising challenge for the next generation of leaders in the region is managing the emergence and intersection of new technologies and new markets. The reality of a global "new" economy driven by technological changes has created massive opportunities for Asian companies even as it challenges traditional notions of social structure, openness, and international integration.

The Newmarket Company, internationally known for its scenario exercises that bring together world government and business leaders to explore alternative futures, will address these issues in an event expressly created for the next generation of regional leaders and their global counterparts. This event is the second of a three-part series looking at how emerging markets and emerging technologies are shaping the international business climate.

Newmarket will convene the most influential leaders from the region -- cabinet ministers, future cabinet ministers, legislators, chief executives, innovators, and other emerging opinion leaders -- for a two-day, closed-door discussion of the most critical challenges they will face. They will be joined by leaders and experts from the U.S., Europe, and elsewhere with a critical interest in Asia's future.

How will the information economy's demand for greater transparency and openness impact the politics of the new Asia? How will the emerging global digital divide impact relations among the peoples and countries of the region and the world? Where will the capital returning to Asia concentrate and what will be the consequences? What will be the consequences of PRC and Taiwanese entry into the WTO? How can Japan restore economic vitality and what if its efforts remain stalled? Where will the conflicts between tradition and the demands for innovation be the greatest? How will old conflicts like those on the Korean Peninsula and those across the Straits of Taiwan manifest themselves? What technological innovations will have the greatest impact on Asian growth? What of rising petroleum prices? What of a nascent international backlash against globalization?

The and other questions will be addressed in Newmarket's unique, interactive format in which participants game-out alternative futures and work together to understand their implications, the drivers that will bring them to pass, the opportunities they create and the risks they entail.

Scenarios to be explored during the event include:

- ❖ *The New Asian Miracle: Innovation, Rapid Change, New Capital and Who Will Lead*
- ❖ *The Phoenix Falter: Old Tensions, Fears of the New and the Next Setback*
- ❖ *The Global Disconnect: Overcoming the Digital Divide and Regulatory Chaos in Asia*
- ❖ *Nanotech 2001: The Technological Drivers (and their Consequences) Most Likely to Dominate*

For participants, this event is a chance to meet with a carefully selected, extremely high-level group in an exclusive setting focused on issues of great and direct importance to all present. Because the forum is interactive—everybody always has an open microphone, they can raise the issues of greatest significance to them throughout. Because it will be attended by key ministers, CEOs, other policy makers and opinion-leaders, they can play a role in shaping outcomes in one of the most important public debates of our era.

Of special importance, this meeting is conceived to be of greatest interest to those who will lead the region and the world in the two decades ahead, the young rising leaders who currently do not have a comparable forum to game out the futures they will share. Every element of the program will be focused on the issues of greatest importance to them: technological changes, demographic transformations, global trends and the new paradigms they will stimulate. Others, notably current leaders, will attend this event in an effort to help ensure a shared vision of the years ahead produces smooth transitions and a clear understanding of the on-going implications of the opportunities and challenges ahead.

For further information about participating in this event contact:

Nicholas Dowling
Vice President
The Newmarket Company
Suite 200
3307 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 298-6300
(202) 298-6276

AMERICAS 2001: NEW GROWTH AND NEW MODELS EMERGING MARKETS, EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES III

Scenarios for a New Generation of Opportunities, Challenges and Leaders

Global Scenarios Series Event
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
December 7-8, 2000

The Americas have weathered a storm in the last years of the 20th Century. Now new growth is on the horizon for many. The turn of the millenium will see these economies embark on new eras with a new generation of leaders at the helm. This new generation is rising among the elites of these countries, contemplating a hemisphere in which the old rules don't apply, in which new technologies are more important than old family ties, in which the nations of the south and the north are finding new common interests and new divisions, and in which the old models no longer apply.

Furthermore, new problems are emerging as serious challenges. The gap between rich and poor is growing, as is the digital divide. In some countries, nationalism is seen as a realistic alternative to globalization. In others such as Colombia, civil war festers on, threatening the entire region.

This new reality poses dramatic challenges for the next generation of leaders in the region. The reality of a global "new" economy driven by technological changes has created massive opportunities for Latin American companies even as it challenges traditional notions of social structure, openness, and international integration for national leaders.

The Newmarket Company, internationally known for its scenario exercises that bring together world government and business leaders to explore alternative futures, will address these issues in an event expressly created for the next generation of regional leaders and their global counterparts. This event is the third of a three-part series looking at how emerging markets and emerging technologies are shaping the international business climate.

Newmarket will convene leaders from North and South America: cabinet ministers, future cabinet ministers, legislators, chief executives, innovators, and other emerging opinion leaders for a two-day, closed-door discussion of critical challenges and the new economy. They will be joined by leaders and experts from Asia, Europe, and elsewhere with a critical interest in technology and the future of the Americas.

What are the barriers in Latin America to entering the information economy? Is there a future for FTAA? How will the information economy's demand for greater transparency and openness impact the politics of the new Americas? Where will the capital returning to Latin America concentrate and what will be the consequences? What will be the consequences of the recent travails of the WTO and the nascent backlash against globalization? Where will new political leadership in key countries take us? What technological innovations will have the greatest impact on pan-American growth?

These and other questions will be addressed in Newmarket's unique, interactive format in which participants game-out alternative futures and work together to understand their implications, the drivers that will bring them to pass, the opportunities they create and the risks they entail.

Scenarios to be explored during the event include:

- ❖ *The FTAA Reborn: From New US Leadership, New Hope for an Old Idea*
- ❖ *The New Economy: A Volatile Rush to the Information Age or Economic Backlash and Setback*
- ❖ *The Global Disconnect: Overcoming the Digital Divide and Regulatory Chaos in Latin America*
- ❖ *Nanotech 2001: The Technological Drivers (and their Consequences) Most Likely to Dominate*

This is an opportunity to convene the key decision-makers who will shape the technologies, the markets, and the regulatory, policy and purchasing decisions that will impact growth in some of the most important, rapidly-growing and complex markets in the world. Because the forum is interactive — everybody always has an open microphone — participants can raise the issues of greatest significance to them throughout. Because it will be attended by key ministers, CEOs, other policy makers and opinion-leaders, they can play a role in shaping outcomes in one of the most important public debates of our era.

Of special importance, this meeting is conceived to be of greatest interest to those who will lead the region and the world in the two decades ahead. Every element of the program will be focused on the issues of greatest importance to them: technological changes, demographic transformations, global trends and the new paradigms they will stimulate. Others, notably current leaders, will attend this event in an effort to help ensure a shared vision of the years ahead produces smooth transitions and a clear understanding of the on-going implications of the opportunities and challenges ahead.

For further information about participating in this event contact:

Nicholas Dowling
Vice President
The Newmarket Company
Suite 100
3307 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 298-6300
(202) 298-6276

Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies

Confirmed Participants as of June 7, 2000

Donald Abelson, *Chief, International Bureau*, Federal Communications Commission

Neil Allen, *Chairman and CEO*, Allen Global Holdings, LLC

J. Brian Atwood, *Executive Vice President*, Citizens Energy Corporation and former Administrator, US AID

Tengku Azzman Shariffadeen, *President and CEO*, MIMOS Berhad, Malaysia

Zanny Minton Beddoes, *Economist in Residence*, The Economist, United Kingdom

Jagdish Bhagwati, *Arthur Lehman Professor of Economics*, Columbia University

Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, *Executive Director*, European Bank for Reconstruction & Development and former Prime Minister, Poland

David Birnbaum, *Vice President*, Softbank Inc.

Edward Black, *President*, Computer and Communications Industry Association

José Octavio Bordón, *Minister of Education, Technology and Culture*, Government of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Lael Brainard,* *Deputy Director*, National Economic Council, The White House

Bradford Brown, *Chairman*, National Center for Technology & Law, George Mason University

Chan Heng-Chee, *Ambassador to the United States*, Embassy of the Republic of Singapore

Joyce Chang, *Managing Director, Head of International Fixed Income Research*, Chase Securities

Jon Cunliffe, *Director, International Finance*, H.M. Treasury, United Kingdom

Rudolf Dolzer, *Director*, Institut für Völkerrecht and former Director General, Office of the Chancellor, Germany

Peter Faid Faisal, *Director and Co-founder*, IslamiQ.com Ltd, United Kingdom

Pate Felts, *Assistant U.S. Trade Representative*, Office of the United States Trade Representative

Linda Fisher, *Vice President*, Pharmacia Monsanto

Charles Fleischman, *Co-Chairman*, Criptic, LLC

Shinji Fukukawa, *Chief Executive Officer*, Dentsu Institute for Human Studies and former Vice-Minister of International Trade and Industry, Japan

John Gage, *Chief Science Officer*, Sun Microsystems

John Gannon, *Chairman*, National Intelligence Council

John Gardner, *Vice President*, AT&T

Lawrence Greenberg, *General Counsel*, The Motley Fool

Peter Hakim, *President*, Inter-American Dialogue

James Harmon, *President and Chairman*, Export-Import Bank of the United States

Hasnita Hashim, *Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder*, IslamiQ.com Ltd., United Kingdom

Adnan Hassan, *Senior Knowledge Officer*, The World Bank

Benny Hu, *President*, China Development Industrial Bank, Taiwan

José Miguel Insulza, *Minister of the Interior*, Chile

Tom Kalil, *Special Assistant to the President*, National Economic Council, The White House

Mohsen Khalil, *Director, Global Information and Communication Technologies*, International Finance Corporation

Duk-Choong Kim, *President*, Ajou University and former Minister of Education, Korea

Sukhan Kim, *Senior Managing Partner*, Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld

David Krawitz, *President*, Shandwick Public Affairs

Anthony Lake, *Co-Chairman*, Intellibridge Advisory Council and former National Security Advisor

H. David Lambert, *Chief Information Officer*, Georgetown University

Frank Langhammer, *Executive Vice President and COO*, Taylor-Dejongh, Inc.

Bud Langston, *Executive Director Operations*, Oracle Corporation

Ricardo Gil Lavedra, *Minister of Justice and Human Rights*, Argentina

Yong-Teh Lee, *Chairman*, TriGem Computer Inc., Korea

Eric Lindner, *Chief Executive Officer*, Capital Transportation, LLC

Ernesto Maceda, *Ambassador to the United States*, Embassy of the Philippines

Pedro Maisonnave, *Chief Executive Officer*, GlobalStar Brazil

Matt McHugh, *Counselor to the President*, The World Bank

Charles Nemfakos, *Deputy Under Secretary*, Department of the Navy

Neal Ochsner, *Chief Business Development Officer*, iDefense, Inc.

Othman Yeop Abdullah, *Chairman and CEO*, Multimedia Development Corporation, Malaysia

Jack Pellicci, *Vice President, Global Public Services*, Oracle Corporation

Alexander Pentland, *Academic Head*, MIT Media Lab

Frank Ponzio Jr., *President*, Symbolic International

Clyde Prestowitz, *President*, Economic Strategy Institute

John Rendon, *President*, The Rendon Group

Bill Richardson, *Secretary of Energy*, United States

Donald Roth, *Managing Partner*, Emerging Markets Partnership

R. Joseph Schlosser, *Global Leader Learning Education*, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Julian Schweitzer, *Director of Strategy and Operations*, The World Bank

Jaime Serra Puche, *Senior Partner*, Serra Asociados Internacionales and former Minister of Finance, Mexico

William Shaw, *Senior Economist*, The World Bank

Michelle Siren, *Deputy Director, International Business Networks*, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Gordon Smith, *President*, Gordon Smith International and former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada

Gene Sperling,* *Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director*, National Economic Council, The White House

Robert Stillman, *President*, Milbridge Capital Management, LLC

John Tonelli, *Principal*, International Venture Partners, LLC

Yoo Chong-ha, *Professor*, Sogang University and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Korea

Chung-bun Yoon, *President*, Korea Information Society Development Institute, Korea

Zhang Xiaoli, *Director*, Foreign Affairs College, China

* Confirmed in principle, subject to schedule availability

See p. 2 for Gene's Event

INTELLIBRIDGE CORPORATION PRESENTS:
THE GLOBAL SCENARIOS SERIES

"EMERGING MARKETS, EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES"

June 21-22, 2000
Washington DC
Four Seasons Hotel

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception and Remarks
"International Power and Policy in the Internet Age"

Following an opening reception, participants will hear opening remarks from senior global experts in government and business that will frame the next day's scenario sessions.

Panelists:

- Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, Director, EBRD and former Prime Minister, Poland
- Ken Courtis, Vice Chairman, Goldman Sachs
- John Gannon, Chairman, National Intelligence Council
- Gordon Smith, President, Gordon Smith International
- Gene Sperling, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director, National Economic Council

THURSDAY, JUNE 22

7:30-8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast and Registration for Delegates

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Opening Plenary Session
"Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies: Global Technology Drivers of the Next Decade"

Key technology leaders from the United States and around the world will highlight the major developments and trends of 2000 and what they see in store for the coming decade. A special focus will be on those trends that will have a particular impact on emerging markets growth patterns, distributions of wealth and political power and other issues that are likely to be central to economic and political dynamics between the emerging and developed worlds.

Discussion leaders:

- John Gage, Chief Science Officer, Sun Microsystems
- Y.T. Lee, Chairman, Trigem Computer, Inc., South Korea
- Elliott Masie, President, The Masie Center

- **Othman Yeop Abdullah**, Chairman and CEO, Multimedia Development Corporation, Malaysia
- **Alexander Pentland**, Academic Head, MIT Media Labs

PLEASE NOTE: THIS OPENING PLENARY SESSION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PRESS. ALL OTHER SESSIONS WILL BE CLOSED TO THE PRESS AND STRICTLY OFF THE RECORD.

10:15-12:15 p.m.

Scenario I

"Bridging the Digital Divide: Challenges and Opportunities"

In this scenario, participants will review and consider how to overcome the growing gap between countries and regions in investment and growth of a digital economy. The discussion will analyze the forces behind the digital divide and what political leaders and companies need to do to bring these new technologies into new markets. Two scenarios are presented. In the first scenario, the policies and private sector actions that lead to technology serving as an integrative force in the world and one which bridges and reduces gaps will be explored. How did technology empower greater numbers of people, alleviating economic and social ills, and offering new models of development? In the second scenario, current trends continue and the digital divide grows worse. Technology fails to reach all segments of society, which ultimately widens existing cleavages. Economic and political chaos erupts. Fault-lines are defined. That country finds itself further behind in its technological development. How did that society fail and what choices did the government, business and society make that resulted in failure?

Discussion leaders:

- **Donald Abelson**, Chief, International Bureau, FCC
- **Brian Atwood**, Executive Vice President, Citizens Energy Corp. and former Administrator, USAID
- **Chan Heng Chee**, Ambassador, Embassy of Singapore
- **Tom Kalil**, Special Assistant to The President, The White House
- **John Kerry**, United States Senator
- **Scott Yeager**, Senior Vice President for Strategic Development, Enron Broadband Services
- **Chung-bun Yoon**, President, Korea Information Society Development Institute, South Korea

12:30-2:45 p.m.

Luncheon

"Infrastructure for the Information Economy: Prerequisites to Growth"

This luncheon roundtable discussion will focus on how a new generation of policy makers around the world is reacting to rapid changes in technology,

what policies are being considered and adopted to attract technology investment and stimulate technology growth, and how new public-private partnerships are being fostered to accelerate the development of the needed technological infrastructures that are the essential prerequisite for national competitiveness in the information age.

Discussion leaders:

- **Hattie Babbitt**, Deputy Administrator, USAID
- **John Gardner**, Vice President, AT&T
- **James Harmon**, Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States
- **Tengku Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen**, President and CEO of MIMOS Berhad, Malaysia
- **Tom Kalil**, Special Assistant to the President, The White House

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Scenario II

"New Economies in Search of New Models"

In this scenario, top international business leaders and policy makers will address the lingering sense that while the private sector has ushered in the era of a "new economy" our models for creating growth, ensuring social equity and managing trade, fiscal and monetary issues are antiquated and useless. Is the Fed overly cautious of growth rates that are to be the norm in this new environment? What are the consequences for emerging markets? Should e-commerce be regulated differently from old fashioned commerce? Are multilateral institutions promoting old industrial growth models in an era in which new approaches are needed, where the focus needs to be on new kinds of training, entrepreneurship, access to venture capital, etc.? In the scenario session, we will explore the logical conclusions --and occasional shortcomings--of existing models to their logical conclusions. We will also explore the implications of some new models with a special eye toward which regions are best positioned for growth and how the dynamic between developed and developing regions is likely to change in this new world.

Discussion leaders:

- **Jagdish Bhagwati**, Columbia University
- **Lael Brainard**,* Deputy Director, National Economic Council
- **Rudolf Dolzer**, Director, Institute for International Law and former Director General, Germany
- **Clyde Prestowitz**, President, Economic Strategy Institute
- **Ira Shapiro**, Partner and Head of International Trade Practice, Long, Aldridge & Norman
- **Dorothy Yu**, Executive Vice President, Nextera Enterprises

5:00 -6:30 p.m.

