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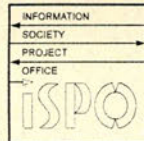
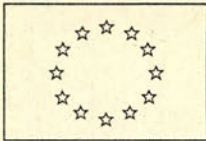
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Folder Title:
National Information Infrastructure - G-7 Applications [2]

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE GENERAL III - Industry

DIRECTORATE GENERAL XIII - Telecommunications, Information Market and Exploitation of Research

ISPO - Information Society Project Office

Brussels, 17/10/97

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G8-IS National Co-ordinator Meeting - Washington DC - 20 October 1997

Report on the G8-Global Inventory Project (GIP); Theme 1

caveat: in this text, the wording 'G8' is used, according to the recent inclusion of Russia in the group.

Project achievement so far.

A web site (<http://www.gip.int>) has been installed early 1997, according to the results of an open call for tender which selected an international consortium headed by EXOL spa (I) in late 1995. An awareness campaign took place in various countries in the 1st semester of 1997. More than 2000 IS projects are accessible in GIP world-wide. The GIP interface works in French, English, Italian, German and Japanese.

Starting in June 1997, a plan to improve the site for a second contractual period of one year has started. Improvements will address multilinguality, search techniques, a better access to national inventories, a better connectivity with other sources of information (Non Governmental Organisations), a better coverage of EU activities (ESIS, the European Information Society Survey) and openness to newcomer countries with an emphasis on Developing Countries (DC). National Inventories interconnected to GIP have also improved both coverage and description of projects. The Word Bank and Switzerland are participating, Spain, Egypt, South Korea and Hungary have expressed interest.

The final report provided by the EXOL consortium will be made available soon to all G8 GIP Steering Committee members.

Plan for '98 activities:

The GIP site will be improved according to the amendment of the contract and should be integrated in EU web sites at its end. The last GIP Steering Committee meeting held on 10 October 1997 has decided on several actions for the '98 awareness plan :

- development of a multilingual presentation package available for each Steering Committee member and others showing interest in promoting GIP;
- participation of the GIP in several international events, including a G8 event with Theme 10 in the UK (April), ITU Telecom Africa (May), OECD conference (October), APEC conference (to be defined) and a specific action for Russia (tbd);
- opening of the GIP site to the other G8 IS pilot projects;
- release of a CD-ROM in June 1998 presenting all results of the GIP pilot phase. This media could be offered to other G8 projects to be officially presented in G8 events.

Steering Committee meetings 97-98:

GIP steering Committee meetings have taken place in Warsaw (May 1997) and Brussels with teleconference (October 1997). Minutes are available.

A meeting is scheduled on 10/11/1997 via teleconference to define in detail the '98 Awareness Plan and to report main results from the G7 National Co-ordinator Meeting..

The next teleconference should take place in early January 1998 to monitor the progress of the '98 work preparation and face-to-face meeting should be organised in conjunction with the events where GIP will be participating in 1998.

G8-GIP added value:

GIP is to be considered mainly as a One Stop Service to the various national and international inventories presenting IS projects and activities. It adds value to them in easing the access (multilingual interface, advanced search) and in easing the participation of newcomers (off-shore service). To encourage the start-up and the participation of the developing countries is considered especially important. The planned improvements of its interface will increase the value of accessible information and decrease the cost of building and maintaining local databases. The integration of innovative tools on the site interface will also demonstrate a 'good practice' of use of the IS tools.

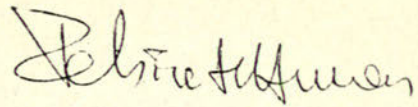
Provision of distributed inventories viewed through a common versatile interface is perceived as a basic tool for the monitoring and the awareness of the development of the Global Information Society. GIP provides means for brokerage of ideas, projects and identification of best practices and the conditions of deploying a sustainable GIS.

Conclusion:

It is proposed to the National Co-ordinators to find ways to continue this initiative at the end of the pilot phase and to use it as a pervasive tool to monitor the deployment of the Global Information Society.

A clear and open policy describing the role of NGOs in all projects is needed.

The other projects should take better advantage of GIP for improving their awareness raising activities.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Patrice Husson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Patrice Husson
EC/ISAC/ISPO
G8 GIP IS pilot project international
co-leader (Theme 1)

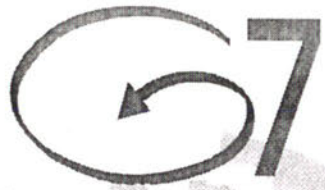


Global Interoperability for Broadband Networks (GIBN)

A G7 Global Information Society Pilot Project

***G7 Coordinators Meeting
Washington, 20 October 1997***

***Keith Chang, Volker Reible
(Industry Canada, Deutsche Telekom)
chang.keith@jc.gc.ca, reible@berkom.de***



From Vision to Action

- ❑ **G7 Ministerial Conference on the Information Society, Brussels, February 1995, launches Pilot Projects**
 -
- ❑ **Objectives:**
 - **demonstrate potential of Information Society**
 - **establish ground work for cooperation**
 - **promote effective information exchange**
 - **stimulate development**
 - **identify obstacles and market opportunities**



Principles

- ☐ **have clear added-value**
- ☐ **give meaning and content to concept**
- ☐ **stimulate cooperation amongst players**
- ☐ **create no new bureaucracy**
- ☐ **use existing programmes to cover costs**
- ☐ **open to non-G7 countries, and international organizations**
- ☐ **open access by public and private entities**

The logo features a large, stylized 'G' with a curved arrow pointing clockwise, followed by the number '7'.

G7 Organization

- ❑ **A national coordinator from each country**
 - **coordination of country participation**
- ❑ **National Coordinators Committee**
 - **overall coordination and oversight**
 - **chaired, on a rotational basis, by the country of G7 Presidency**
- ❑ **Each project led or co-led by one or more G7 countries**
- ❑ **A project steering committee plans and oversees implementation for each project**