Cocktail Reception

6:30-9:00 p.m.

Dinner and Concluding Discussion
"Winners and Losers in the New Cyber-Order"

Distinguished economic and international affairs experts will talk about how technology is driving globalization and changing the international environment. How are countries competing against each other to draw high tech investment and business? How are high-tech firms helping to intensify the trend of globalization? Specifically: who looks likely to end up in the technological winners circle, who is most likely to be left behind, and why. *(Dinner hosted by Multimedia Development Corporation, Malaysia and Trigem Computer, Inc., South Korea)*

Panelists:

- **Jose Miguel Insulza**, Minister of Interior, Chile
- **Mohsen Khalil**, Director of Global Information and Communications Technology, International Finance Corporation
- **Anthony Lake**, Co-Chairman, Intellibridge Advisory Council and former Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
- **Othman Yeop Abdullah**, Chairman and CEO, Multimedia Development Corporation, Malaysia
- **Y.T. Lee**, Chairman, Trigem Computer, Inc., South Korea
- **Jack Pellicci**, Vice President, Global Public Services, Oracle Corporation
- **Yoo Chong Ha**, former Foreign Minister, South Korea

9:00 p.m.

Adjournment

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

AT THE REQUEST OF PARTICIPANTS AND SPONSORS, FRIDAY HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR MEETINGS AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES AMONG PARTICIPANTS. IF INTERESTED IN RECEIVING ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING MEETINGS WITH FELLOW PARTICIPANTS, PLEASE CONTACT ELAINE SANDERLIN AT (202) 298-6300

* Invited

MEMO

TO: Gene Sperling

FR: Sean Dobson

RE: Format of Your Panel at International Digital Divide Conference

DT: 6/21/00

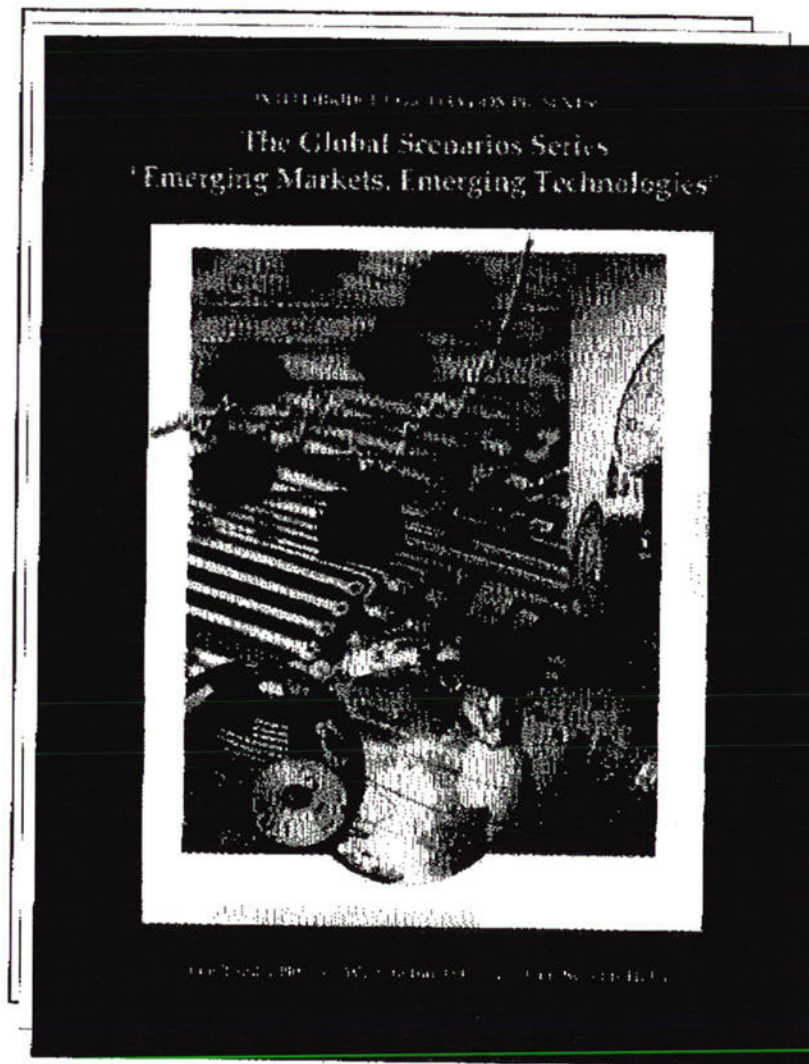
Your panel is entitled "Bridging the Digital Divide: Challenges and Opportunities".

The organizers of the conference will begin the panel with a PowerPoint presentation in which two scenarios are unfolded (see next subtab in this book for the presentation itself): (1) the digital divide narrows thanks largely to market forces; (2) the digital divide grows wider, leaving developing countries, rural areas and working families behind.

Each of the panelists gets asked a question about one of these scenarios and may spend five minutes or so delivering his response. Considering your position, it is reasonable to assume that you will be asked a question like: "In the event that the digital divide worsens, what should the U.S. government and its G-7 partners do to close it?"

Global Scenarios Series

Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies



Power Point

Scenario I: Bridging the Digital Divide Challenges and Opportunities



Key elements of the digital divide:



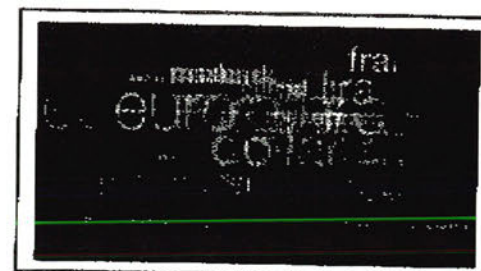
Wires: the phone divide

Economics: the cost of connecting

English: language of the net

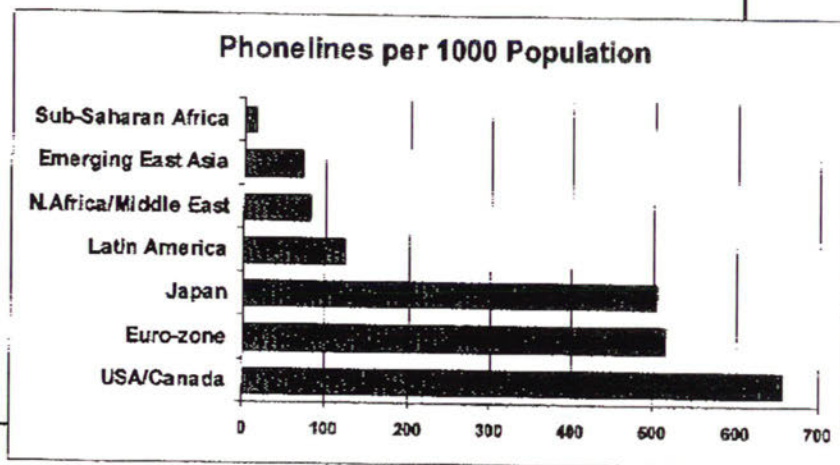
Other:

- ⌘ Government barriers
- ⌘ Urban vs. rural
- ⌘ Literacy and science education

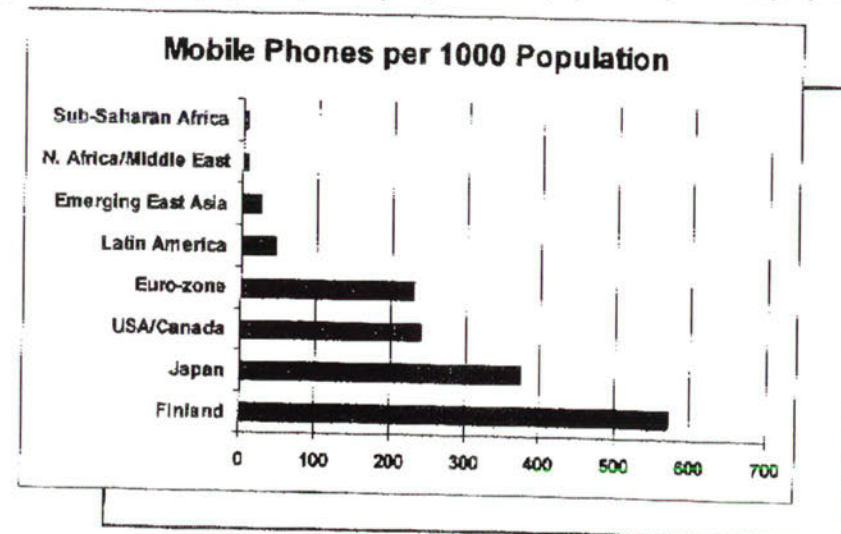


Global Scenarios Series

Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies

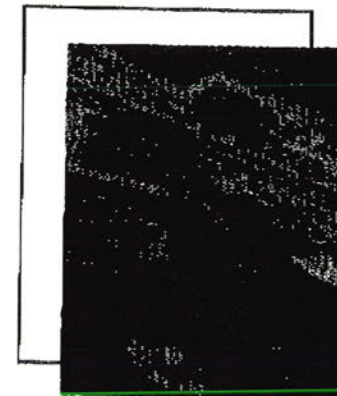
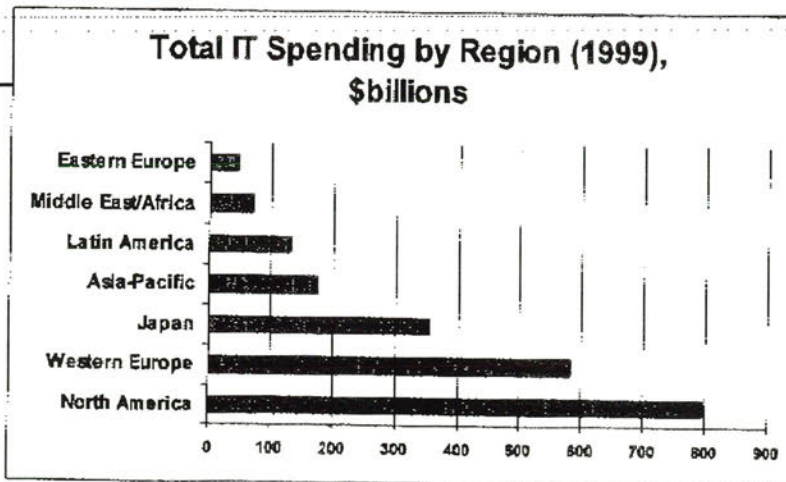
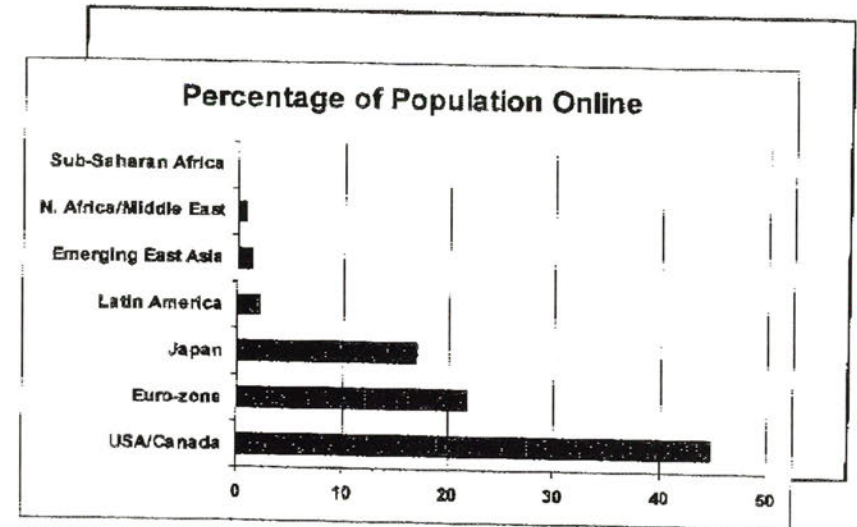
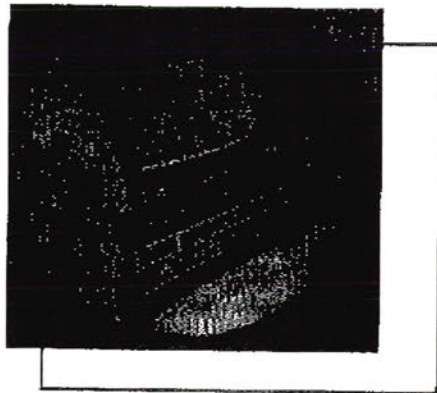


Sources: IDC, ITU, Forrester Research



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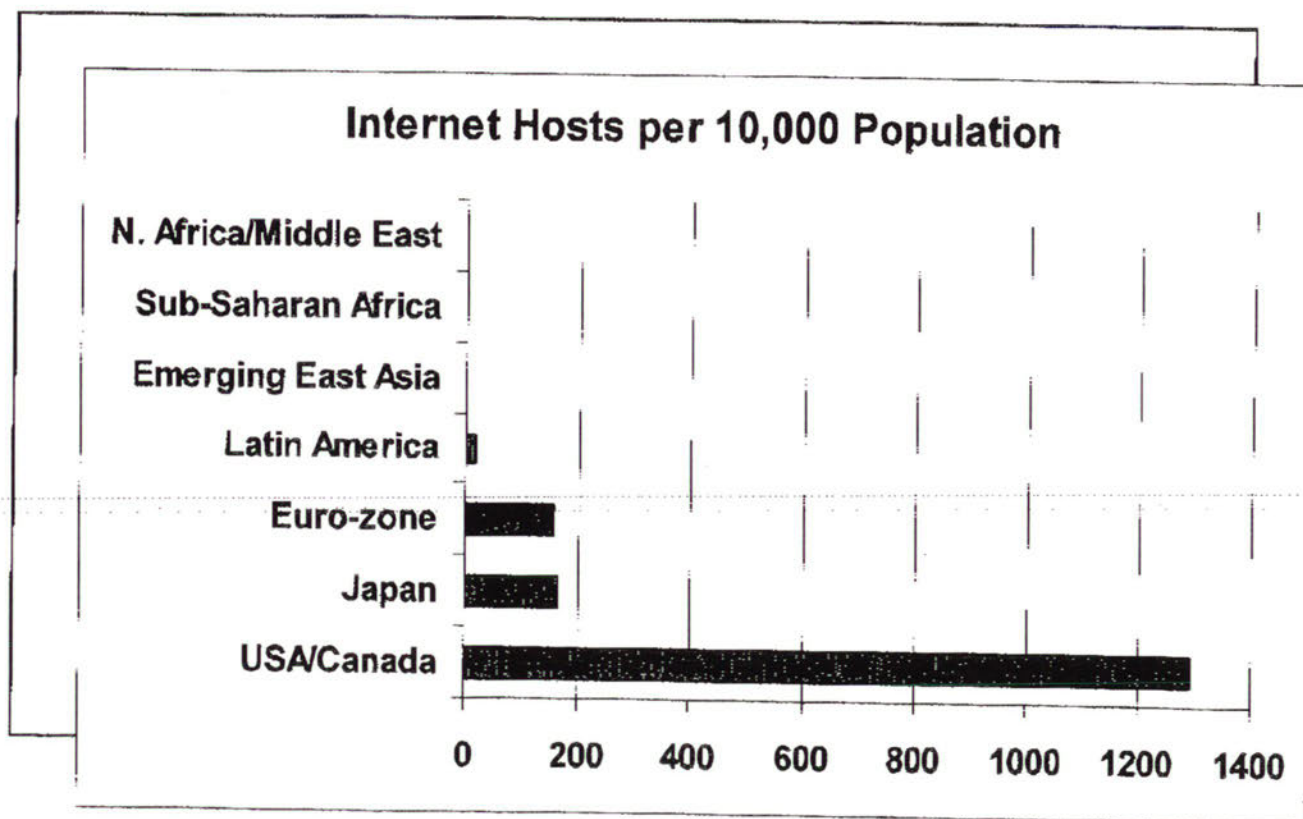
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Sources: IDC, ITU, Forrester Research