Eleven Themes

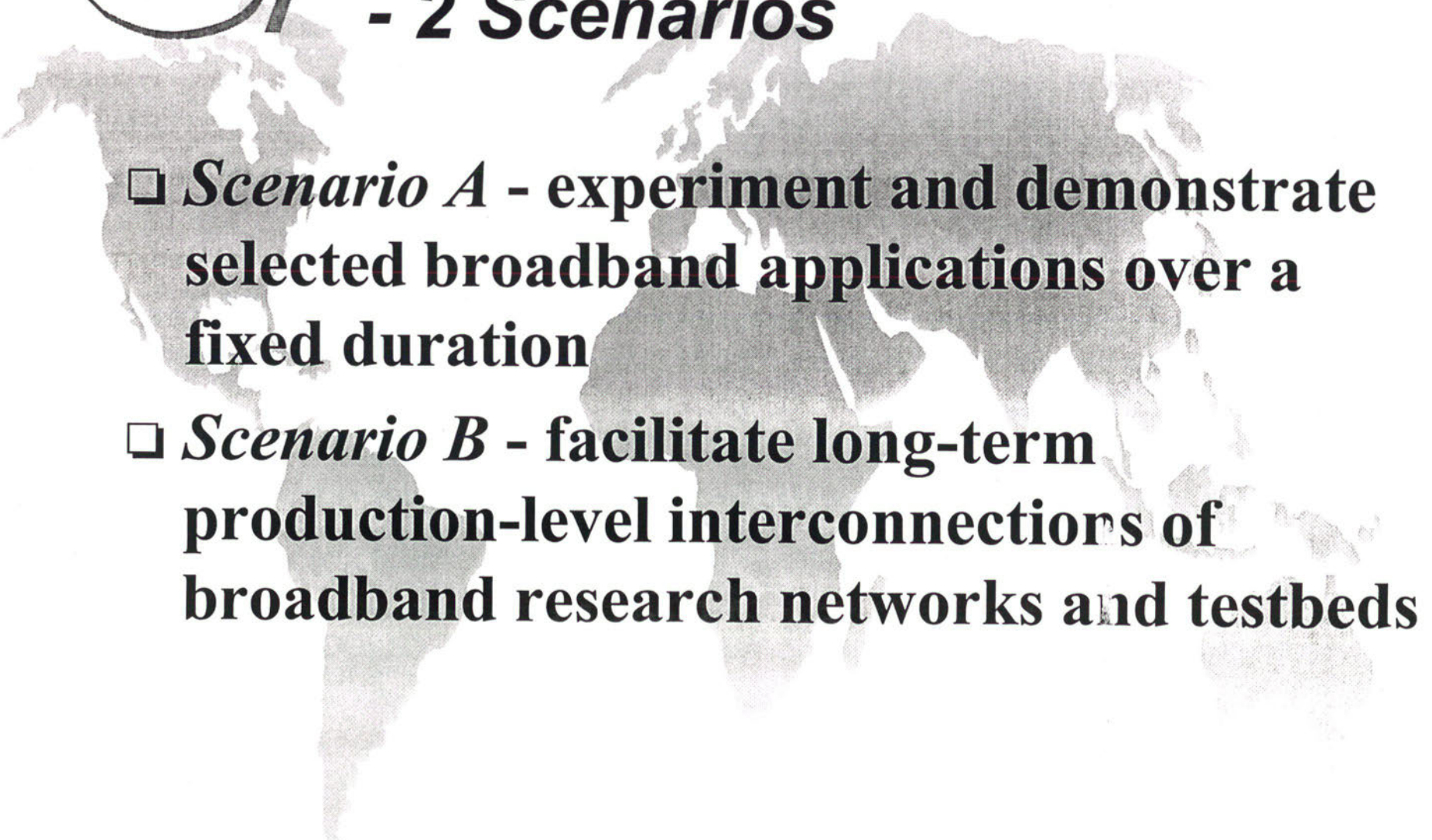
1. Global Inventory
2. ***Global Interoperability for Broadband Networks***
3. Cross-Cultural Training and Education
4. Electronic Libraries
5. Electronic Museums and Galleries
6. Environment and Natural Resources Management
7. Global Emergency Management
8. Global Healthcare Applications
9. Government Online
10. Global Marketplace for SMEs
11. Maritime Information Systems



GIBN Objectives

- ☐ **To facilitate the global interconnection and interoperability of high-speed networks**
- ☐
- ☐ **To foster the development and deployment of broadband applications, products and services**





G7 Implementation Strategy - 2 Scenarios

- ❑ ***Scenario A*** - experiment and demonstrate selected broadband applications over a fixed duration
- ❑ ***Scenario B*** - facilitate long-term production-level interconnections of broadband research networks and testbeds



G7 Scenario A

- ☐ **Initial focus**
- ☐ **Participation of international carriers**
- ☐ **Intercontinental links**
- ☐ **18 application projects**
- ☐



Application Projects

- 1. Telemedicine for treatment of cancer**
- 2. Telemedicine in neurology**
- 3. Application development using broadband research networks**
- 4. Quality control through ATM network**
- 5. Cost-effective, quality-controlled patient management**
- 6. SPOCK - applications of multimedia teleservices to aircraft industry**
- 7. Virtual Classroom**
- 8. ACTS Summer School 96 on ATM**
- 9. Collaboration simulation and visualisation**
- 10. Distributed virtual studio production and virtual reality simulation**
- 12. Cardiovascular health network**
- 13. Computational fluid dynamics and distributed visualisation**
- 14. Remote high-definition video post-production using satellite**
- 15. Integrated broadband communications on broadband networks**
- 16. HDTV application interoperability experiment**
- 17. Collaborative microsurgery**
- 18. Global computing infrastructure**



Satellite-based Applications

- ❑ **Satellites offer alternative and complementary means, particularly to remote areas**
- ❑ **Quadrilateral Group on International Joint Experiments for HDR Communications (QUAD)** working in close collaboration with **GIBN**
- ❑ **QUAD members: Canada (IC/CRC), Japan (MPT/CRL), USA (NASA), Europe (EC & ESA)**



Accomplishments to Date

- ❑ Evolution of “**Acceptable *Use* Policy**” into “**Acceptable *User* Policy**”
- ❑ **Demonstrations** of trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific broadband applications
- ❑ **Accelerated interconnection** of broadband research networks and test beds
- ❑ Development of **Transit Access Point (TAP)** concept
- ❑ **STARTAP inChicago:** interconnections and peering agreements for CA*net II and vBNS, and soon for SINET, SINGAREN and...
- ❑ **Production-level connectivity between North America and Europe**, through CA*net II and CANTAT-3.





Reaching the Goal

Moving forward to Scenario B

- **To encourage early interconnection of broadband research and education networks and testbeds**
-
- **To create a pervasive and versatile global broadband infrastructure for research capable of supporting diverse, evolving and, ultimately, commercially viable applications and services**

➤



Approaches

Scenario B

- ❑ **Encourage increased commitments** by government authorities and other stakeholders, **to global interconnection**
- ❑ Identify, address and resolve issues and barriers to create **a favourable environment**
- ❑ **Support and collaborate** with other international organizations with similar goals (e.g. CCIRN)
- ❑ Work with **regional networking initiatives**
- ❑ **Going beyond G7 - Going global**
- ❑



Current Developments - G7 National Initiatives

□ National Initiatives

- **US:** Next Generation Internet and Internet 2
- **Canada:** CA*Net II
- **Japan:** SINET, IMNET
- **Europe:** RENATER (Fr), WIN/DFN (G), INFN/GARR (It), SUPER-JANET (UK)

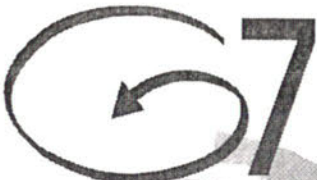
□ Regional Initiatives

- **Pacific:** APII, APAN
- **Europe:** TEN-34, JAMES

Issues under consideration

- ❑ **Circumventing Transit Traffic**
 - “TAP” or “TAPs” in North America, Europe, Asia?
- ❑ **Acceptable Use(r) Policy**
 - reconciliation and harmonization
- ❑ **Reducing Costs of International Links for Research Networks**
 - alignment of requirements to actual use (e.g SVCs)
 - more realistic definition of QoS needs
 - partnering arrangements and competitive procurement
- ❑ **Cost-Sharing Principles**
 - traffic measurement and analysis
 - consensus building through improved understanding

➤



Conclusion

- ❑ **Much has been accomplished**

- Awareness of potential raised and valuable experiences gained through application trials and demonstrations

- ❑ **But, much more needs to be done ...**

- To realize the goal of global interconnection of broadband networks and development and deployment of viable broadband applications

-

-

G7 "Information and Society" Pilot Project
Theme 3 : Transcultural Education and Training for language learning
TEL*LINGUA

General coordination

Status report September 1997

The aim of this project is the development of an international network concerning language education and training in conjunction with the cultural discovery required for learning a language. First and foremost, it is a human network that interconnects skills, but it is also a physical network of information, represented by a virtual "global" server, i.e. an international network of servers working directly together, offering on line all the available resources in the field, presenting experiments, products and a platform for an exchange of observations, connecting teachers, trainers and users. In other words, everything that can be of assistance in the interactive apprenticeship of languages, in order to improve their knowledge and promote understanding of cultural differences between different countries.

With the financial support of the European Commission DG XIII, the Feasibility Study TEL*LINGUA came successfully to an end with the CONSENSUS CONFERENCE in TORINO in October '96. Approx. 150 invited delegates from 15 countries attended and elaborated sophisticated recommendations for global actions of strategic importance. The contingent view of almost all delegates about priorities, policies and actions needed was remarkable. Due to technical and administrative difficulties, the broad dissemination of these results has been delayed but is expected to happen in autumn '97.

This feasibility study had provided a better understanding of the difficulties to be overcome on a theoretical basis and, at the same time, by observing network activities. On realistic grounds, it had endeavoured to create and manage an operational plan adapted to the G7 Theme 3 Transcultural Education and Training Pilot Project.

The TEL*LINGUA project points out that content providers in the public sector must be induced to work with promoters and providers in the private sector. Publishers had attended the consensus conference and shown their interest, but for the future the TEL*LINGUA coordination must make an additional effort in their direction so that the project be better known and partners attracted therein.

It is also of prime importance that the identified organisms in each country work together so as to come to a consensus on the guidance and validation systems for linguistic apprenticeship.

Conclusions and recommendations of the feasibility study showed that this project is possible. It presents a lot of interest either on international cooperation level, on research level or on linguistic level.

The functional prototype of the proposed 'Virtual Global Server on Transcultural Education and Language Learning' is still operational under the common Internet-address « <http://www.tel-lingua.org> », consisting of interlinked servers in several G 7 and non-G 7 countries. It is ready for operational services by expanding substantially the links to materials and web-sites in the whole field of pilot project theme 3 to approach stepwise a global comprehensive coverage of the respective virtual meta-server. Sophisticated, user friendly, state-of-the-art database background structures to facilitate targeted search and navigation ('data warehousing') still need to be implemented.

Sustainable funding for all actions and structures identified as crucial for the success of theme 3 still remains the key - and not yet satisfactorily solved-problem.

It must be pointed out that the number of interested partners and countries effectively involved was increasing during the feasibility study. In future, the principle of a global server could only be considered if a maximum number of countries are involved but this must be done one step at a time onward from existing services and projects

If the feasibility study showed that for such a project a strong general coordination is needed, on the other hand it was commonly agreed that a single big homogeneous and global project is unlikely to be set up successfully. It would take by far too long to reach the consensus needed over all countries interested, in principle in a totally synchronous way. Therefore, a flexible network structure of sufficiently synchronized different projects is envisaged: Based on the commonly agreed TEL*LINGUA grid of actions different clusters of countries and/or supranational bodies may join their interest in areas of overlap by operational 'sub-projects', which, on one hand, allow quick and independent progress, and on the other hand, can accumulate their results using this common structural basis. Only this consistency needed to avoid overlap of actions as well as uncovered 'blind spots', to coordinate and synchronize actions and to ensure the coherent validation of results, has to be managed adequately. As such common management structure, the 'TEL*LINGUA Global Management Network' is proposed, which should consist of national management nodes (with a minimum of 5 to begin - G 7 as well as non-G 7). They each need a minimal permanent infrastructure of 1 person staff, sufficiently powerful server and network capacities and a budget allowing successful support to propose several content projects a year (or to support those proposals) of varying multinational consortia, to coordinate operationally those consortia and to ensure validation of outcomes including the continuous operation of the technical infrastructures of the 'virtual server'. These 'TEL*LINGUA Global Management Network' national nodes need a relatively reasonable, but long term budget from national sources. For this, the material means need to be found, either at a national level or at an international level (the feasibility study's conclusion makes suggestions concerning this subject).

Therefore, at the moment, final results have not been reached yet. But decision processes have been initiated and have a good perspective in several countries. In the intermediate phase theme 3 is prepared to initiate or to support proposals for 'sub-

projects', especially those in cooperation with other pilot projects in areas of common interest.

The conclusions of the study, its recommendations and proposals for the development of the project are included in the report and are available on the Tel*lingua servers. It is proposed that a general meeting of the G7 Theme 3 be held as soon as possible in order to decide on the following-up of the project.

General coordinator - France

Michèle BARON - DISTNB
Ministère de l'Éducation nationale
de la Recherche et de la Technologie
1, rue Descartes, F-75005 PARIS
Tél. (33) 1 46 34 37 55
Fax : (33) 1 46 34 46 34
e-mail: michele.baron@mesr.fr

Associate coordinator - Allemagne

Walter Kugemann - FIM-Psychologie
Address: FIM-Psychologie, Maximiliansplatz 3,
D-91054 Erlangen
Tel.: +49.9131.85.4736,
Fax: +49.9131.85.4738,
e-mail: kugemann@fim-uni.erlangen.de
WWW: <http://www.fim-uni-erlangen.de>



*Transcultural Education and Training in Language
Learning Innovations for Better Global Understanding
and Awareness*

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TEL*LINGUA

General coordination

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Associate coordinator - Allemagne
Walter Kugenann - FIM-Psychologie
Address: FIM-Psychologie, Maximiliansplatz 3,
D-91054 Erlangen
Tel.: +49.9131.85.4736,
Fax: +49.9131.85.4738,
e-mail: kugenann@fim.uni-erlangen.de
WWW: <http://www.fim.uni-erlangen.de>

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Progress report October 1997

Project 4 : Electronic libraries : Bibliotheca Universalis

Objectives

The objective of the project is to constitute from existing programs the large, distributed virtual collection of humankind knowledge, made available to a large public via networks, and to advance international cooperation towards the establishment of global electronic library systems. The project should strengthen the function of libraries and improve availability at international levels of digitized resources including both bibliographic records and information content itself (integrating text, graphics, still images, sound and video information). It will promote the large scale digitization of materials on electronic library systems. Furthermore, it should demonstrate how integrated digitization techniques support long term preservation as well as enable immediate, easy access to such documents including the linguistic dimension.