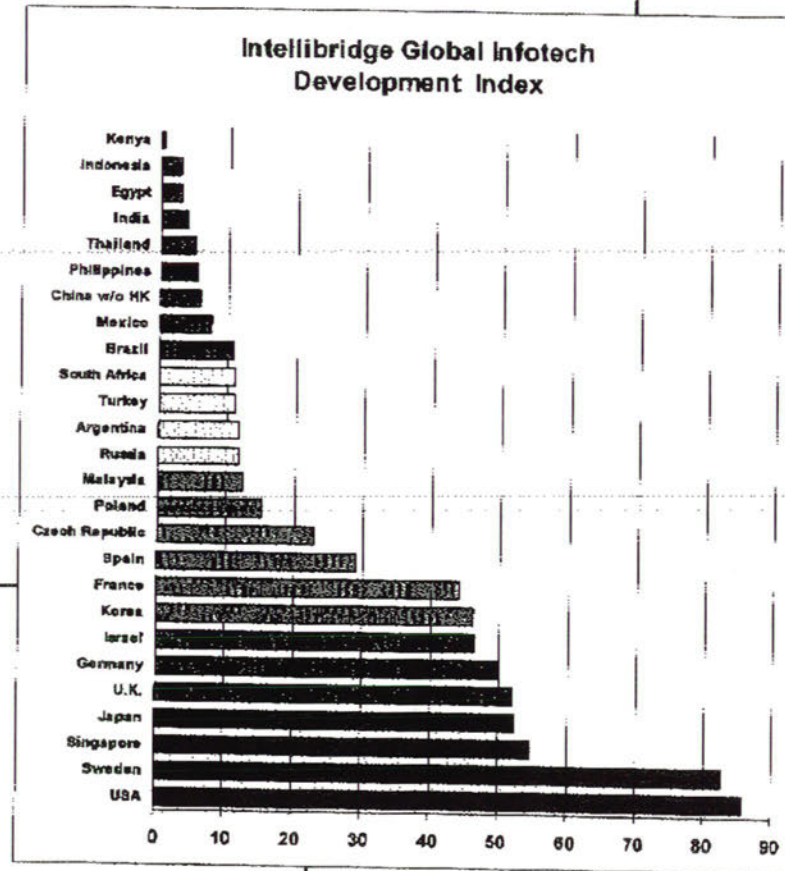
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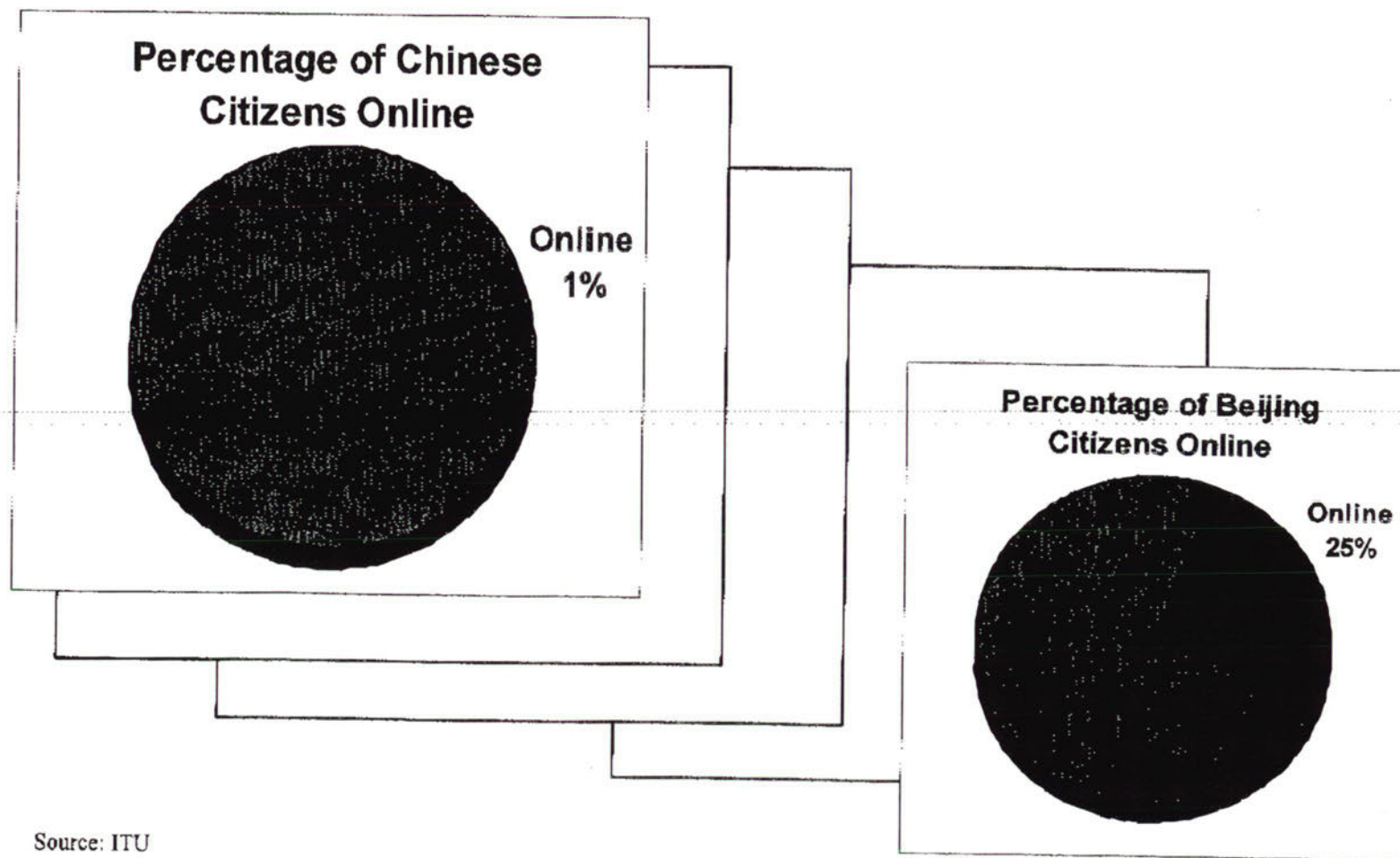


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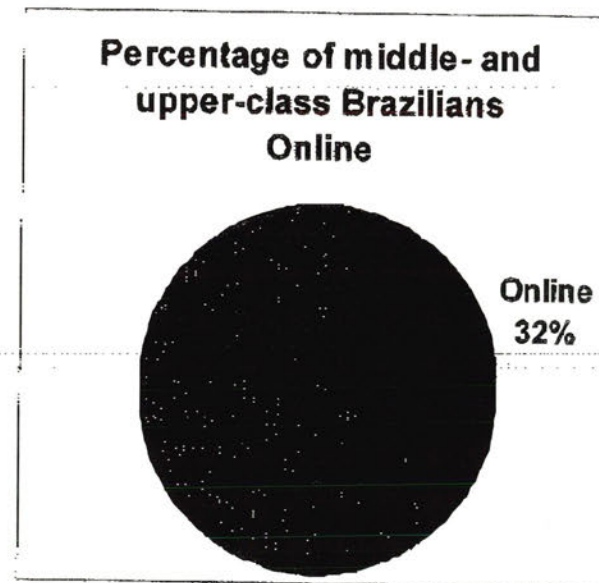
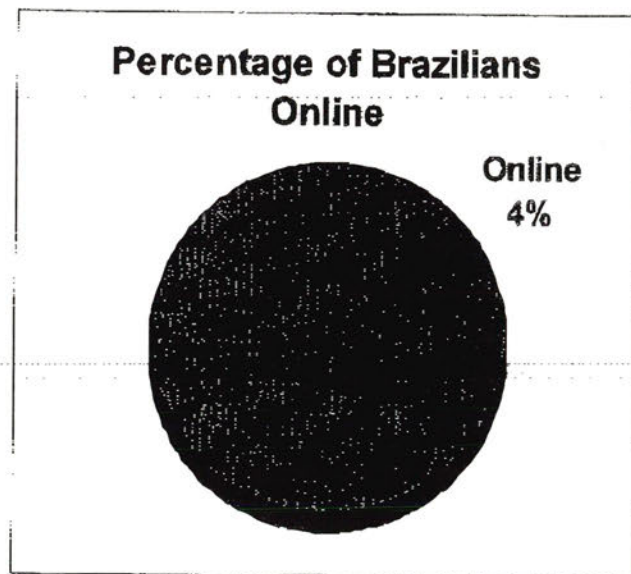


The Urban/Rural Divide



Source: ITU

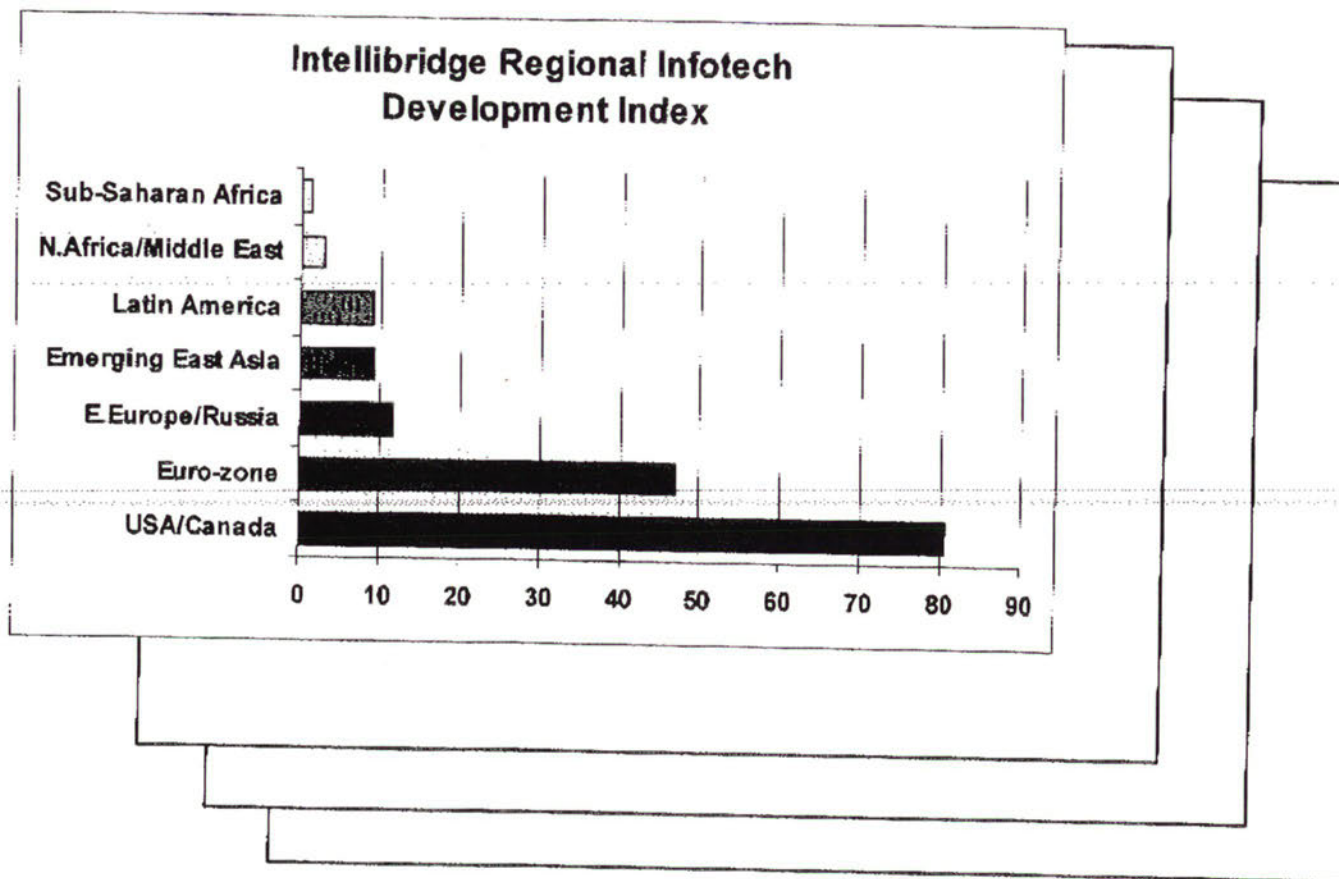
The Wealth Divide



Source: ITU

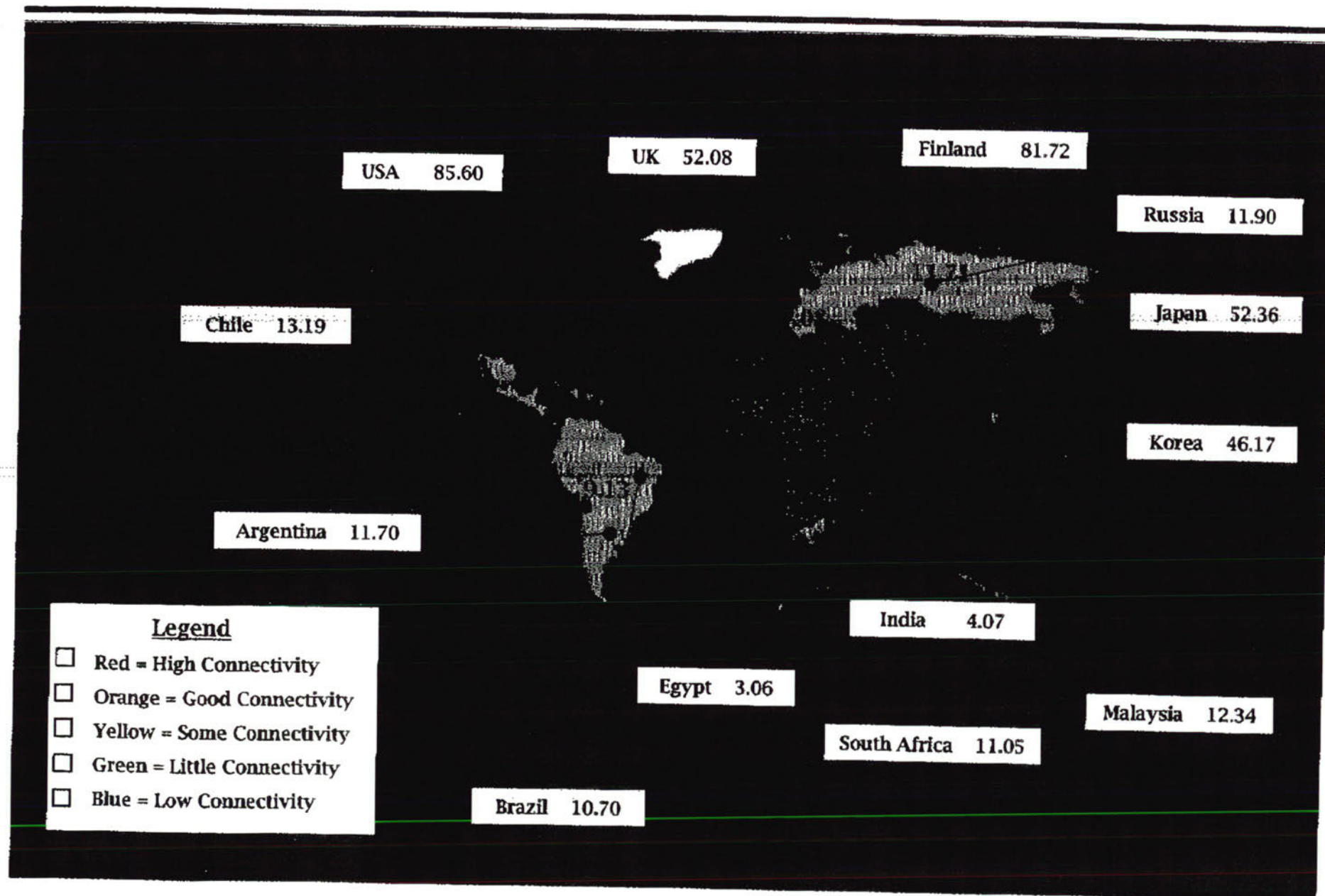
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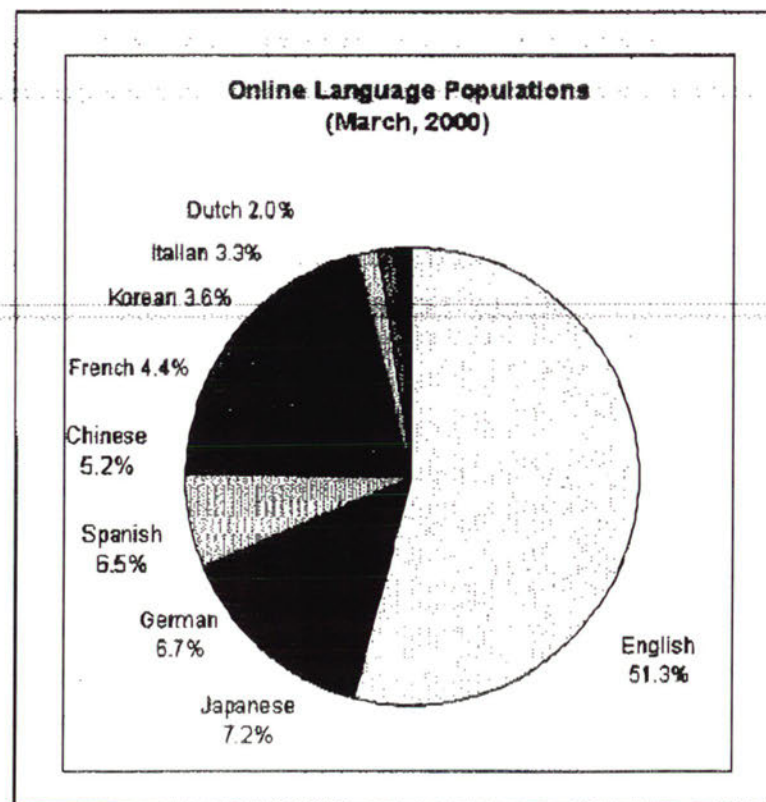