Actions in 1996

1) Informal meeting in Tokyo (March, 14th). The directors of the American, English, French and Japanese national libraries discussed the demonstration which was to be organised for the Information Society and Development conference and the survey of digital collections.

2) ISAD conference (May 13th-15 th), Midrand, South Africa. During the conference, a prototype of Bibliotheca universalis was demonstrated, which made a great success. This prototype gave access to multimedia data on the theme of « *Africa, Culture and Civilization* » supplied by G7 partner countries

Actions in 1997 and programme for 1998

1) Survey on digitization programs

A survey on digitization programs for the purpose of sharing information on current technologies, standards and methods applied to digitization programs among all partner countries (G7 and non-G7) and on national policies or strategies has been made.

The survey was sent back by 11 countries (Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States). The surveys were disseminated to the partners.

2) Bibliotheca Universalis Second general meeting, Copenhagen, 1st September 1997

Main issues :

- New partners

Koninklijke Bibliotheek (Netherlands)

Koninklijke Bibliotheek Albert I / Bibliothèque Royale Albert 1er (Belgium)

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Biblioteca Nacional (Spain)
Schweizerische Landesbibliothek/Bibliothèque Nationale Suisse (Switzerland)
Národní knihovna (Czech Republic)
Instituto de Biblioteca Nacional e do Livro (Portugal)

- **Observer**

UNESCO

All the partners decided to continue the project based on the following recommendations to be implemented in 1998 :

- Formal agreement : **A Memorandum of Understanding** will be drafted and signed by all partners in 1998. The national libraries will be involved in the project as such.
- A **common theme** for the constitution of Bibliotheca Universalis was adopted by the partners : *"Exchanges between People"*. Each partner will include this topic within its digitization program.
- A **working group on technologies and standards** will be created. The core group consists of the National Library of Canada and the European working group from the CoBRA Forum (DG XIII E-4). They will submit proposals to the other partners.
- **Networked Information dissemination on Bibliotheca Universalis** : all partners will load on their WWW servers information on their current digitization programmes (in original language and in English). The European W3 server for national libraries GABRIEL (<http://www.konbib.nl/gabriel/>) will be used as a linking platform for Bibliotheca Universalis. It will support exchange of information between partners and increase visibility on Bibliotheca Universalis.
- Efforts will be made by the partners to promote **multilingual access** to the digitized collections.

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Schweizerische Landesbibliothek/Bibliothèque Nationale Suisse (Switzerland)
Narodni Knihovna (Czech Republik)
Instituto de Biblioteca Nacional e do Livro (Portugal)

- **Observer**

UNESCO

All the partners decided to continue the project based on the following recommendations to be implemented in 1998 :

- Formal agreement : **A Memorandum of Understanding** will be drafted and signed by all partners in 1998. The national libraries will be involved in the project as such.
- A **common theme** for the constitution of Bibliotheca Universalis was adopted by the partners : *"Exchanges between People"*. Each partner will include this topic within its digitization program.
- A **working group on technologies and standards** will be created. The core group consists of the National Library of Canada and the European working group from the CoBRA Forum (DG XIII E-4). They will submit proposals to the other partners.
- **Networked Information dissemination on Bibliotheca Universalis** : all partners will load on their WWW servers information on their current digitization programmes (in original language and in English). The European W3 server for national libraries GABRIEL (<http://www.konbib.nl/gabriel/>) will be used as a linking platform for Bibliotheca Universalis. It will support exchange of information between partners and increase visibility on Bibliotheca Universalis.
- Efforts will be made by the partners to promote **multilingual access** to the digitized collections.

MINISTÈRE DÉLÉGUÉ À LA POSTE,
AUX TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS ET À L'ESPACE

DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES POSTES ET TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS

Service des Affaires Internationales

G7 Pilot Project Multimedia Access to World Cultural Heritage

With reference to the G7 Pilot Project "Multimedia Access to World Cultural Heritage", herewith an updating of the operating proposals and activities performed in October 1997.

According to the document approved in the Rome April '95 meeting the development of the Project was divided into four stages:

- 1st stage = comparative analysis of the current situation and the proposal of standard solutions (carried out by 3 working groups)
- 2nd stage = setting up of a prototype
- 3rd stage = implementation of the various components of the prototype
- 4th stage = evaluation of the demo project

After a year, the first stage was not fully completed, due to the distinctive situations the countries were experiencing.

However, the use of communication networks by an increasing number of cultural organisation and museums, the development of related national and international projects, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding promoted by the European Commission (DG XIII) as well as the final document of the meeting of the museum's Directors enabled the development of the second stage of the Project. By so doing a set of initiatives at an international level, in line with the objectives of the pilot project has been identified.

The yearly meeting held in Rome at the ICCD - Central Institute for Catalogue and Documentation - on September 30th - October 1st 1996, among the G7 Pilot Project's national representatives (there were national Representatives of Canada, France, Japan, United Kingdom, United States of America and, as observers, the Holy See and Switzerland) enabled the drawing up of a new working paper which has defined the operational ways and implementing stages of the Project on the basis of a wide international partners' consent.

It was decided to update the working methodologies, thus identifying three new key points to be dealt with in this new stage of the Project.

- A. Identification of working themes and consequent working groups' reorganisation.
- B. Identification of cross-border projects as reference prototypes.

C. Project developments and networking (on the Internet).

With reference to the A, B and C points, the following activities have been launched:

A - Identification of working themes and consequent working groups' reorganization.

Four working themes aimed at focussing attention on the following points have been identified:

1 - Presentation of the Cultural Heritage and Dissemination of Information

Quality standards for the utilization of cultural heritage, standards for cataloguing and digital systems as well as for multi-language communication (thesauri and dictionaries).

2 - Legal Aspects concerning the Correct Use of Information

Intellectual property rights and copyright, legal aspects concerning the correct use, preservation and security of the information.

3 - Research and Technological Developments

Standards for interoperability systems and multimedia technological applications, communication networks, research instruments and navigation.

4 - Testing and Application

Applications in the field of preservation and management of cultural heritage, including the identification of data entry priorities, applications in the fields of education and training, cultural tourism and entertainment: all qualifications driven by a multitude of users.

It has been agreed that each working group had to be led by a co-ordinator and the above mentioned areas have been respectively assigned to: the United kingdom (1), the United States of America and Canada (2), France (3) and Italy (4).

Ongoing activities

Attention was given by the national representatives of the WGs, during their activities, to the various national and international underway projects. The aim was to introduce the typical issues of the G7 project in their own initiatives, both in terms of compliance with the internationally

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acknowledge standards and creation of interfaces to the data bases able to meet the multilanguage needs. The problems relating to the harmonisation of the copyrights' protection systems have been faced with the launch of a survey on the ruling legislation in the member states and in the countries joining the European Union together with the drawing up of a specific report within the MoU activities.

Herewith the updated situation of the WG contact points:

W.G.1 - Presentation of Cultural Heritage and Dissemination of the Information

The contact point is Louise Smith, Museum documentation Association (M.D.A.);

her address is:

Louise Smith, M.D.A. Setting Standards-Assistant Director
Lincoln House 3476 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge, CB1 4DH UK
Tel ++44-1223-213575 E-mail: Lsmith@mdocassn.demon.co.uk

Italy's Representative: Marco Lattanzi, ICCD - Ministero per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali,
Tel.: ++39-6-58552256 - Fax: ++39-6-58332313
E-mail: lattanzi@iccd.beniculturali.it

W.G.2 - Legal Aspects concerning the Correct Use of Information

The contact point is Charles Gruchy, General Director of the Canadian Inheritance Department, his address is:

Charles Gruchy, General Director
Direction générale du Patrimoine Ministère du Patrimoine canadien
15, rue Eddy, pièce 20 - 3 ètage Hull (Québec) K1A 0M5 CANADA
Tel. (819) 997-7782 Fax (819) 997-8392 E-mail: charlesgruchy@pch.gc.ca

Italy's Representative: ICCD and legislative Office of the Ministero per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali

United States of America's Representative: Jean Sledge Project Manager,
Network Initiatives Getty
Information institute
Tel : 310 395.1025 -

Fax : 310 451.5570

E-mail

W.G.3 - Research and Technological Development

The contact point is Jean Louis Pascon of the French Ministry of Culture.
His address is :

Jean Louis Pascon Ministère de la Culture

Rue du Fort de Saint Cyr 78182 Saint Quentin en Yvelines Cedex France

Tel.: ++33+1-3085-6774 E-mail: pascon@culture.fr

Japan's Representative: Hiromu Momma, Deputy Director of the Ministry
of PTT

Tel.: ++81-3-3504-4223 - Fax: ++81-3-3595-2594

E-mail: h-momma@mpt.go.jp

Italy's Representative: Francesco Prosperetti, ICCD - Ministero per i Beni
Culturali e Ambientali

Tel.: ++39-6-58552233 - Fax: ++39-6-55332313

E-mail: prosperetti@iccd.beniculturali.it

W.G.4 - Testing and Application

The contact point is Francesco Prosperetti, the Architectural Service's
Director, his address is:

Via di San Michele, 18 00153 Rome

Tel.: ++39-6-58552233 - Fax: ++39-6-55332313

E-mail: prosperetti@iccd.beniculturali.it

Japan's Representative: Emiko Kakiuchi Director, Cultural Policy Planning
office,

General Affairs division, Agency for Cultural
Affairs Tokyo

Tel: ++81-3-3501-0749 - Fax: ++81-3-3595-2056

E-mail: Emiko@monbu.go.jp

United States of America's Representative: Jean Sledge Project Manager
Getty Information Institute

B - Identification of cross-border projects as reference prototypes.

Groups will be asked to assess and select some design prototypes among the most qualified ones which have been proposed. Selection will also be possible through the integration or other similar projects without excluding other forms of validation of the projects or products in harmony with the G7 Project's objectives.

This is why, during the meeting held in Rome on September 30th - October 1st 1996, national and international projects and initiatives have been presented in full compliance with the G7 Pilot Project principles and objectives.

- 1) Aquarelle Project (EU - DGXIII)
- 2) Progetto Finalizzato Beni Culturali (CNR)
- 3) Cultural Heritage on Line (CHIO project - CIMI)
- 4) Also Known As (AKA project - GII)
- 5) Hypermuseum (CIVITA)
- 6) Iconclass

The following initiatives have been added to the above mentioned projects by the Japanese delegation:

- Common index of museum objects in Japan;
- Nara research centre;
- The digital archives project.

Ongoing activities

The above mentioned projects launched at the meeting held in Rome on October 1996, have been almost carefully carried out. Therefore, it is believed that the first prototype results might be examined during next international events. Besides the attention given to some specific project initiatives, the ICCD took part in some of the most important international events, such as the annual assembly of the CIDOC (Conseil International pour la Documentation) and the proceedings for the drawing up of the final document of the MoU for "Multimedia Access to World Cultural Heritage". Such an involvement has enabled the strengthening of relationships between these initiatives and the G7 project activities which will be officially enshrined during the next meeting of the project national representatives.

C - Project developments and networking (on the Internet)

The creation of an Internet Web Server dedicated to the Project has been decided because of the emergency to give visibility to the project thus exploiting the already existing transmissive media and especially the Internet network.

Therefore, an Internet Web Server has already been created at the ICCD, where principal documents relative to the G7 Pilot Project have been gathered. The address is the following:

<http://www.iccd.beniculturali.it/G7>.

The formulation of procedures and the correct management of the Internet Web Server will be guaranteed by an Italian-French standing committee responsible for drawing up some reports for the participants by the end of 1997.

The creation of the Internet Web Server will have the specific following objectives:

- a detailed presentation of the Project together with its organisational structure;
- annual updating of participants and computer-assisted resources (Thesauri, dictionaries and something else);
- principles' card establishing the rules for the participants;
- a permanent forum relative to the themes of the Project as well as some interest areas followed by the participants;
- virtual demo of the selected prototypical projects as well as of the interesting products and initiatives.

In the future the Internet Web Server will be used for more specific tasks such as the organisation of a virtual show room for cultural heritage information.

With reference to the note of the national coordinator of the G7 projects and the questions arisen by the G7 chairmanship, to be debated in the Washington meeting, herewith in four stages, the answers resulting from the management of the n° 5 "Multimedia Access to World Cultural Heritage" Project.

1. With reference to the Pilot Project as a whole, has a specific objective been identified for the year 1998?

Surely enough among the various pilot projects there are areas of common interest both in terms of development of adequate technologies and specific focus on contents.

As to the field of activity of the n° 5 project, noteworthy are the Gemini Project (Global Emergency Management Information Network Initiative), partially funded by European funds, and the Electronic Libraries Project which face two aspects of the management of the Cultural Heritage with different approaches.

With specific reference to the development of telecommunication networks, mention has to be given to the Global Interoperability for Broadband Networks Project and the Global Inventory Project, for its acting as a "service" compared to the other initiatives.

In relation to the above mentioned common areas, a coordination action, destined to give rise to effective initiatives will have to be developed. Therefore, by so doing, it is hoped to implement (whatever the prototype level) close ties among projects for data exchange and the integration of complementary activities, in an operating stage which could already take place during 1998.