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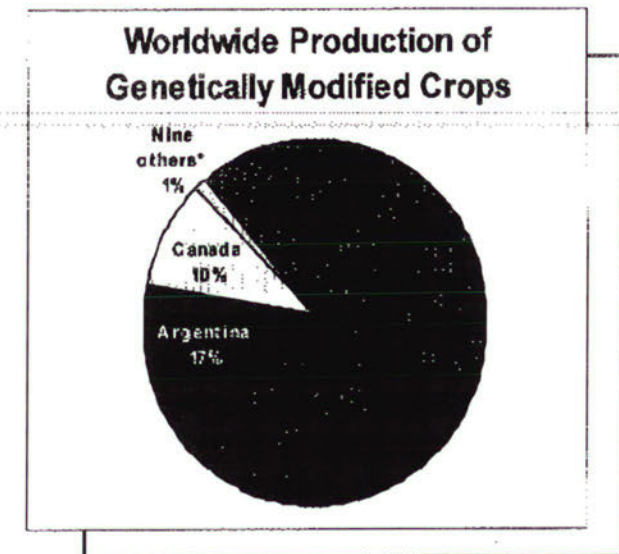
English: Language of the Internet



Source: Global Reach

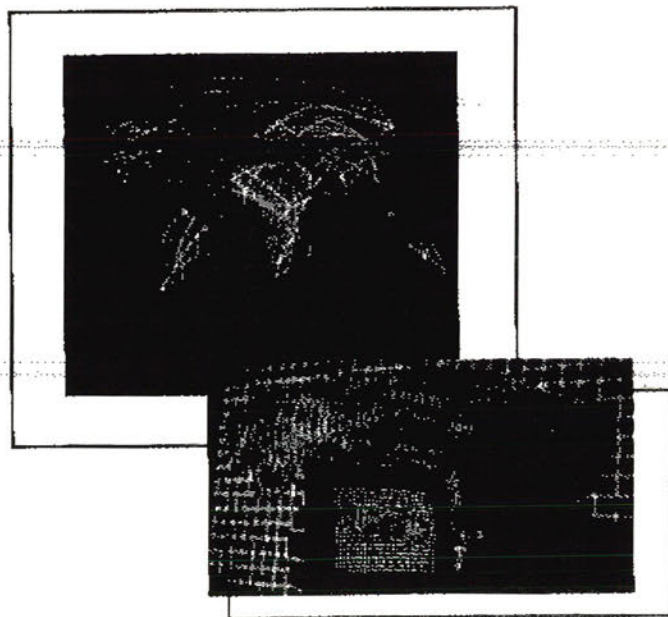
The Other Divide: Biotechnology

- ⌘ **Economic inequality denies access to poorer countries**
- ⌘ **Political distrust blocks access in many wealthier countries**
- ⌘ **Contrast of views within and among regions**
 - **EU political hostility and technical innovation**
 - **Growing Latin American opposition**
 - **Developed vs. developing Asia**
 - **Africa: greatest needs, poorest access**
 - **Broad acceptance and innovation in US**



*Australia, China, France, Mexico, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain and Ukraine.
Source: Foreign Affairs

One Future: A Broader Digital Economy



Digital divide decreases both within and among countries

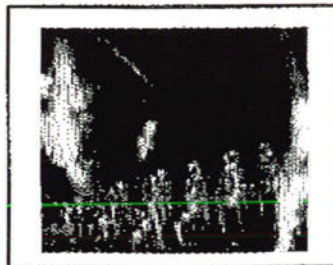
Public and private sector cooperate to overcome key barriers (investment, infrastructure, education and literacy)

Technology spreads to rural areas

- ~ **Teledensity grows, wireless and satellite coverage expands**
- ~ **Internet kiosks connect whole communities**

Implications of A Broader Digital Economy...

- ✧ Labor graduates to high-technology jobs
- ✧ Biotechnology advances help overcome key health challenges in developing countries
- ✧ Global corporations, international institutions, and non-governmental organizations gain power at expense of national governments
- ✧ New and old industries utilize technology to expand into emerging markets, raising living standards globally



The World Bank Group

IBRD • IDA • IFC • MIGA • COS

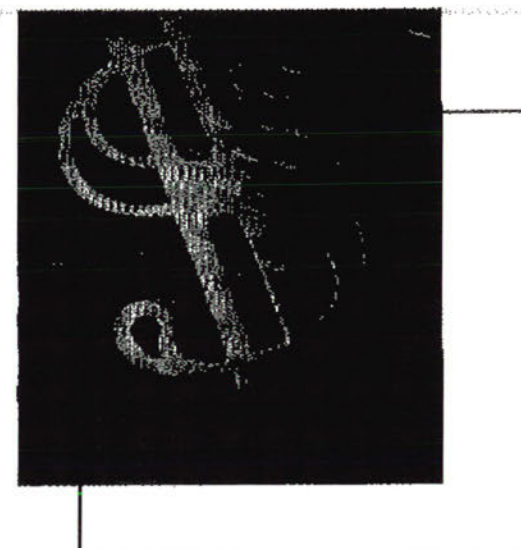
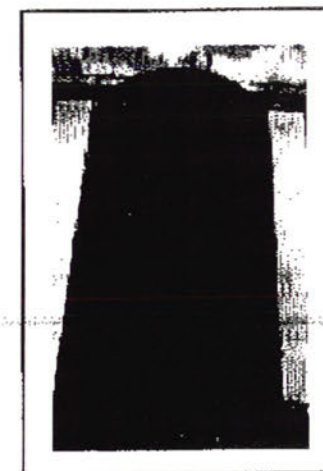
Alternative: The Digital Divide Worsens



- Educational and macroeconomic thresholds are too low
- Domestic industry and government fail to cooperate
- Countries caught in downward spiral are bypassed
- Tech advances benefit current users, not new entrants
- Industrialists and labor hang on to old ways

Implications of a Worsening Divide

- Wealth/digital divides are reinforced
- Nodes of prosperity increasingly separate
- Other tech advances come slowly
- Rich can afford non-GM foods while poor cannot
- Much of the world remains outside the digital economy or the reach of biotechnology advances



The Global Digital Divide: Key Themes

➤ **Understanding the digital divide's macroeconomic, public policy, and technological components, and how they interact**



➤ **Finding the best formula for promoting technology investment and growth**

➤ **Identifying those technologies appropriate for developing countries**

➤ **Recognizing the potent implications for societies on either side of the divide**



DRAFTA Framework to Ensure the Global Diffusion of Internet/New Economy

The growth of information technology has sparked rapid economic growth in developed countries and is changing the way people live, learn and work. One of the principal challenges facing the global community is to ensure that advanced communications services – and the attendant economic, social and political dividends – are spread throughout the world. Many developing countries have a strong interest in the Internet and electronic commerce but must address several challenges in order to obtain the full benefits of the online medium. This presents the global community with an opportunity to ensure that the Internet, information technology and electronic commerce can close what some have already begun to characterize as a global digital divide. To be effective, all stakeholders – including the G-8, developing countries, multilateral institutions, the global business community, and foundations – must work together on a new framework for action to ensure that the benefits of the Internet are shared around the globe.

Goal

Establish specific goals for key indicators such as connectivity and create a structure that can be used by any country to obtain support from the key stakeholder communities to accelerate the growth of information technology in support of country-specific objectives.

Overarching principles

- **Sustainable success depends on the active participation of all “stakeholders.”** Private sector leadership has been critical to the rapid adoption of Internet services and information technology in the United States and other developed countries. In order to make the Internet a truly global medium, however, a new set of challenges must be addressed. A specific, measurable commitment from governments, multilateral lending institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector will be required.
- **Each country must tailor its own solution.** While the Internet is a global medium, it must serve local needs and aspirations. Indeed, one of the Internet’s most powerful features is its ability to unite individuals with shared interests and values. The online medium can be used to help the people of developing countries to preserve their cultural and linguistic heritage even as it helps break down barriers to economic and intellectual exchange. In addition, Internet content and services can be adapted to help meet basic development goals, such as improved education and public health. With this in mind, countries need to create comprehensive programs that will effectively advance their identified national information economy agendas.
- **Infrastructure is critical.** The best Internet content and services cannot reach the citizens of developing countries without communications platforms and devices that are capable of providing access to the online medium at a reasonable costs. The availability and cost of communications infrastructure is a critical roadblock to the

Internet in many countries. With legacy telecommunications networks (based on fixed, circuit-switched technology), low levels of telephone and personal computer penetration (particularly in rural areas), and few technical resources available, developing countries should consider innovative alternatives for access as part of any comprehensive solution.

- **The policy and regulatory environment must facilitate Internet adoption.** Public policy and regulation is critical to expanded usage of networked information technology. The policy agenda should be comprehensive, identifying and removing roadblocks in the e-commerce value chain. These roadblocks begin with access to affordable telecommunications but extend to such divergent areas as encryption policies, intellectual property protection, trade barriers in the areas of banking, express delivery services, and advertising, rights and responsibilities for online content, and consumer confidence (including privacy and consumer protection law). In the absence of a predictable, transparent policy environment, capital markets business, and multilateral lending institutions will continue to be reluctant to participate in local economies.
- **Societies must understand how to fully embrace the tools of the new economy.** In order to be successful, any solution will require the understanding and active participation of the members of society. The tools of the new economy can be made available, in part, through traditional educational institutions. In places where educational institutions or government officers are connected, these places could be the starting points for extending access to broader groups of people and businesses. In addition, community centers or other centralized public access points may facilitate access while avoiding the need for massive infrastructure deployment.

The strategy

Create a coordinating mechanism. The G-8 should call for establishment of a global alliance to both establish key goals (i.e., connectivity as measured by penetration rates for key technologies and services by a date certain) and better manage the efforts of stakeholders to maximize the global information technology opportunities available to the developing world. This alliance should take the form of a “Digital Opportunity Committee” (DOC) comprised of representatives from major stakeholders: governments (from the developing and developed worlds), multilateral institutions, private business, the philanthropic community, academics, and NGOs. The primary goal of the DOC should be to effectively target existing and new resources to those countries that have a demonstrated commitment to fostering the growth of information technology in their societies and that have a well-documented proposal for using the DOC’s resources. The DOC would support both existing programs that are shown to be successful innovative new projects that will accelerate the spread of information technology and services.

The G-8 should recommend that the DOC have four main responsibilities: (1) goal setting; (2) administration of a global fund (consisting of \$500 million in G-8 government contributions, as well as in-kind and cash donations from other stakeholders); (3) coordination of the distribution of those resources; and (4) development of criteria for allocation of those resources, development of new programs, and a mechanism to evaluate IT development efforts. The fulfillment of these responsibilities by the DOC should speed adoption of IT by recipient countries, while providing some guidance on whether the resources are being effectively used. To carry out this imperative, the G-8 should recommend that several steps be taken by the DOC.

The following subject areas and specific projects illustrate the types of activities the DOC and stakeholders might choose to address:

Readiness and policy guidance

- **Readiness assessments.** The G-8 should encourage Internet/e-commerce readiness assessments that will help developing countries to establish plans to full advantage of information technology. Every country that has an interest should have access to and training to implement some form of formal or informal “readiness” assessment and readiness program. The foundation community and the private sector should commit to working with interested countries to ensure that countries can develop programs to advance the particular economic, social and political goals of that country. The key to success will be demonstrating that countries can use the Internet to reinforce local cultures and values, strengthen local businesses and enhance economic objectives. Key elements include: support and distribution for indigenous content, including finding placement opportunities in the international portals; full integration of Internet and technology assistance into economic development programs; a focus on micro-enterprise; and assistance in integrating the Internet into existing industrial, manufacturing and agricultural businesses of developing countries.

- **Policy/regulatory advice and training.** Organizations such as the Global Business Dialogue on E-Commerce have developed an extensive body of knowledge on the policies and regulatory structures that can create an e-friendly environment. These include everything from the optimal type of telecommunications infrastructure and regulatory bodies to establishment of laws governing content protection to addressing roadblocks to the e-commerce value chain. This policy expertise can be tailored to the needs of individual countries. In addition, the U.S. business community (AOL, Cisco, and major telecommunications carriers) should be encouraged to continue its work with the FCC to develop a model for foreign regulators to use as they develop telecommunications regimes that encourage Internet adoption, usage, and competition. Business and government also should build on their work in organizations such as the U.S. Telecommunications Training Institute to educate foreign regulators about our regulatory framework and how they might adapt the lessons we have learned to speed the availability of new services.

The G-8 should publicly commend and highlight those countries and regions that have taken concrete steps to establish an Internet-friendly regulatory and policy environment. Role models for the Internet and e-commerce in the developing world will be crucial to persuade other countries that they can share in the benefits of the new economy. Candidates to be showcased include ASEAN, Egypt, and Argentina.

Human capital

- **Technical training.** Industry should lead an initiative to establish regional training centers that build on the model established by the Internet Society's existing programs. NGOs with expertise in public health, education, and other key development areas should commit to partnerships with G-8 countries and corporations to add application-specific training to regional IT training programs. A foundation should be established to identify the best uses of used computers and to accomplish the transfer of such equipment to recipients in developing countries. Funding would come from industry, NGOs and private foundations, with a total financial commitment of roughly US \$2 million.
- **IT volunteers.** G-8 countries should set a goal of sending 5,000 private sector IT professionals to spend six months each in developing countries, building on the U.S. government's Global Technology Corps, NetCorps Canada International, and other existing programs designed to match private sector volunteers with IT development projects.

Appropriate technology

- **Information technology development portals.** Multilateral institutions should be encouraged to develop portals to host "digital libraries" for development, with material on issues such as public health, agriculture, micro-enterprise, and education and training. These portals also could be used to facilitate a dialogue toward improved understanding among private sector and government entities of the work of

the multilaterals and how it relates to the culture, entrepreneurial climate and practices of recipient countries.

- **Initiative on connectivity and appropriate communications devices.** Multilaterals, foundations and industry should plan efforts to develop and adapt communications devices and infrastructure, with particular emphasis on linking rural populations through new communications technologies so that the lack of landlines does not become a major obstacle to the diffusion of the online medium. Heightened attention should be placed on exploring how satellite technology could be developed (and authorized by regulators) for lower-cost, easy to use communications kiosks that could be installed in rural areas and provided shared voice and data services.
- **Centers of excellence for affordable IT.** University-based “centers of excellence” could be established to conduct research and development work on low-cost devices, connectivity, and applications. These centers of excellence would be located in both developing and developed countries, and they would also provide interdisciplinary training in skills relevant to IT and development.
- **Dialogue on application of digital technology.** The Markle Foundation, the Gates Foundation, and the Packard Foundation will work with the World Resources Institute to organize an international conference on applying digital technology to sustainable development. The conference will bring together subject matter experts from government, the private sector, and academia to discuss how information technology can best be adapted to the needs of developing countries.

Entrepreneurial activity

- **IT incubators.** Local incubators should be established to give those with the potential to create new technology and Internet related businesses in developing countries access to necessary know-how and capital. The incubators can also test the feasibility of applying new technology to developmental challenges in ways that also may have potential commercial application. Any incubator program should include components devoted to (1) developing entrepreneurial and financial skills needed to manage and grow technology businesses and (2) providing the technical background for Internet applications and services.
- **Social venture funds.** The establishment of IT incubators could be accompanied by the creation of “social venture funds” that use social as well as financial criteria in deciding how to allocate investments. These funds might support ventures that are likely to be self-sustaining but do not provide the large financial return venture capitalists ordinarily seek when financing new enterprises.

Information resources and cross-disciplinary efforts

- **Global replication of domestic digital divide initiatives.** America Online, Inc., and other organizations will build on clearinghouse activities directed at the domestic

digital divide by making these resources available to the DOC to help the Committee and developing countries determine the applicability of comparable projects in other countries and to secure funding to replicate the best initiatives. The Global Business Dialogue is involved in a similar effort and will work closely with AOL.

- **Knowledge sharing between institutions of higher learning.** Universities in developed and developing countries should share lessons about infrastructure development and integration, deployment models and technology standards, along with curriculum expertise and research on expert training tools. Institutions of higher learning should serve as anchors for technology transfer and workforce development to produce the human capital needed for long-term progress in bringing advances in communications and information technology to the developing world. In addition, these anchor institutions will be the most likely places for Internet connectivity and the benefits of the Internet economy to take root. They are also the places where leadership and entrepreneurship training should and will occur. Accordingly, indigenous institutions of higher learning should be enlisted to aid in the diffusion of knowledge and technology and to act as regional translators of culture.
- **Expanded public-private partnerships.** The G-8 should examine structural impediments to more active participation of the private sector in multilateral projects to accommodate public-private partnerships. In many cases, the rules of these institutions effectively prevent private sector involvement. The UNDP/Cisco joint project on NetAid and the World Bank/SoftBank projects can serve as a starting point for developing ways in which multilateral institutions can work with the private sector on digital issues relating to the new economy.