2. How long should the pilot projects for the Global Information Society be carried out under the auspices of the G7?

The length of the various initiatives, meant as projects carried out under the auspices of the G7, should last at least till the achievement of tangible results, both under the technical feasibility view point and from the real sharing of data-bases, among the different national partners, stand point. This will give new impetus to the setting up of thought-provoking contacts in the cooperation between the countries already joining the E.U. and the other G7 nations, without neglecting the possibility of involving third countries, which have shown a great interest in the initiatives, at least with reference to our project.

3. Should the projects be encouraged to be carried out under the auspices of the G7, or under other Fora?

It is believed for the already mentioned considerations, that the G7 auspices should be maintained given the specific international nature of the underway initiatives. The wide-ranging perspective of the most industrialised countries represented in the G7 forum is therefore the most adequate in order to guarantee the development of cooperation initiatives which would find difficulties in competing with the commercial policies of the various nations.

Having stated that, it is necessary to highlight the great contribution given by the European Union to the projects both through its support to single initiatives and the launch of the MoU on the Multimedia Access to World Cultural Heritage, in the specific field of museums. In this respect importance should be attached to the creation of a standing forum, in the European Commission, aimed at guaranteeing the updating of the partners' situation on projects and the activities related to the Information Society.

4. Do we envisage any initiatives together with the G7 summit or other international meetings in 1998?

The n° 5 pilot project has also activated an international working group for testing the software applications in the field of exchange of museum information and cultural heritage in general.

During the meeting held in Rome in October 1996, some yet to be launched projects were presented. In 1998 their prototype applications will be tested and assessed. Therefore it will be possible to present these achievements during next international events.



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DIRECTORATE GENERAL XIII - Telecommunications, Information Market and Exploitation of Research
ISPO - Information Society Project Office

Brussels, 17/10/97

Ref(97)PHU/mve - File RP_G8WAS.DOC

G8-IS National Co-ordinator Meeting - Washington DC - 20 October 1997

Report on the G8-Global Inventory Project (GIP); Theme 1

caveat: in this text, the wording 'G8' is used, according to the recent inclusion of Russia in the group.

Project achievement so far.

A web site (<http://www.gip.int>) has been installed early 1997, according to the results of an open call for tender which selected an international consortium headed by EXOL spa (I) in late 1995. An awareness campaign took place in various countries in the 1st semester of 1997. More than 2000 IS projects are accessible in GIP world-wide. The GIP interface works in French, English, Italian, German and Japanese.

Starting in June 1997, a plan to improve the site for a second contractual period of one year has started. Improvements will address multilinguality, search techniques, a better access to national inventories, a better connectivity with other sources of information (Non Governmental Organisations), a better coverage of EU activities (ESIS, the European Information Society Survey) and openness to newcomer countries with an emphasis on Developing Countries (DC). National Inventories interconnected to GIP have also improved both coverage and description of projects. The Word Bank and Switzerland are participating, Spain, Egypt, South Korea and Hungary have expressed interest.

The final report provided by the EXOL consortium will be made available soon to all G8 GIP Steering Committee members.

Plan for '98 activities:

The GIP site will be improved according to the amendment of the contract and should be integrated in EU web sites at its end. The last GIP Steering Committee meeting held on 10 October 1997 has decided on several actions for the '98 awareness plan :

- development of a multilingual presentation package available for each Steering Committee member and others showing interest in promoting GIP;
- participation of the GIP in several international events, including a G8 event with Theme 10 in the UK (April), ITU Telecom Africa (May), OECD conference (October), APEC conference (to be defined) and a specific action for Russia (tbd);
- opening of the GIP site to the other G8 IS pilot projects;
- release of a CD-ROM in June 1998 presenting all results of the GIP pilot phase. This media could be offered to other G8 projects to be officially presented in G8 events.

Steering Committee meetings 97-98:

GIP steering Committee meetings have taken place in Warsaw (May 1997) and Brussels with teleconference (October 1997). Minutes are available.

A meeting is scheduled on 10/11/1997 via teleconference to define in detail the '98 Awareness Plan and to report main results from the G7 National Co-ordinator Meeting..

The next teleconference should take place in early January 1998 to monitor the progress of the '98 work preparation and face-to-face meeting should be organised in conjunction with the events where GIP will be participating in 1998.

G8-GIP added value:

GIP is to be considered mainly as a One Stop Service to the various national and international inventories presenting IS projects and activities. It adds value to them in easing the access (multilingual interface, advanced search) and in easing the participation of newcomers (off-shore service). To encourage the start-up and the participation of the developing countries is considered especially important. The planned improvements of its interface will increase the value of accessible information and decrease the cost of building and maintaining local databases. The integration of innovative tools on the site interface will also demonstrate a 'good practice' of use of the IS tools.

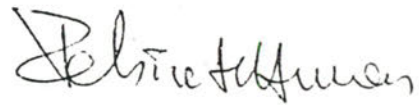
Provision of distributed inventories viewed through a common versatile interface is perceived as a basic tool for the monitoring and the awareness of the development of the Global Information Society. GIP provides means for brokerage of ideas, projects and identification of best practices and the conditions of deploying a sustainable GIS.

Conclusion:

It is proposed to the National Co-ordinators to find ways to continue this initiative at the end of the pilot phase and to use it as a pervasive tool to monitor the deployment of the Global Information Society.

A clear and open policy describing the role of NGOs in all projects is needed.

The other projects should take better advantage of GIP for improving their awareness raising activities.

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Patrice Husson
EC/ISAC/ISPO
G8 GIP IS pilot project international
co-leader (Theme 1)



Global Interoperability for Broadband Networks (GIBN)

A G7 Global Information Society Pilot Project

***G7 Coordinators Meeting
Washington, 20 October 1997***

***Keith Chang, Volker Reible
(Industry Canada, Deutsche Telekom)
chang.keith@ic.gc.ca, reible@berkom.de***



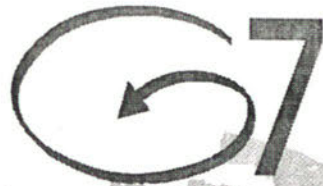
From Vision to Action

- ❑ **G7 Ministerial Conference on the Information Society, Brussels, February 1995, launches Pilot Projects**
 -
- ❑ **Objectives:**
 - **demonstrate potential of Information Society**
 - **establish ground work for cooperation**
 - **promote effective information exchange**
 - **stimulate development**
 - **identify obstacles and market opportunities**

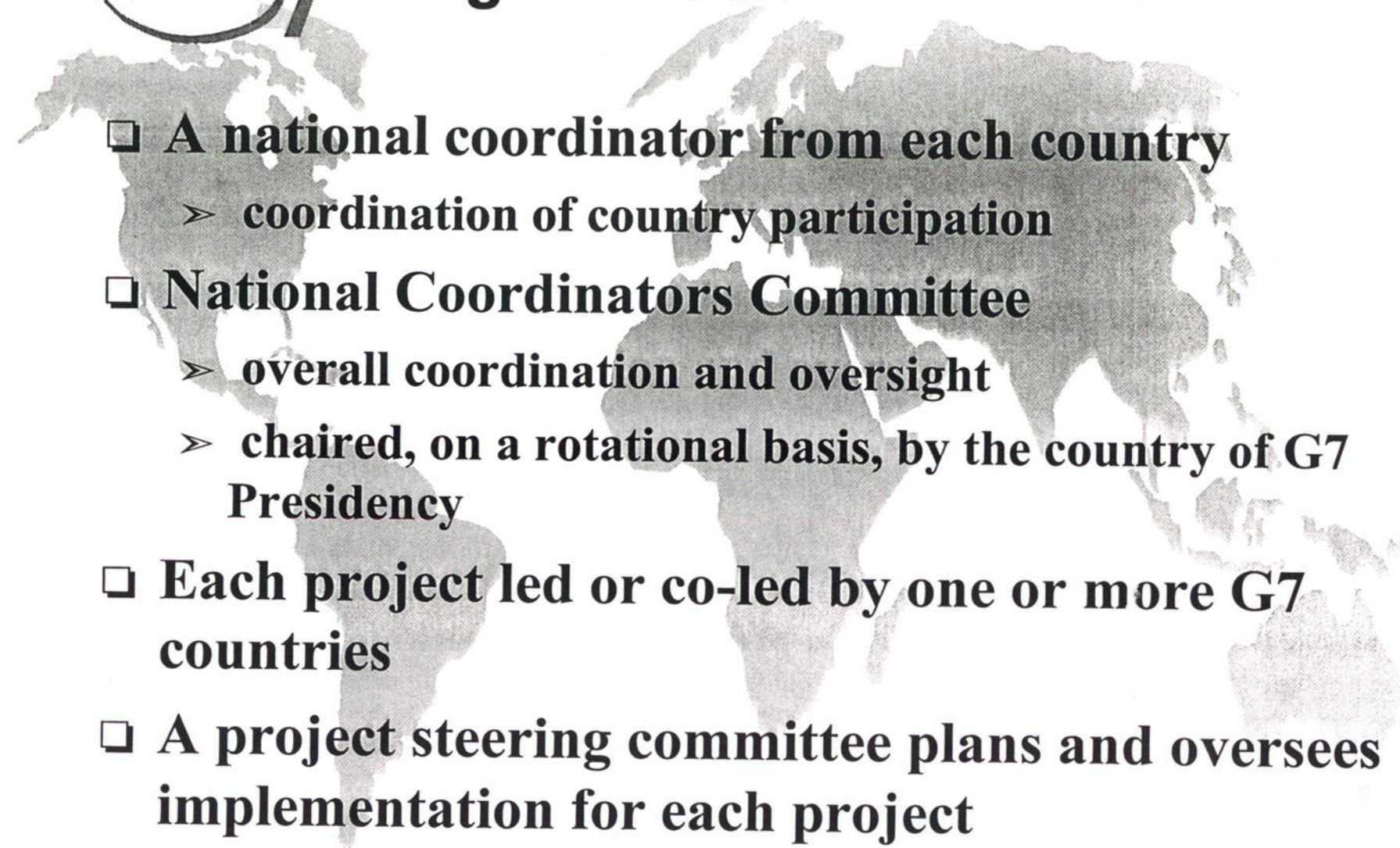


Principles

- ☐ **have clear added-value**
- ☐ **give meaning and content to concept**
- ☐ **stimulate cooperation amongst players**
- ☐ **create no new bureaucracy**
- ☐ **use existing programmes to cover costs**
- ☐ **open to non-G7 countries, and international organizations**
- ☐ **open access by public and private entities**

The logo features a large, stylized 'G' with a curved arrow pointing clockwise, followed by the number '7'.

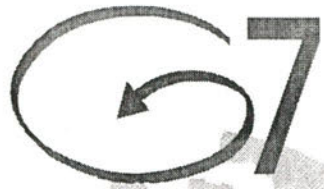
G7 Organization

- 
- A faint, grayscale world map is visible in the background, centered behind the text.
- ❑ **A national coordinator from each country**
 - **coordination of country participation**
 - ❑ **National Coordinators Committee**
 - **overall coordination and oversight**
 - **chaired, on a rotational basis, by the country of G7 Presidency**
 - ❑ **Each project led or co-led by one or more G7 countries**
 - ❑ **A project steering committee plans and oversees implementation for each project**



Eleven Themes

1. Global Inventory
2. ***Global Interoperability for Broadband Networks***
3. Cross-Cultural Training and Education
4. Electronic Libraries
5. Electronic Museums and Galleries
6. Environment and Natural Resources Management
7. Global Emergency Management
8. Global Healthcare Applications
9. Government Online
10. Global Marketplace for SMEs
11. Maritime Information Systems



GIBN Objectives

- ☐ **To facilitate the global interconnection and interoperability of high-speed networks**
- ☐
- ☐ **To foster the development and deployment of broadband applications, products and services**
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐



Implementation Strategy - 2 Scenarios

- ❑ ***Scenario A*** - experiment and demonstrate selected broadband applications over a fixed duration
- ❑ ***Scenario B*** - facilitate long-term production-level interconnections of broadband research networks and testbeds



G7 Scenario A

- ☐ **Initial focus**
- ☐ **Participation of international carriers**
- ☐ **Intercontinental links**
- ☐ **18 application projects**
- ☐



Application Projects

- 1. Telemedicine for treatment of cancer**
- 2. Telemedicine in neurology**
- 3. Application development using broadband research networks**
- 4. Quality control through ATM network**
- 5. Cost-effective, quality-controlled patient management**
- 6. SPOCK - applications of multimedia teleservices to aircraft industry**
- 7. Virtual Classroom**
- 8. ACTS Summer School 96 on ATM**
- 9. Collaboration simulation and visualisation**
- 10. Distributed virtual studio production and virtual reality simulation**
- 12. Cardiovascular health network**
- 13. Computational fluid dynamics and distributed visualisation**
- 14. Remote high-definition video post-production using satellite**
- 15. Integrated broadband communications on broadband networks**
- 16. HDTV application interoperability experiment**
- 17. Collaborative microsurgery**
- 18. Global computing infrastructure**



Satellite-based Applications

- ❑ **Satellites offer alternative and complementary means, particularly to remote areas**
- ❑ **Quadrilateral Group on International Joint Experiments for HDR Communications (QUAD)** working in close collaboration with **GIBN**
- ❑ **QUAD members: Canada (IC/CRC), Japan (MPT/CRL), USA (NASA), Europe (EC & ESA)**



Accomplishments to Date

- ❑ Evolution of “**Acceptable *Use* Policy**” into “**Acceptable *User* Policy**”
- ❑ **Demonstrations** of trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific broadband applications
- ❑ **Accelerated interconnection** of broadband research networks and test beds
- ❑ Development of **Transit Access Point (TAP)** concept
- ❑ **STARTAP inChicago:** interconnections and peering agreements for CA*net II and vBNS, and soon for SINET, SINGAREN and...
- ❑ **Production-level connectivity between North America and Europe**, through CA*net II and CANTAT-3.