SUMMARY of U.N. REPORT

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Terms: digital divide and global (Edit Search)

Newsbytes June 20, 2000, Tuesday

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June 20, 2000, Tuesday

LENGTH: 497 words

HEADLINE: UN Pressed To Ensure Global Net Access For All

BYLINE: Sylvia Dennis;Newsbytes

DATELINE: NEW YORK, NEW YORK, U.S.A.

BODY:

By 2005, everyone in the world should have access to the Internet - even if they have to spend four hours to reach their nearest Internet access point.

That's the message from a report submitted to the United Nations (UN), whose brief was to look at the **digital divide** between the haves and have-nots as far as technology and the Internet are concerned.

The report, which was compiled by a 17-member team, is billed as the first authoritative **global** plan to fully incorporate public and private sector viewpoints on overcoming the information and communication technology (ICT) lag found in most developing countries.

The report and action plan was drawn up by a panel of independent experts from government, business and civil society who have led successful ICT campaigns in developing and transition economies, as well as public and private sector leaders from Europe and the US.

The report said that the international community, working in concert with national governments, private business and civil society, is fully capable of reversing the current alarming trend of the growing **digital divide**.

The study added that it is perfectly feasible to enable Net access in either home, workplace or community by 2004 for the 80 percent of the world's population who are currently unconnected.

However, the problem with getting the bulk of the world's population by 2004 should not be underestimated, the report said, as the **digital divide** can only get wider.

The study said that e-commerce is tying individuals, firms and countries closer together. But, it warns, the 1.5 billion Web pages in existence, with almost 2 million more appearing every day, are produced by less than 5 percent of the world's population.

Under those conditions, "e-commerce is rapidly becoming a trade barrier for those who are not connected," the report concluded.

The report recommends that the UN should create, under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General, but outside the regular UN organizational structures, an ICT Task Force charged with bringing together international agencies, private industry and foundations and trusts to facilitate the expansion of the ICT market in developing countries.

In addition, a development fund administered by the Task Force should be amassed from hundreds of millions of dollars solicited from such sources as the UN Fund for International Partnerships.

Copies of the report, which are now available on the Internet at <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/itforum/expert>, will be considered at the UN Millennium Assembly, which opens in September.

The UN said that, more immediately, the report will also be considered at the July high-level meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council, as well as at the mid-July G8 summit in Okinawa.

The UN's Web site is at <http://www.un.org> .

Reported by Newsbytes.com, <http://www.newsbytes.com> .

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Report
of the meeting of the high-level panel of experts
on information and communication technology
(New York, 17-20 April 2000)

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VI An International ICT Action Plan

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VIII Conclusions and Recommendations

ANNEX

National and Regional Presentations

Other Presentations

- Technology Constraints
- Internet Management
- InfoDev
- A Multi-media Approach

Members of the panel:

From Africa

Pascal Baba Couloubaly (Mali), Minister of Culture
 Nii Quaynor (Ghana), Executive Chairman of National Computer Systems
 Sushil Baguant (Mauritius), Chairman of the National Computer Board
 Najat Rochdi (Morocco), President of the Internet Society of Morocco

From Asia

Wang Quiming (China), Ministry of Science and Technology
 Srinivasan Ramani (India), Director, Silverline Technologies, Inc.
 Taholo Kami (Tonga), Manager of the Small Island Developing States Network

From Eastern Europe

Toomas-Hendrik Ilves (Estonia), Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Andrei Kolesnikov (Russia), Founder of Russia-on-Line
 Orlin Kouzov (Bulgaria), CEO, National Education and Research Network

From Latin America and the Caribbean

Pedro Urra (Cuba), Director of the Medical Network, Ministry of Health
 Jose Maria Figueres Olsen (Costa Rica), former President of Costa Rica
 Tadao Takahashi (Brazil), Chair, Federal Task Force for National Information Society
 Gillian Marcelle (Trinidad), telecommunications policy and gender specialist

Western Europe and Other Groups

Paolo Morawski (Italy), UN World TV Forum and RAI Radiotelevisione Italiana
 William Sheppard (United States), Vice-President of INTEL
 Anders Wijkman (Sweden), Member of the European Parliament

Panelists benefited from presentations by several guests, including Vinton Cerf, Director of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN); John Daly, Acting Work Programme Administrator of InfoDev at the World Bank; Gabriel Accascina, Regional Coordinator of the UNDP Asia and Pacific Information Development Programme; Edward Gelbstein, Director of the United Nations International Computing Center in Geneva; Amir Dossal, Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships; and Denis Gilhooly, Director, Digital Partners.

I. The Challenge

The world is undergoing a revolution in information and communication technologies (ICT) that has momentous implications for the current and future social and economic situation of all countries of the world.

In March 2000 an estimated 276 million persons worldwide were users of the Internet with a growth rate of roughly 150,000 persons per **day**, 220 million devices were accessing the worldwide web and almost 200,000 devices were added each **day**. Web pages totaled 1.5 billion with almost 2 million pages being added each **day**. E-commerce, or business conducted over the Internet, totaled \$45 billion as recently as 1998 and an estimate in January 2000 projected it could explode to over **\$7 trillion** as early as 2004.

These are astonishing figures, unprecedented by any measure, but they reflect activity by less than 5% of the world's population. The gross disparity in the spread of the Internet and thus the economic and social benefits derived from it is a matter of profound concern. There are more hosts in New York than in continental Africa; more hosts in Finland than in Latin America and the Caribbean; and notwithstanding the remarkable progress in the application of ICT in India, many of its villages still lack a working telephone.

The formidable and urgent challenge before national governments and the development community is to bridge this divide and connect the remainder of the world's population whose livelihoods can be enhanced through ICT. As each day passes, the task becomes much more difficult. To give just one example, exploding e-commerce ties individuals, firms and countries closer and closer together, while those who do not try to catch the "Internet Express" run the risk of being further and further marginalized. Developing countries have great potential to compete successfully in the new global market, but unless they promptly and actively embrace the ICT revolution they will face new barriers and the risk of not just being marginalized but completely bypassed.

II. The Opportunity

Members of the panel, coming from all regions of the world and from countries at all stages of development, are unanimous in their belief that the issue is not whether to respond to the challenges brought about by the revolution in ICT, but **how** to respond and how to ensure that the process becomes truly global and everyone shares the benefits. Experience of a number of countries¹, including developing and transition economies, some of them working under conditions of a severe shortage of resources, complex political environments and acute socio-economic problems, demonstrated that bold actions in bringing their countries into the digital age paid off and brought tangible positive results in economic, social and political terms. Moreover, this experience proved that the argument that ICT should only be introduced once progress has been made in tackling poverty is spurious: ICT brings early, tangible and important benefits to the poor. These countries, by extensively and innovatively using ICT for their development, were able to extract value from globalization, rather than watching globalization extract value from them.

This report seeks to summarize this experience so that other countries could benefit from lessons learned and find their own approach to bringing ICT to the service of their development. The report also identifies areas and actions that the international community, in particular the United Nations, should undertake to support national ICT programmes.

In this report, we share our convictions, formed and tempered by our practical experience, as to **why** all countries need to embrace the ICT revolution, and why **now**. We outline a set of **actions that worked** for our countries, discuss important **conditions** for these actions to be effective, and identify **problems and obstacles** that need to be addressed to assure effectiveness and sustainability of ICT's contribution to development for all.

¹ See the Annex for summaries of country and regional presentations.

III. The Mission

We firmly believe that at the national level, governments, the private sector and all segments of civil society must unite to address this challenge. We also assert that the international community, especially the United Nations, has a special obligation to assist countries in maximizing the benefits they can secure from ICT.

In this regard, we present our proposals and recommendations on how to bring greater coherence and synergy to the many uncoordinated activities currently undertaken, with limited effect, by individual organizations of the United Nations system, including the World Bank, by the European Union, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and numerous other multilateral and bilateral organizations.

The panel believes that the international community, working in concert with national governments, private business and civil society, is fully capable of reversing the current alarming trend of the growing “Digital Divide” and must do it. The panel calls on all actors to unite in a global initiative to meet the following challenge: **provide access to the Internet, especially through community access points, for the world’s population presently without such access by the end of 2004.**

The panel proposed the following action points for reaching this goal:

- (a) The United Nations, at the Millennium Assembly in September 2000, should proclaim the right of universal access to information and communication services such as the Internet as an important new component of the United Nations principles and conventions on human rights and development.
- (b) The United Nations should create, under the leadership of the Secretary General but outside United Nations’ organizational structures, an ICT Task Force. This Task Force should bring together multilateral development institutions, private industry, foundations and trusts and

would facilitate, including by investment, the expansion of the market for ICT in developing countries, thereby helping to bridge the digital divide.

- (c) This Task Force would provide overall leadership and strategy for ICT development. A fund should be created that the Task Force would administer and for which up to \$500 million would be solicited from sources such as the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships. This amount would be matched by funds raised from the private sector and foundations. The fund will leverage additional resources by assisting developing countries in putting in place their own ICT programmes provided they match the contributions from the fund.
- (d) Organizations of the United Nations system should work with governments and financial institutions for the writing off of one per cent of the debt of each developing country with the commitment that the country would allocate the equivalent financing to ICT for development. In a similar manner, the United Nations should work towards countries receiving international financing for ICT development on the basis of their progress in carbon-fixation activities.

IV. Summary of Findings

A number of general conclusions emerged from the presentations and discussions. A basic premise is that knowledge differs from other factors of production in that it expands when applied. The challenge of a knowledge-based economy is not a scarcity of knowledge but inadequacies in diffusing and using it. Unlike capital resources, knowledge cannot easily be redistributed as a result of political decisions, it needs to be nurtured – by individuals, communities, and countries. The State has an interest and an obligation to promote this nurturing and to ensure that its citizens have access to ICT tools and services.

Why ICT Programmes are Beneficial for Development

ICT has been extremely beneficial to those nations that have used it with determination and enthusiasm as part of their national development strategies to accelerate development, as

demonstrated by the country examples (see Annex). While benefits from ICT investments may not be immediately perceptible in all cases (several years passed before such evidence became available in the United States following investments in ICT in the 1980s), panelists urged nations that had not yet launched national ICT initiatives to catch the “Internet Express” without further delay.

Among examples of positive impact of the introduction of ICT were the following:

- Direct contribution of ICT sector’s output to the economy, in particular to exports. In this regard, examples of India and Costa Rica are particularly striking (see Annex).
- Providing rural communities with convenient on-line access to a full range of government services was seen as a significant instrument for improving their well-being and enhancing the sense of belonging, both of which could discourage excessive migration to urban centers.
- Voting by computer had alleviated skepticism about the possibility of fraud in elections.
- Improvement in public sector administration, in particular that transparency in the procurement process for public service contracts had reduced corruptive practices.
- Tremendous potential for improving education, including distance learning and training, and for facilitating better gender balance in this regard.
- Important improvements in the delivery of services such as health care, including through the application of tele-medicine.
- Employment generation that has been attributed to the ICT sector, especially among recent graduates from high schools as well as technical colleges and universities.
- For small developing and transition economies with limited natural and human resources, in particular for SIDS, using ICT is perhaps the only way to carve niche markets for their unique endowments.
- Diffusion of best practices and lessons learned, in particular exchange of information on locally/regionally appropriate solutions.

- Empowering of communities with the resultant easing of the burden on the Government to provide services.
- Enabling countries to monitor ecological situations and maintain environmental stability.

Why now

There are no excuses for lack of action.

- Technology is no longer a major barrier for putting ICT in the service of development, since technological solutions exist for almost any need or situation. The costs of equipment and materials, currently at one fifth of the levels five years ago, are projected to decrease to only one fifth of today's prices within five years. At the same time, panelists were emphatic that no State should use this anticipated decrease in installation costs as an excuse to delay action since aggregate costs of delay will far out-weight savings on the cost of equipment.
- Inadequacy of infrastructure (e.g., for assuring connectivity or access for remote areas) can be overcome by determined government policies aimed at building demand for ICT, which in turn leads to expansion of the infrastructure.
- Emerging e-commerce is rapidly becoming a new and very significant trade barrier for those who are not connected.
- While costs of ICT projects are, of course, a matter of concern for governments, the panelists' experience proved that relatively modest investments in key sectors, such as health services, relying perhaps not on the most modern technology, brought quick and substantial results.

Conditions for Effectiveness

- The importance of strong political leadership, of a national leader or champion to lead the ICT campaign cannot be overemphasized. When leaders such as Heads of State committed their prestige and authority, rapid progress resulted. But a leader need not necessarily be an individual – it can be a successful network in health or education, for example. The ICT

campaign must be part of a clear national strategy and plan for the use and application of ICT within the country.

- To be effective, ICT initiatives require a competitive telecommunications environment or the certainty that such an environment will shortly be created.
- Decision-makers in the public sector need to recognize the valuable contribution the private sector and civil society can make in the area of ICT. The role and support of the media has also been important. Some panelists commented that high-level political support needs to be complemented by support from the civil service. ICT operations both generate and eliminate jobs and senior civil servants need to make sure that the benefits from computerized operations are well understood and that training and retraining programmes are offered.
- Prominence of local content is necessary to ensure wide diffusion of use of ICT. In this regard, development of local language character sets for computer interface is critical.

Actions that Worked

From an analysis of the experiences of the panelists, it is clear that there is no one single formula for a successful ICT programme. Every ICT strategy and plan should be tailor-made to fit a particular national context. This having been said, a number of actions were seen as important for the success of ICT initiatives.

- Clear focus and narrowly defined, realistic objectives for ICT projects.
- Establishing a legal and regulatory framework, including intellectual property rights, information technology, and telecommunications acts.
- Tax and customs incentives and loans at concessional rates to speed up the growth of the ICT-based services sector.
- Early support for ICT initiatives can be gained through the use of entry points such as education, health, public administration and e-commerce. Outreach campaigns, including

travelling demonstrations and competitions, have proved to be effective means of raising awareness and winning support.

- Development of local content as a result of national technological initiatives to develop local language character sets for use in computer interface for the countries where a significant part of population neither speaks nor reads English.
- A determined effort to use ICT to help to integrate isolated rural populations into the national economy.
- De-politicization of the computerization issue by, for instance, establishing an NGO foundation that received government monies for hardware and software, and was tasked with determining the order in which communities would be benefited.
- The provision of public access points such as cybercafés, community centres and telecenters has proven very successful and should be a key component of the Action Plan to extend connectivity.
- The issue of affordable access costs should be addressed by the public sector authorities taking into full account the benefit that ICT brings in improving performance of the public administration.
- A strategic psychological approach whereby, first of all, each recipient of ICT hardware, software and services was required to contribute up to a half of the costs involved, thus creating a sense of ownership, and, subsequently, building on the spreading sense of “envy” in the neighbouring communities without comparable equipment.
- Use of defence budgets for the purposes of creating an ICT infrastructure that could in the interim, security situation permitting, be used as resource for education and provision of other services.

Problems and Obstacles

Panelists voiced their concern about several issues connected with ICT development. The cost of Internet usage is the key issue, with typical charges still far exceeding levels that would permit popular use. Other issues raised included security of on-line transactions, computer crimes, the protection of intellectual property rights, feasibility of restrictions of Internet traffic containing material that could be considered offensive or that might threaten social stability, and lack of participation of developing countries in the management of the Internet, in particular the assignment of top-domain names.

V. Ensuring fair and equal participation in the information society

The potential for ICT to contribute to human development, including elimination of gender disparities, is currently compromised by unevenness in the pace and spread of these technologies and the differential effect that their rapid diffusion produces across social structures. Urgent reform and actions are required at both the national and international levels to ensure that ICT produce their optimal benefits on the basis of fairness:

- Identification and eradication of factors that restrict equal participation of men and women in the ICT sector, in particular discriminatory and unequal access to education and training, social pressures that limit women's and girls' access to science and technology activities in general and limit their access to training and necessary ICT equipment in particular, and labour market segmentation;
- Encouragement of corporate practices within firms in the ICT sector that ensure overall fairness in employment conditions, in particular with respect to the recruitment and retention of women;
- Ensuring that the diffusion of ICT produces a positive impact on job creation and conditions of employment, and in particular for women's employment, employment of marginalized groups such as the disabled, by providing fair access to retraining and reskilling programmes;

- Active encouragement and programmes for young people, male and female, to access the new economy and use ICT in schools and in other educational endeavours;
- Democratization of ICT policy processes that facilitate the active participation and full integration of advocates of human development concerns. In particular, ICT sector reform and governance processes should involve the full participation of a wide range of civil society organizations;
- Strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations, including women's organizations, so they may participate more effectively in the transformations made possible by the ICT sector;
- Active encouragement of partnership efforts to allocate and direct R&D budgets to design and development of ICT services and applications that serve social and development objectives, including applications for non-literate communities, content development, human-computer interfaces that are non-text based and natural language processing systems.

VI. An International ICT Action Plan

There is an urgent need to develop and launch an International ICT Action Plan. The Millennium Assembly would provide an appropriate forum for an initiative of such magnitude. The overall target should be to bring connectivity to all communities by the end of 2004 drawing on the full range of available technologies ranging from television to cellular telephones to computers. In view of the magnitude of the task and of its immense potential benefit to the poorer people of the world, and in order to gain momentum and move the process forward the Panel believes that action should be started immediately, where possible, while for those actions that require preparation specific and early target dates should be set as soon as possible. The Panel expected that creative and flexible approaches can be developed and preparatory work begun even prior to consideration of the Panel's report by the 55th session of the General Assembly. Suggestions included:

At the Policy Level

- Adoption, in bodies such as the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly during 2000, of resolutions that, *first*, recognize the importance of ICT in national development plans; *second*, call for a much higher profile for ICT in ODA portfolios; and *third*, request all parties, specifically public and private sector initiatives at the national level as well as bilateral and multilateral programmes, to re-examine their ICT policies to ensure that equal opportunities are being provided to all sectors of society.
- Adoption of national ICT strategy by mid-2001 including, as a first step, setting of minimal connectivity targets to be reached within a year.
- Development, on an urgent basis, of the United Nations system's clear, comprehensive and coherent policy and strategy for the use of ICT as a tool to improve the delivery of services to Member States, with a view to an adoption of such strategy no later than by mid-2001.
- Implementing of this ICT strategy, on a priority basis, by ACC, UNDG and individual organizations of the United Nations system.
- Development, on an urgent basis, of a comprehensive programme for transforming the United Nations into a knowledge organization. Such a programme should contain a coherent set of training and organizational measures aimed at bringing the Organization's collective mindset into the digital age.

Development Initiatives

- Building on the on-going initiatives of the Secretary General, form, as soon as possible, a strategic alliance between the United Nations, the private sector and financing institutions. The alliance, which would be responsible for promoting the International ICT Action Plan, will be spearheaded by the ICT Task Force (see above). The alliance should introduce a simplified and very rapid approval process for the allocation of funds

for ICT projects in developing and transition countries. The alliance should aim to mobilize a fivefold increase in funding for ICT projects by mid-2001 and a further doubling by mid-2002.

- Prepare, under the auspices of the United Nations TCDC programme, a special programme to intensify South-South cooperation in ICT for development projects, including ideas and projects for enhancing direct connectivity among developing countries.
- Start immediately an active exploration of new, creative financing initiatives for ICT, including a debt-for-connectivity fund and the linkage of the provision of financing for ICT to actions in developing countries that have a direct positive impact on global warming.
- Start immediately an exploration of measures that would reduce the average cost of access to the Internet within developing countries by a factor of five by the end of 2001 compared to the beginning of 2000;
- Facilitate an increase in the number of computers supplied to developing countries by a factor of ten by the end of 2001 compared to the beginning of 2000.
- By the end of 2001, mobilize 30,000 new ICT trainers, primarily from developing countries, for training programmes in developing countries. This should be undertaken in conjunction with the UNiTeS initiative announced by the Secretary General in his Millennium Report.
- Facilitate a tenfold increase in national training and education budgets for ICT by the end of 2001 relative to allocations at the beginning of 2000.

VII The Role of the United Nations in Promoting ICT for Development

- Global initiatives such as achieving sustainable development, alleviating poverty, improving governance, combating HIV/AIDS, gaining gender equality or tackling climate change

require a broad, integrated response by national, multilateral and bilateral actors. The potential benefits of the ICT revolution to economic and social development, including the achievement of the goals mentioned above, are of such magnitude that they warrant a global action.

- Similarly, the present inequities in participation in the ICT revolution dictate the necessity of coherent action on the part of international community. The global challenge of bridging the digital divide requires a global response.
- The United Nations could potentially become a major force in promoting and fostering the application of ICT for development and in serving as a possible arbitrator with respect to certain key legal and policy issues such as security and intellectual property rights.
- The United Nations can be instrumental in helping its Member States overcome existing cultural and mental barriers that are currently among the major impediment in the pursuit of the benefits of ICT for development. The United Nations should help developing countries understand challenges and options in this area
- The United Nations could compile an inventory of ICT-related activities for development worldwide to provide developing countries with more informed choices in selecting technologies, approaches and communication partners and providers.
- The panelists were informed about the recent initiatives of the Secretary-General contained in his Millennium Report, in particular the establishment of a United Nations Information Technology Service [UNITeS]. They welcomed this initiative and suggested that the implementation strategy be configured taking into account that:
 - Opportunities for mobilizing national human resources should be given priority;
 - Training trainers in-country should have priority;
 - Every effort should be made to identify national volunteer candidates, including professors and teachers (both men and women);

- States could be encouraged to consider the idea of substituting ICT service for military service; and
 - Care should be given to ensuring that this initiative empowers indigenous private ICT entrepreneurs rather than crowds them out.
- The United Nations should lead by example in providing fair and equal access to ICT among all sectors of society and specifically by addressing present disparities that restrict equal participation by women and other marginalized groups. No segment of the population can be left behind, handicapped by the absence of information, knowledge and expertise. But rather than focusing on the potential divisiveness of a digital gap, the international community, and especially the United Nations, should look at the situation as a source of opportunities for economic and social growth, providing "digital dividends". To obtain these dividends, though, one must accept the view that ICT is a potent tool for bridging the gap between rural and urban areas, between those who govern and those governed, and between developed and developing countries.
 - Regional cooperation in the implementation of ICT pilot programmes and purchase arrangements for ICT equipment should be encouraged, strengthened and supported. The international community, and in particular the United Nations system, can provide information on technological choices and options and in so doing reduce the cost of searches. The United Nations could also contribute to a more systematic, ongoing identification, review and dissemination of ICT information, case studies, best practices, and successful models and become an important "knowledge bank" in this regard.
 - The panelists, however, believed that for the United Nations to play an active role in a major global ICT initiative for Member States, the Organization must itself get its own ICT house in order by, first of all, adopting a coherent ICT strategy that would ensure coordination and synergy between programmes and activities of individual organizations of the system. The

United Nations should also review how its outreach activities using television and radio could be more closely integrated with IT activities.

- Organizations which regularly publish indicators that assess development, including the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, should reconsider their treatment of the “connectivity factor”. It is rapidly becoming a more significant factor in economic and social development, and its measurement should factor in connected schools and universities, libraries, hospitals and even public administration. Treatment of e-commerce activities may be more controversial, but may likewise become an indicator for measuring economic activity.

VIII Conclusions and Recommendations

1. ICT is already making an important contribution to economic and social development, but this contribution can be much more powerful. ICT is fostering a better mutual understanding among tens of millions of people in countries with different economic and social policies. It is enhancing appreciation of the challenges that Governments and the United Nations are confronting as they promote global economic growth, social equity and sustainable development. In this context it is important that developing countries give priority to developing indigenous content and that this content be shared with developed countries.
2. In general, the international donor community has not yet implemented a well-coordinated, forward-looking and strategic programme for the use of ICT in development. There has been much talk but little action. Some panelists noted that modest, strategic investments in ICT had yielded big dividends. Unfortunately, the opportunities for rapid growth of some initiatives continued to be severely hampered by the lack of serious financial support.
3. The private sector is and will remain for the foreseeable future the principal driving force for the development and use of ICT. Marketing forces and strategies should be outlined whereby both industry and the member States are placed in a win-win situation.

4. It is a matter of urgency that the United Nations system adopt a coherent institutional strategy that incorporates the use and application of ICT in its own work. Failure to quickly do so will result in considerably increased cost in future and a far greater challenge to catch up.
5. Member States should require the United Nations to move much more rapidly to use ICT to improve the efficiency of its own services, including for development planning and project implementation, and the requisite human and financial resources should be allocated to achieve this goal. The United Nations should provide a structure for continued discussion of the theme of ICT for development.
6. Member States, particularly developing countries, should evolve a vision of ICT for development and a suitable plan of action. High priority must be accorded to the following: a forward-looking regulatory framework; proactive efforts for improved exploitation of ICT, including efforts to improve the delivery of public services over the Internet; education and training in ICT and the use of ICT in education and training; commitment to the promotion of gender equality, particularly in education and training in the ICT area; job creation; telecommunications regulatory policies that encourage the development and usage of wide area networks; promotion of the exchange of experiences and sharing of training facilities on a South-South basis; partnerships with the private sector and civil society; and efforts to provide universal access to ICT and its applications.
7. The international community should assist developing countries in expanding national and regional ICT infrastructures by facilitating and expanding access to financial resources for the importation of equipment and services, arranging and encouraging financial intermediaries to design creative mechanisms, including supplier credits, insurance schemes, and concessionary financing.
8. A new strategic alliance should be formed that includes the United Nations, private industry and financing trusts and foundations. The United Nations should promptly and seriously re-examine the role it can effectively play in any such alliance and the resultant new ICT initiative

for Member States. Unless a progressive ICT policy and strategy is adopted in the next two to three months, the role of the United Nations would be limited to promoting ICT, brokering transactions on behalf of Member States and possibly serving as an arbitrator with respect to certain policy issues and activities related to the protection of IPR, security, and preventing crime on the Internet.

9. The United Nations should find ways to promote and facilitate investment by private ICT companies in the research and development of technologies, products and services that would contribute to raising the literacy levels in developing countries. This would create a win-win situation for all involved since it would not only have immediate social benefits but would also eventually increase the market for ICT products.

10. The United Nations should quickly establish an effective mechanism for close interaction with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to ensure that the claims of Member States concerning issues such as top level domain name policies and procedures and representation in Internet administrative mechanisms are speedily addressed and resolved. The purpose of United Nations engagement should be to complement ICANN and other governance bodies in areas currently not covered by them.

ANNEX

National and Regional Presentations

As the first step to providing down-to-earth advice and recommendations, panelists outlined their own ICT experiences in anticipation that it would be possible to identify elements that were common to success as well as to failure. Fourteen presentations (twelve national and two regional) confirmed that ICT initiatives have not been confined to countries with high per capita incomes, well-developed infrastructures, high levels of venture capital and a highly trained labour force. Remarkable progress is evident where some of these elements have been lacking, as is illustrated by the experiences described below.

Donald Abelson
Chief, International Bureau, FCC

Position Description

- The International Bureau develops and administers policies and programs to regulate international telecommunications facilities and services and to license satellite facilities.

Education

- Bachelor's degree from Sarah Lawrence College
- Master's Degree in International Economics from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University (SAIS)

Career

- Chief, International Bureau, FCC, July 1999 - present
- Served as Assistant US trade Representative (USTR) for Industry and communications
- As USTR's Chief Negotiator for Communications and Information, headed the US delegation to the WTO on basic telecommunications services from 1994 to 1997.

Article

- *FCC International Bureau Chief focuses on access, competition, Satellite Week 2/14/2000*

Donald Abelson
Federal Communications Commission
Chief, International Bureau

Donald Abelson began his duties as Chief of the International Bureau at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in July 1999. The International Bureau develops and administers policies and programs to regulate international telecommunication facilities and services and to license satellite facilities. The Bureau has the principal representational role for FCC activities in international organizations.

Abelson comes to the Commission with extensive experience in international communications issues. Before being named to his current position, Abelson served as Assistant U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) for Industry and Communications. In this capacity, he led USTR's effort to facilitate global electronic commerce over the Internet. As USTR's Chief Negotiator for Communications and Information, Abelson headed the U.S. delegation to the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on basic telecommunications services from 1994, through their successful conclusion in February 1997. These negotiations resulted in a precedent-setting agreement on basic telecommunications in which 70 countries made trade commitments covering 95% of global local, long-distance and international services delivered by wire, wireless and satellite technologies.

Abelson has a Bachelor's Degree from Sarah Lawrence College and a Master's Degree in International Economics from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University (SAIS).

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SATELLITE WEEK

February 14, 2000, Monday

SECTION: THIS WEEK'S NEWS**LENGTH:** 561 words**HEADLINE:** FCC INTERNATIONAL BUREAU CHIEF FOCUSES ON ACCESS, COMPETITION**BODY:**

Outlining priorities for 2000, FCC International Bureau Chief **Donald Abelson** said his bureau will focus on promoting universal access, expanding broadband access, boosting competition by implementing World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement. Detailing Commission efforts to provide technical assistance to regulators in countries that are opening up their satellite service markets, Abelson in Feb. 10 speech at Center for Strategic & International Studies in Washington also called on U.S. industry to help regulators streamline their bureaucratic processes.

In sign of priority FCC is assigning to World Radio Conference (WRC) in May in Istanbul, Abelson said bureau will spend 25% of annual travel budget to send 10 staff members to work on international spectrum planning issues: "There is no issue that is of higher priority." Commission's priorities at WRC include: (1) Protecting global positioning system integrity. (2) Agreeing on "sharing criteria" to protect incumbent geostationary satellite orbit systems against interference while letting nongeostationary satellite orbit systems enter market. (3) Developing tools for earth stations on U.S. Navy vessels and cruise ships to coordinate with terrestrial services. (4) Agreeing on sharing between fixed service and fixed satellite service around 40 GHz while safeguarding radio astronomy spectrum.

Abelson said he expects number of foreign satellite operators applying for Disco II "permitted list" to do business in U.S. to increase competition. Eutelsat and Telesat already have been approved (SW Feb 7 p2). Four foreign companies have applications pending -- Embratel, Brasilsat, Mabuhay, New Skies, SatMex. Decisions are expected within 2 weeks, FCC spokesman said. Permitted list is outgrowth of World Trade Organization agreement to promote global competition and Abelson said he expects regulators in other countries to treat U.S. service providers fairly. He said he doesn't believe list puts U.S. companies at competitive disadvantage: "We want competition in an open market place."

Abelson said FCC has made concerted effort to promote DBS as viable alternative to cable, citing approval of DirecTV acquisition of USSB, EchoStar takeover of MCI News Corp. assets at 110 degrees W and DirecTV acquisition of PrimeStar assets: "Increased competition in the MVPD market will benefit consumers through improved product offerings at lower prices." He said satellite systems have been receiving substantial spectrum in FCC rulings because commissioners want to see whether technology is better, as many industry experts have claimed, but satellite companies still must prove themselves: "They can get a lot of spectrum, but if they don't produce they may not keep it. The jury is still out."

Privatization of Intelsat and Inmarsat is high priority, Abelson said, since FCC wants to lower prices by increasing competition. Intelsat privatization could mean saving of up to 71% to consumers, he said, and would be "a fundamental shift in the global satellite communications arena, away from the government-controlled companies of the past and toward a market-controlled and consumer-oriented future."

FCC electronic application system can save satellite service providers time and money, Abelson said. He said 19% of satellite companies using process had applications processed in 92% less time.

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Brian Atwood

Executive VP, Citizens Energy Corp. and former Administrator, USAID

Position Description

- The USAID administrator directs a pi-run of economic and humanitarian assistance to countries in the developing world, in Central and Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union.

Education

- Bachelor of Arts, history and government, Boston University 1964
- Graduate work in public administration at The American University

Career

- Administrator of USAID, May 1993 – 1999
- President, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs 1985-1993
- Executive Director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee under former Sen. Lloyd Bentsen 1983-1984
- VP in charge of information and analysis at International Reporting and Information Systems 1982



Article

Atwood targets key issues of peacekeeping reform; US AID director takes fire, Worldpaper May 2000

Curriculum Vitae

J. Brian Atwood

Administrator U.S. Agency for International Development

J. Brian Atwood was sworn in as administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) on May 10, 1993.

As USAID administrator, Atwood directs a pi-run of economic and humanitarian assistance to countries in the developing world, in Central and Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union.

Before joining the Clinton administration, Atwood served as president of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs from 1985 to 1993. The organization, affiliated with the Democratic Party, promotes democracy in transitional societies around the world and achieved notable success in many countries, including Chile, Nicaragua, Namibia, Pakistan, Panama, The Philippines and the nations of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Immediately before being nominated as USAID administrator, Atwood had been named - and was later confirmed as - under secretary of state for management.

Atwood joined the Foreign Service in 1966 and served in the Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire) and Spain.

In 1972 Atwood became a legislative assistant for foreign policy and defense on the staff of former Senator Thomas Eagleton (D-Mo.)

He returned to the State Department in 1977 as deputy assistant secretary for congressional relations and was named assistant secretary in 1979.

In 1981 Atwood became dean of professional studies and academic affairs at the Foreign Service institute. He also was a member of the Association of Deans of Foreign Service Colleges.

In 1982 Atwood was named vice president in charge of information and analysis at International Reporting and Information Systems.

From 1983 to 1984, he served under former Sen. Lloyd Bentsen D-Tx.) as executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Atwood has written articles on international politics and presented commentaries on foreign policy on network evening news programs and on National Public Radio.

Atwood was born on July 25, 1942, in Wareham, Massachusetts. He received a bachelor of arts degree in history and government from Boston University in 1964 and did graduate work in public administration at The American University.

He is married to Susan J. Atwood and has two children. John and Deborah.

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May, 2000/June, 2000, International Edition

SECTION: PICKING UP THE PEACEKEEPERS; Pg. 12**LENGTH:** 897 words**HEADLINE:** Atwood targets key issues of peacekeeping reform;
US aid director takes fire**BODY:**

*In early March, Secretary-General Kofi Annan formed an international panel to review every aspect of UN peacekeeping and make recommendations on how missions can be more effective. Panel member **J. Brian Atwood**, former head of the US Agency for International Development, led Kosovo relief efforts in the Balkans for the Clinton Administration. Atwood is fiercely critical of isolationist Republicans in the US Congress who have withheld UN dues, arguing that this not only hurts peacekeepers' effectiveness but increases the demand for American troops when UN missions falter or fail. Here are excerpts from an address Atwood gave in Boston on April 5:*

I am privileged to serve on the Secretary General's Panel on UN Peace Operations. The UN is often the only neutral force capable of preventing conflict or ending it. But the UN, in recent years, has not performed well.

Reports on the inability of the UN to protect innocent civilians and its own peacekeeping troops in Srebrenica and Rwanda have discredited UN peace operations. Today, three of four peace operations in the news are at risk of collapse. I refer to the operations in Sierra Leone, Kosovo and the Congo. Only East Timor is working because of the willingness of Australia to use necessary force.

Each time UN forces are successfully challenged or overwhelmed by those who oppose a peace mandate, serious damage is done to the United Nations. Each time the forces of anarchy triumph over global governance, it is more difficult the next time around to prevent conflict or to preserve peace. Each time a UN force is underfunded and unprepared, the chances are greater that American forces will be needed.

Yet the US posture at the UN is to reduce by law the US contribution to peacekeeping to 25 percent from our treaty obligation of 30.1 percent. This is shortsighted in the extreme. It places us in the posture of accepting an inadequate UN force, or of using an American force to get the job done. Since neither is today a politically viable option, the United States often plays the spoiler when proposals are made to prevent conflict, to end a war or to save people from genocide.

I am hopeful that the airing of these issues will force us all to consider carefully the worth of UN peace operations and lead us to reassess US interests. Perhaps when the Secretary General's panel reports to the Security Council, the summit discussion of our recommendations will produce that essential ingredient -- political will.

Q Should there be a standby force for the United Nations?

I don't think that's in the cards for the near future. It's not politically realistic. I personally believe that there should be at least some agreement about how a UN force that has already been deployed under a UN Security Council resolution can defend itself. This was the issue in both Srebrenica and Rwanda. There were small UN forces on the ground, too small to handle the problems that they faced, and the Secretary-General didn't have any means to augment those forces.

When the Dutch troops in Srebrenica called in air power, they were told "sorry, your circumstances aren't dire enough, we're not going to do it. We don't have the air power to bring in." And the same is true of the small 2,500-man contingent that stayed in Rwanda throughout the genocide, stayed in their barracks because it wasn't safe to come out. So I think there have to be standby arrangements for that purpose. The day when the Secretary General actually has his own military force is probably not in my lifetime, but it's something that I think should stay on the agenda.

Q I'm concerned by what you said about the UN failures in peacekeeping in Kosovo, in Sierra Leone and the Congo. I think you have fallen into the trap of describing them as UN operations, which is how many people who are against the UN paint it. In Kosovo, [for example,] it's a NATO force. It's not a UN force. ... How do we change the debate so that it's a more intelligent discussion and not one where the UN is going to fail?

You're absolutely right, but it's not I that have fallen into the trap, it's unfortunately the United Nations that falls into the trap constantly and ends up holding the bag.

In the case of Kosovo, there is now a UN mandate with NATO forces on the ground, but it's a UN civilian operation. And when you hear press reports, it's the UN leader of the civilian group that is usually in the press and on the television. ...

In the case of the peacekeeping budget of the United Nations ... it's a limited budget given the number of operations that are deployed. And so we find ourselves agreeing to UN resolutions and deployments and forces that, were it a US force going in there, especially in the post-Somalia period, it would never be approved.

So the force is inadequate. Then they get into the trouble when the mandate is challenged, and then it becomes a real political crisis. Do you have the political will to send US troops in to save the force ... or not? The United Nations looks once again inadequate. My hope is that this panel, which will talk about the successes and the failures of UN missions and why, and then make specific recommendations, will get enough airing, so that when the summit leaders speak they will generate the kind of political will that's necessary to fix this problem.

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PERSON: J BRIAN ATWOOD (64%);

ORGANIZATION: UNITED NATIONS (97%); AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (57%);

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STATE: KOSOVO (69%);

CITY: SREBRENICA (55%);

COMPANY: UNITED NATIONS (97%); AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (57%);

LOAD-DATE: May 24, 2000



Chan Heng Chee took up her appointment as Singapore's Ambassador to United States in July 1996. Prior to her appointment, she was the Executive Director of the Singapore International Foundation (which creates a Singapore version of the Peace Corps) and Director of the Institute of Southeast Asia Studies. She was the founder Director of the Institute of Policy Studies. She served as Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 1989 to 1991 and was concurrently High Commissioner to Canada, and Ambassador to Mexico.

She has received a number of awards including Honorary Degrees of Doctor of Letters in 1994 from the University of Newcastle, Australia; and the University of Buckingham (United Kingdom) in 1998; Inaugural International Woman of the Year Award 1998 from the Organisation of Chinese American Women (OCAW); Singapore's first "Woman of the Year, 1991" Award; the National Book Award, Non-Fiction Section, 1986 for A Sensation of Independence: A Political Biography of David Marshall; the National Book Award, Non-Fiction Section, 1978 for The Dynamics of One Party Dominance: The PAP at the Grassroots.

She has served as a member on the International Advisory Board of the Council on Foreign Relations, New York, the Council of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London and the International Council of the Asia Society, New York.

Ambassador Chan has served on several academic review panels and has published numerous articles and books on politics in Singapore, Southeast Asia and international security.

She was educated at the University of Singapore and Cornell University.



[Singaporean Constitution](#)
[Political Parties](#)
[Electoral Platforms](#)
[Electoral Divisions Map](#)
[Timeline](#)

An extract from Professor Chan Heng Chee's

"A Sensation of Independence: A Political Biography of David Marshall"

A Summing Up

THE post-war political history of Singapore which ushered in the era of mass politics, though short, is crowded with events of momentous significance. In a span of less than forty years, the British colony has emerged against all conventional political rationale as a thriving independent republic, one which has successfully created a mobilized, disciplined community out of an immigrant plural society, a developmental model for some new states. It has also worked out its constitutional destiny from colony to independence through merger with the larger territory of Malaysia and finally to independence as an island nation-state. Beyond dispute, the dominant force in the shaping of modern Singapore is the PAP under the durable leadership of Lee Kuan Yew, Goh Keng Swee, Toh Chin Chye, S. Rajaratnam and C. V. Devan Nair. These men grasped the political initiative for action once the PAP was formed, although for two brief phases of the party's history, control of the party organization was only tenuously in their hands. After 1961 they continuously took the lead to define the political situation and outlined the blueprints for society at each decisive turn. Against this background of continuity and achievement, how is one to assess a man like David Marshall and how does one understand his role in the political development and political process of Singapore?



Marshall stumbled into politics at the watershed of the colonial era, when the vast majority of the population was politically comatose, yet to be politically awakened. For this a certain display of daring and audacity was required to stir the popular imagination and to encourage the self-confidence needed to engage in the struggle for independence. Marshall was a man aptly fitted to perform this role. His ministry was a time of psychological escalation in Singapore, for his dramatic and ebullient style kept up the mood of intransigence giving vivid expression to anti-colonial feeling.

But he was not the only political force on the scene; far from it. For a much lengthier period, the communists and their supporters had been stealthily building up a network of support in strategic sectors, particularly in the trade unions and in the schools, to mount political action against the colonial authorities, in order to facilitate their own takeover of power one day. In the contest of strength between the colonial authorities and the communists in the anti-colonial revolution, Marshall was an important interpolator, a necessary and adequate alternative in the 1950s, to capture support and public attention with his bold, impulsive and passionate anti-colonial postures,

whether they were against the Governor or the colonial civil service. By putting things starkly, Marshall forced people to react, to take sides, to join the fledgling nationalist movement. This bought time for the democratic socialists within the PAP to conduct their struggle for ascendancy within their party. Lee Kuan Yew was not yet ready to take power in 1955 and a more conservative figure than Marshall would have enacted policies that would have polarized the situation and strengthened the communists' position.

But Marshall could not have sustained his role. His cardinal failure was an inability to build up a team of men or to attract to himself highly intelligent activists who were either mobilizers or problem-solvers or both. Perhaps his tendency to an overdramatic style and his subliminal approach to politics naturally repelled the pragmatic technocrat. And he dangerously mistook form for substance. In any case, the unfolding of events came in rapid succession and he could do little else but to react in an ad hoc fashion to every political eruption engineered by the left wing.

In the final tally of his achievements in office, Marshall must be credited with spawning numerous good ideas which became the bases of policies he eagerly initiated but could not follow through. Some of these ideas were shared by the PAP, such as the creed of multi-lingualism and multi-racialism, an education policy for nation-building, the meet-the-people sessions and the development of the provident fund. These same ideas in the hands of the more dynamic, disciplined and purposeful PAP Government were strengthened, embellished and translated into policies beyond anything Marshall could dream of or achieve.

Marshall's firm commitment to liberal democratic values, to the Queensbury rules, was patently out of tune with the predominantly Chinese electorate of Singapore. Their enfranchisement in any case would have led sooner or later to Marshall's displacement from office, unless he himself could have undergone a change in political culture. The Chinese at all times respect a strong but honest government, and understand the importance of organization, value effectiveness and efficiency. Democracy was a word they had learnt but the meaning filtered down in so many versions, and few understood the version Marshall propounded. But although ineffective as a figure in power, Marshall was admired out of power for his courage and his integrity, and for his willingness to stand up to authority on an issue of conscience. In the same way that the masses cheered him when he stood up against the colonial authorities, in a self-governing Singapore, there were many who looked to Marshall as a symbol, a glimmer of a liberal alternative to an increasingly all-powerful and authoritarian government. But he could at best remain only a symbol of opposition, if he chose to be, for he could not overcome his limitations. In the fast transforming milieu of Singapore, the new idiom of politics completely eluded him. In the end he no longer stood against the major current. He too was swept by the tide.



18 David Marshall and William Gould.

The above summary and cartoons are extracts from
 Professor Chan Heng Chee,
A Sensation of Independence:
A Political Biography of David Marshall,
 Singapore, Oxford University Press, 1984.

Comments to
Edmund.Chia@iasos.utas.edu.au
 Last Updated: 4 February 1996

[Singapore Internet Community]

Senator John Kerry

Mr. Kerry is a member of the United States Senate from Massachusetts. As a former prosecutor, he has often concentrated his efforts on fighting crime. Senator Kerry is largely responsible for the passing of the 1994 Crime Bill where 100,000 new officers were hired and the US crime budget was increased from 5.9 billion to 22.6 billion. He serves on several committees in the US Senate. As the chairman of the Senate Democratic Steering and Coordination Committee, he is responsible for working with other Senators to establish stronger partnerships with certain groups and individuals around the country. This includes citizen groups, advocacy coalitions, alliances at national, state, and local levels, and state and local elected officials including governors, mayors, and state legislators. Senator Kerry is also a member of the Senate Commerce and Foreign Relations Committee. He uses his influence here to try and create new incentives for investment in start-up companies and to promote advanced and environmental technologies.

The Boston Globe, August 5, 1999

SECTION: OP-ED; Pg. A25

HEADLINE: The leader in the new economy; JOHN KERRY and ROBERT ATKINSON;
John Kerry is US senator from Massachusetts. Robert Atkinson is director of the Technology & New Economy Project at the Progressive Policy Institute.

BYLINE: By John Kerry and Robert Atkinson

BODY:

Every aspect of life in America is being revolutionized by the forces of technology and globalization. We live in a high-tech world where Boris Yeltsin goes online from the Kremlin for a global chat on MSNBC.com. US government officials visit a West African village accessible only by a dugout canoe - and the village chief connects them to Washington by cellular phone. College students go from the dorm room to the board room as high-tech moguls. Order a Saturn on line and a new car shows up in your driveway the next morning. Twenty-five thousand new eBay subscribers sign up each day for the world's largest auction. Now there is a way to measure the new economy beyond the anecdotes of everyday life. The "State New Economy Index" report, recently released by the Progressive Policy Institute, shows that the "new economy" is more than the latest innovations in information technology and high-flying Internet companies. It is also a knowledge economy, with a large share of the work force employed in office jobs requiring some level of higher education. It is a global economy - the sum of US imports and exports rose from 11 percent of gross domestic product in 1970 to 25 percent in 1997. This emerging economy is driven by innovation in every arena from traditional manufacturing to health care.

The good news is that Massachusetts is ahead of the other 49 states by a significant margin, a national leader of the high-tech economy. But that's not the only reason this state is the best-prepared state for the "new economy" - there are many other factors driving Massachusetts's success in the post-industrial era.

First, this state has a strong "knowledge economy." Given the large number of students who come to its colleges and universities and stay after they graduate, it is no surprise that Massachusetts has the sixth-most-educated work force in the country. Not coincidentally, it ranks first in the country with the largest share of managers, professionals, and technicians in its work force - 34 percent. Moreover, because of its strong financial service, health care, and high-tech industries, it is second in the share of office jobs in its economy - 26 percent.

Second, the Massachusetts economy is globally oriented. It ranks fifth in the country in the share of jobs in manufacturing companies that depend upon exports - 23 percent - and fourth in the amount of foreign direct investment: More than 5 percent of the state's work force is employed in foreign-owned companies.

Third, in an indicator of entrepreneurial dynamism, Massachusetts ranks ninth in terms of the percentage of our workers - 15.5 percent - employed in "gazelle" companies - companies with compound sales revenue growth of 20 percent or more for four straight years.

Fourth, Massachusetts has an impressive infrastructure for innovation. The state ranks third in the country in industry investment in research and development - nearly 4 percent of gross state product. It ranks fourth in the number of scientists and engineers - collectively, they represent approximately one out of every 100 workers - and first in venture capital activity as a share of gross state product. When you add in the number of high-tech jobs in the state's economy, Massachusetts is the state with the most evolved innovation capacity for the new economy, ahead of California, Colorado, and a pack of other innovative states.

Finally, the strength of Massachusetts's digital economy comes as no surprise: the state ranks eighth in the percentage of citizens who are on line - 39 percent - and third in the number of ".com" domain names registered - 35 for every 100 companies. Massachusetts is the prototypical "new economy" state because it has been able to reinvent itself - to adapt - faster than other states. It was forced to reinvent itself in the 1950s and '60s as industries from textiles to metal-working declined. It was to reinvent itself again this decade in the wake of the dramatic decline in defense spending and the collapse of the minicomputer industry. In both cases the Bay State was able to adapt because of its highly educated and flexible workers and institutions that understand and support entrepreneurship.

To maintain and even extend its lead in the new economy, Massachusetts will need to build on its capacity for innovation and adaptiveness. There is always room for improvement.

We must continue to reinvent the public education system. The education reform initiatives of the early '90s were important steps forward, emphasizing a balance between accountability, flexibility, and investment. But there is room for improvement in the use of educational technology; only 15 percent of public school teachers in Massachusetts have received technology training, and only 40 percent of the state's classrooms are wired for Internet access.

As we strengthen elementary and secondary education, it is also critical to protect the crown jewel of Massachusetts's new economy: increasing support for higher education, especially science and engineering programs. Between 1986 and 1998 there was a 37 percent decline in bachelor's degrees in engineering in Massachusetts.

We should also work together to leverage the development of new, industry-led and union-led collaborative approaches to work force development. Economic progress in the new economy demands that we erase the old demarcations and tensions between government, business, and labor. To keep our work force ahead of the economic curve requires a flexible and team-oriented approach to worker training and retraining.

These three challenges can be met in nonbureaucratic ways. Federal, state, and local governments can forge new partnerships with the private sector to find answers for schools and workers. Government doesn't have to control or abandon; it can leverage good corporate citizenship and sound public policy by empowering corporate leadership and relying on



charitable and faith-based organizations to help us put a human face on the global economy and keep Massachusetts roaring ahead into the next century.

If Massachusetts builds on these foundation areas and continues to adapt, it will continue to lead the nation in the new economy.

Scott Yeager
Managing Director

Mr. Yeager is Managing Director of Strategic Development for Enron Broadband Services, Inc. In 1981, he founded YSA Inc., a systems integrator of fiber optic systems, which was the foundation for Network Communications, Inc. (NCI), the first competitive fiber optic network in Texas. In 1989, after MFS purchased NCI, he built the MFS Houston Fiber Optic network and was instrumental in the role MFS played in developing the competitive local-exchange-carrier market. In 1991, Scott deployed the industry's first high-speed Data-Networking services over the MFS fiber infrastructure. In 1992, Scott became Vice President of Sales for MFS Datanet, which provided high speed data services to ISP's, content providers and enterprise customers. In 1992, he created the Metropolitan Area Exchange (MAE) as an MFS Datanet service offering for ISP's. This enabled the commercialization of the Internet by allowing early ISP's to "Peer" with each other economically using an open standard. When MFS was purchased by WorldCom, he served as Vice President of Business Development where he piloted the development of IP application services (such as streaming, media services) on the WorldCom bandwidth infrastructure. Mr. Yeager has been an evangelist of the notion of delivering application layer services via tiered QoS with usage sensitive billing for over 6 years.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 15, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR MARY BETH CAHILL

FROM: Jonathan Young, OPL Associate Director for Disability Outreach

CC: Maria Echaveste, Assistant to the President and
Deputy Chief of Staff

Gene Sperling, Assistant to the President and
Director, National Economic Council

Tom Kalil, Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy

RE: President Clinton's Digital Divide Disability Trip

INTRODUCTION

On April 18, in Chicago, President Clinton made a public announcement: "in a couple of months we will have a part of this digital divide tour devoted solely to the potential that web accessibility offers to disabled Americans to participate more fully in the educational and economic life of the United States." Information Technology offers unprecedented potential to level the playing field for people with disabilities and offer greater participation in the education, economic, and social fabric of our nation. It also improves the likelihood of financial independence and economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities.

The purpose of this memo is to: 1) provide background information about the digital divide for people with disabilities; 2) suggest themes for framing the President's trip; 3) discuss possible destinations and deliverables for the trip; and, 4) suggest a strategy meeting to discuss next steps.

I. BACKGROUND

A. EMPLOYMENT OF ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

Administration Disability Policy currently centers on the need to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Despite low overall unemployment rates, there is a staggering rate of unemployment for working-age people with "severe" disabilities -- in the range

of 73.9% (according to data reported by the Census Bureau, based on the 1994-95 Survey of Income and Program Participation). The Administration has focused on how a coordinated and holistic approach is necessary to successfully increase employment rates. The availability of a job, for example, may be practically meaningless if an individual does not have a place to live, or transportation to get to a job, or health care, or adequate education and training, or assistive technology, etc.

The framework for the President's New Markets Initiative dovetails with the employment challenges for people with disabilities. In fact, the language the President used to explain the need for the work incentives legislation closely paralleled the way he discussed New Markets. "Even as we celebrate more than 18 million new jobs and a nationwide unemployment rate of 4.2 percent, the lowest in a generation..., 75 percent of Americans with disabilities remain unemployed," the President said on June 4, 1999. "This is not just a missed opportunity for Americans with disabilities. It's a missed opportunity for America. This is an era now of labor shortages, where companies go begging for employees they need to stay competitive in the global economy. And we simply cannot afford to ignore the potential of millions of potential workers simply because they have a disability."

The difficulty with making a direct link between the New Markets Initiative and people with disabilities was that they (fortunately) do not constitute geographically-concentrated markets. People with disabilities instead are a sort of "cyber-community" spread throughout the nation, who cut across every race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and religion. The New Markets concept -- of being an untapped resource that could not only empower individuals but also help the economy -- was directly applicable to people with disabilities, but not concretely demonstrable. The President's Digital Divide initiative, however, makes a direct integration of people with disabilities possible.

B. OPL ACTIVITIES REGARDING DIGITAL DIVIDE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

In January, following the President's State of the Union Address, OPL began facilitating conversations with disability advocates about the Digital Divide for people with disabilities, and solicited examples of efforts already taking place to bridge the divide. Community representatives joined an OPL-wide Digital Divide briefing on February 22, and noted the specific needs of people with disabilities. OPL subsequently began hosting weekly conference calls with individuals interested in digital opportunities for people with disabilities, to identify the nature of the challenges and generate suggestions for how they could be addressed.

On March 10, as part of its outreach efforts to multiple constituencies regarding the Digital Divide, OPL hosted a briefing for the disability community. The discussion underscored the real gaps in access to computers and the internet for people with disabilities, and highlighted the possibilities of accessible information technology. In particular, technology experts noted the importance of "usability". They explained that when we speak of "universal accessibility" we tend to mean universal availability -- carrying an assumption that the products made available could also be used by all purchasers. But the availability of a given type of technology does not mean it is necessarily *usable* (more discussion of this concept below).

In addition to weekly conference calls since the March 10 meeting, OPL has met individually with a variety of groups -- corporate as well as non-profit -- to discuss possibilities for the President's Digital Divide Tour. Although there was some disappointment that disability issues did not get more fully integrated into the original tour, the disability community is excited about the President's announcement of an additional disability-related trip.

On Thursday, June 1, OPL convened a meeting of representatives from federal agencies to review possible federal initiatives to bridge the Digital Divide for people with disabilities.

C. OVERVIEW OF DIGITAL DIVIDE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Although the disability community has recognized the benefits and importance of technology for many years, the Department of Commerce's high-profile consideration of the Digital Divide, has devoted little attention to the importance of information technology for people with disabilities.

A recent DoED-funded report, "Computer and Internet Use Among People with Disabilities," helps fill the disability void in *Falling Through the Net*. The study "demonstrates that gaps in computer and Internet use based on disability status are just as large as those based on race and ethnicity [emphasis added]." Its principle findings, based on Current Population Survey data include:

- 32.6% of people aged 15-64 with a work disability have a computer in their home (compared with 55.6% in same age range of the general population);
- 15.8% of people aged 15-64 with a work disability have Internet access at home (compared with 33.9% in same age range of the general population);
- 15.1% of people aged 15-64 with a work disability use the Internet either at home or elsewhere (compared with 42.3% in same age range of the general population);
- Disparities in computer ownership and Internet access among seniors with work disabilities parallel the 15-64 population.

The report also explains that, beyond the general gaps between people with disabilities and the general population, the disability community is similarly affected by general socio-economic factors:

- Disparities regarding computers and the Internet according to level of **education** among people with disabilities parallel the general population;
- Disparities regarding computers and the Internet according to level of **income** among people with disabilities parallel the general population.

The study also indicates similar usage patterns of the Internet for people with disabilities and the general population:

- Reasons for Internet use among people with disabilities are similar to the general population (e-mail and searching for information the two most common reasons);

- 17.0% of people with disabilities use the Internet to shop, pay bills, or for other commercial activity.

D. CURRENT PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES FOR BRIDGING THE DISABILITY DIGITAL DIVIDE

Examples of projects and programs across the country currently attempting to bridge the Digital Divide for people with disabilities include the following:

- **ABLE-NET Internet Service** specializes in offering affordable, accessible Internet Access for People with Disabilities in 31 States and Canada;
- The **CPB/WGBH National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM)** is collaborating with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for Advanced Educational Services to make an on-line interactive physics course accessible to students with disabilities;
- The **Web Accessibility Initiative** of the World Wide Web Consortium is developing standards for accessible web design;
- **Bancroft e-Solutions** seeks to identify job openings conducive to telecommuting and match with individuals working out of their home over the Internet.
- **CAST** is a leader in the development of the Universal Design for Learning educational paradigm, working to make the general educational curriculum accessible and educationally relevant for everyone;
- **DPI (Disabled Programmers, Inc.)** is a nonprofit agency working in partnership with Silicon Valley businesses and the community to prepare people with disabilities for competitive employment. Through adaptive computer access technology and career transition services, DPI creates opportunities for significant advances in universal access, social integration, and employment for people with disabilities;
- **Edapta**, a for-profit company, is developing third-party Internet solutions that would enable customization of Internet information according to one's visual and input preferences.
- **e-Transcribe**, started by Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, trains individuals with disabilities to become medical transcriptionists and provide them contract work to perform from their homes using an array of technology, including computers with voice activated software, the Internet, and Dictaphone equipment.
- **High School High Tech**, a program of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, seeks to provide high school students with internships with high-tech companies and agencies, including Goddard Space Flight Center in the Washington, DC area. The program currently has projects in 10 states.
- The **Merze Tate Center for Technology and Educational Reform** at Western Michigan University is leading a public-private initiative to develop a national on-line support center to help facilitate the training of people with disabilities for employment in the fast growing computer industry.
- The **Motion Picture Access Project**, with initial funding from NIDRR, has developed digital technology that allows people who are deaf or blind to access closed-captioning or video descriptions in movie theaters.

- **Virtual Buddies** takes donated computers, and donated Internet accounts, and places them in the homes of low-income people with different disabilities. The program gives individuals largely isolated in their homes a way to communicate with others and enhance their education through distance learning.

II. THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

A. SUGGESTED THEMES FOR POTUS DISABILITY TRIP

The President's Disability Digital Divide trip will meet with the greatest success if it is situated in the broader context of employment of *people* with disabilities, not merely on the specific *technologies* that enable many people with disabilities to participate in the digital economy. Moreover, even the issues of technology access can be presented in the broader context of *usability* for all Americans. This framework will help ensure greater collaboration from the business community, which is in many respects fearful of a regulatory approach, and has even mobilized efforts against internet accessibility (for example, a February 9, 2000 congressional hearing on the subject). Two main themes are suggested for the framework for the trip:

Maintaining Economic Growth. The United States has reached its lowest unemployment in decades by dipping under 3.9%. While this is a great achievement, it also presents challenges for meeting labor shortages. Congress has issued visas for high technology workers because so many positions have gone unfulfilled. With unemployment among people with "severe" disabilities exceeding 70%, not to mention underemployment of people with disabilities generally, people with disabilities represent an under-utilized reserve of American labor. Finding ways to encourage companies to hire and to mentor people with disabilities, and to work with the non-profit disability community to build awareness of job opportunities, is essential. One of the best ways of reducing the digital divide for people with disabilities is to increase employment, since income-level, as with the general population, is a strong determinant of access.

Availability & Usability. "Access" is generally discussed in terms of the availability of computers and the internet. Equally important is "usability," which applies to everyone. Individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities have a variety of ways of accessing electronic information. Language, visual, motion, and hearing impairments have all been barriers that have presented substantial challenges. Some of the technologies originally designed to make electronic information usable to people with disabilities have wide applicability in the general population. The tools that have helped people with disabilities will make it easier for all Americans; developing more of them is the challenge and opportunity. Examples of "usability" include:

- Language translation software for documents;
- Speech Recognition software that eliminates the need to use a keyboard;
- "Audiotext" where the content of a document is verbally articulated for user to listen to;
- "Sticky keys" that make it easier for users who have difficulty using regular keyboards input information.

B. CONCEPTUAL POSSIBILITIES FOR DELIVERABLES

Ideally, a powerful package of announcements could focus on private-sector hiring commitments in collaborative partnerships with government and non-profit entities. Such an announcement would include:

- commitments to provide all necessary reasonable accommodations, including assistive technologies;
- commitments to accessible web design;
- mentoring/internship programs;
- design stage R&D for accessible products and software;
- new efforts at data collection and reporting regarding people with disabilities and information technology;
- education and training; and,
- efforts to provide hardware and software to people with disabilities.

This announcement could also be linked with implementation of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act. Business and government entities could emphasize they want to make the legislation a reality by providing employment opportunities, and disability organizations could help by identifying people with disabilities who are able and ready to work.

III. DESTINATIONS AND DELIVERABLES

A. POSSIBLE DESTINATIONS FOR A TRIP

Willow CyberCenter Networks (Miami, FL). Willow is a web-based Network for telecommuting customer service operations, which is reaching out to people with disabilities to become an integrated component of its pool of CyberAgents representing people of all ages and backgrounds.

Web Accessibility Initiative, MIT, and WGBH (Boston, MA). WAI is working to help make websites more accessible; MIT is developing innovative internet-based, cross-disability instruction; and WGBH is creating captioning technologies in partnership with MIT and others.

Georgia Tools for Life and Georgia High School High Tech (Atlanta, GA). Georgia Tools for Life sponsors ReBoot, a computer recycling program for people with disabilities. Georgia's High School High Tech program is one of the most extensive in the country, providing high tech internship opportunities for disabled high school students.

Western Michigan University in (Kalamazoo, MI). Western Michigan University in cooperation with IBM, Smartforce.com and Monster.com along with the Association of Rehabilitation Programs in Computer Technology (ARPCT) are about to launch a national on-line support center for preparing people with disabilities for IT careers.

* More detailed information on each of these possibilities is available as requested.

B. POSSIBLE DELIVERABLES

OPL has been discussing a variety of deliverables with for-profit and not-for-profit entities. Most of the potential deliverables are still in planning stage, in part because people do not have a solid grasp of when the President's trip will take place; some lack certainty that the trip will in fact take place. Likely deliverables, however, include the following entities.

- **Procurement Central, Inc.** wants to announce a major commitment to hire thousands of people with disabilities for its web-based procurement data management centers (the CEO is a person with a disability);
- **Willow CyberCenter Networks** is exploring possible ways to build on their commitment to hiring people with disabilities as CyberAgents;
- Members of the **Able to Work Consortium**, a network of corporate business leaders, are exploring the possibility of hiring commitments;
- **NCR Corporation** submitted a proposal for the initial trip and is now putting together a new proposal (OPL met with NCR representatives on Friday, May 26);
- **The National Rehabilitation Hospital** is developing an initiative to provide low-end computers or web devices to patients with disabilities leaving the hospital and provide training in information technology;
- The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities is seeking to expand its **High School High Tech** program, perhaps announcing new projects in additional states;
- **HalfthePlanet.com**, an internet portal for people with disabilities, is exploring an initiative to provide scholarships supporting design-stage engineering projects;
- **Edapta** has proposed using SSA's Access Seniors website as a test site for its Internet transformations;

* More detailed information on each of these possibilities is available as requested.

IV. Recommended Strategy Session

The following individuals would be ideal for a strategic planning meeting, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 22, at 11:00 AM.

***Judy Brewer:** Director of the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Accessibility Initiative, she is a leading expert in the mechanics of designing and developing standards for accessible websites.

Steve Jacobs: President of IDEAL, a non-profit at NCR Corp. dedicated to promoting the hiring of people with disabilities, he is an expert in a variety of accessible technologies, including information kiosks.

David Bolnick: Accessibility Program Manager at Microsoft, he is the engine behind the Microsoft-inspired Able To Work consortium and the Enable educational video about computers and people with disabilities.

***Greg Vanderheiden:** Director of the Trace Research and Department Center in Madison, WI, he is a leading expert who has worked closely with corporations such as Microsoft to encourage integration of accessible technologies.

Cynthia Waddell: ADA Coordinator, City of San Jose, she is a well known author and speaker on the subject of the Internet and the fair and accessible presentation of information for everyone, including presentations before the Department of Commerce.

Andrew Imparato: President of the American Association of People with Disabilities, he is working with AOL and others about IT for people with disabilities, focusing not so much on specialized technologies but the basic income- and education-based divide.

Ed Eckenhoff: President of the National Rehabilitation Hospital, he is developing a web-based initiative, HealthTown, which will enable patients to communicate with the hospital more efficiently, and provide discharged patients with computer or web devices.

***Alan Dinsmore:** Executive Director of the American Council of the Blind, he is an expert on the accessibility issues for individuals who are blind and visually-impaired.

Jane West: Disability consultant working with the Association of Tech Act Projects and corporations, including Edapta.

* Attended the March 10 Digital Divide meeting.

CONCLUSION

President Clinton's Disability Digital Divide trip provides an outstanding opportunity to demonstrate the potential of technology in improving the educational, social, and economic lives of people disabilities, which can result in increased economic independence and self-sufficiency. Equally important, the New Markets framework offers a way to redefine the relationship between the disability and business communities. At a time when Clint Eastwood has publicized an adversarial relationship between people with disabilities (as represented by "parasitic attorneys") and the business community, the Digital Divide trip can help move both the disability and the business communities toward **a collaborative relationship based on win-win results.**

From: Melissa G. Green on 06/19/2000 03:06:20 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP, Sean R. Dobson/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Confirmed in RR for 11:00 AM Thursday for Disability Dig Divide meeting

----- Forwarded by Melissa G. Green/OPD/EOP on 06/19/2000 03:06 PM -----

Record Type: Record

To: Mary E. Cahill/WHO/EOP@EOP, Gene B. Sperling/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc: Christine A. Stanek/WHO/EOP@EOP, Melissa G. Green/OPD/EOP@EOP, Rhonda S. Binda/WHO/EOP@EOP, Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP

Subject: Confirmed in RR for 11:00 AM Thursday for Disability Dig Divide meeting

Digital Divide Disability Reps Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 22

Time: 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Place: Roosevelt Room

Confirmed Attendance: Mary Beth Cahill, Gene Sperling

Invited Participants:

***Judy Brewer:** Director of the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Accessibility Initiative, she is a leading expert in the mechanics of designing and developing standards for accessible websites.

Steve Jacobs: President of IDEAL, a non-profit at NCR Corp. dedicated to promoting the hiring of people with disabilities, he is an expert in a variety of accessible technologies, including information kiosks.

David Bolnick: Accessibility Program Manager at Microsoft, he is the engine behind the Microsoft-inspired Able To Work consortium and the Enable educational video about computers and people with disabilities.

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