Reaching the Goal

Moving forward to Scenario B

- **To encourage early interconnection of broadband research and education networks and testbeds**
-
- **To create a pervasive and versatile global broadband infrastructure for research capable of supporting diverse, evolving and, ultimately, commercially viable applications and services**
-



Approaches

Scenario B

- ❑ **Encourage increased commitments** by government authorities and other stakeholders, **to global interconnection**
- ❑ Identify, address and resolve issues and barriers to create **a favourable environment**
- ❑ **Support and collaborate** with other international organizations with similar goals (e.g. CCIRN)
- ❑ Work with **regional networking initiatives**
- ❑ Going beyond G7 - **Going global**
- ❑



Current Developments - G7 National Initiatives

□ National Initiatives

- **US:** Next Generation Internet and Internet 2
- **Canada:** CA*Net II
- **Japan:** SINET, IMNET
- **Europe:** RENATER (Fr), WIN/DFN (G), INFN/GARR (It), SUPER-JANET (UK)

□ Regional Initiatives

- **Pacific:** APII, APAN
- **Europe:** TEN-34, JAMES

Issues under consideration

- ❑ **Circumventing Transit Traffic**
 - “TAP” or “TAPs” in North America, Europe, Asia?
- ❑ **Acceptable Use(r) Policy**
 - reconciliation and harmonization
- ❑ **Reducing Costs of International Links for Research Networks**
 - alignment of requirements to actual use (e.g SVCs)
 - more realistic definition of QoS needs
 - partnering arrangements and competitive procurement
- ❑ **Cost-Sharing Principles**
 - traffic measurement and analysis
 - consensus building through improved understanding

➤



Conclusion

❑ Much has been accomplished

- Awareness of potential raised and valuable experiences gained through application trials and demonstrations

❑ But, much more needs to be done ...

- To realize the goal of global interconnection of broadband networks and development and deployment of viable broadband applications

➤

➤



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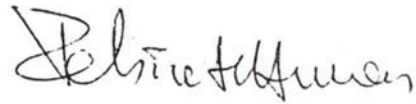
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Patrice Husson
EC/ISAC/ISPO
G8 GIP IS pilot project international
co-leader (Theme 1)

October 20, 1997

Pointers to some U.S. "Information Society" initiatives
Tom Kalil, White House National Economic Council

1. Educational Technology Initiative

- Federal Communications Commission will begin 20 to 90 percent discounts for telecommunications services (including Internet access) for schools and libraries on January 1998. [See <http://www.fcc.gov/learnnet/>]
- The Congress is likely to approve \$500 million in funding for Department of Education programs designed to help states and localities with the "4 pillars" of the President's Educational Technology Initiative -- computers, connectivity, content, and teacher training. [See <http://www.ed.gov/Technology/>]
- Grassroots efforts like "NetDay" [<http://www.netday.org>] and "TechCorps" [<http://www.ustc.org>] and ThinkQuest [<http://io.advanced.org/thinkquest/>] continue to thrive.

2. Next Generation Internet

- The goal of Next Generation Internet is to sponsor R&D in advanced networking technologies, connect more than 100 universities and national labs at speeds that are 100-1000 times faster than today's Internet, and experiment with revolutionary new applications. [See <http://www.ccic.gov/ngi>]
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3. Electronic Commerce

- President Clinton released the Administration's "Framework for Global Electronic Commerce" on July 1. [See <http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/New/Commerce/>]

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- Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala released her recommendations on the “Confidentiality of Individually-Identifiable Health Information” on September 1997. [See <http://aspe.os.hhs.gov/admsimp/index.htm>]

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- The Library of Congress -- under the American Memory project -- is continuing to digitize the documents, films, manuscripts, photographs, and sound recordings that tell the story of American history. [See <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/>]

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACTS FOR G7 PILOT PROJECTS (7/14/97)

National Coordinator

Thomas Kalil
National Economic Council
The White House
(p) 202-456-2802
(f) 202-456-2223
E-mail: kalil_t@a1.eop.gov

Theme 1: Global Inventory Project

Judy Moline
National Institute of Standards and Technology
(p) 301-975-4601
(f) 301-948-7242
E-mail: jmoline@nist.gov

Theme 2: Global Interoperability for Broadband Networks

Steve Goldstein
National Science Foundation
(p) 703-306-1949
(f) 703-306-0621
E-mail: sgoldste@nsf.gov

Ramon De Paula
NASA
(p) 202-358-4692
E-mail: rdepaula@hq.nasa.gov

Theme 3: Cross-cultural Education and Training

Cheryl Garnette
Department of Education
(p) 202-219-2267
(f) 202-219-2106
E-mail: cheryl_garnette@ed.gov

Theme 4: **Electronic Libraries**

Winston Tabb
Associate Librarian for Library Services
(p) 202-707-6240
(f) 202-707-6269
E-mail: wtab@loc.gov

Theme 5: **Electronic Museums and Libraries**

Diane Frankel
Institute for Museum and Library Services
(p) 202-606-8536
(f) 202-606-8591
E-mail: dfrankel@ims.fed.us

Kathleen McDonnell
Getty Information Institute
(p) 310-451-6576
(f) 310-451-5570
E-mail: kmcdonnell@getty.edu

Theme 6: **Environment and Natural Resources Management**

Larry Enomoto
NOAA/NESDIS
(p) 301-457-5214
(f) 301-736-5828
E-mail: lenomoto@nesdis.noaa.gov

Eliot Christian
U.S. Geological Survey
(p) 703-648-7245
(f) 703-648-7069
E-mail: echristi@usgs.gov

Theme 7: **Global Emergency Management**

Vernon Adler
Federal Emergency Management Agency
(p) 202-646-2854
(f) 202-646-4215
E-mail: vadler@fema.gov

Theme 8: Global Healthcare Applications

Donald Lindberg
National Library of Medicine
(p) 301-496-6221
E-mail: lindberg@nlm.nih.gov

Theme 9: Government Online

G. Martin Wagner
General Services Administration
(p) 202-501-8880
(f) 202-501-8898
E-mail: marty.wagner@gsa.gov

Theme 10: Global Marketplace for SMEs

Judy Moline
National Institute of Standards and Technology
(p) 301-975-4601
(f) 301-948-7242
E-mail: jmoline@nist.gov

Theme 11: Maritime Information Systems

Bruce Carlton
U.S. Maritime Administration
Department of Transportation
(p) 202-366-5772
(f) (202) 366-7403

Canada
EC
France

Germany

Italy

Japan

U.S.

U.K.

ITU.

October 20, 1997

Pointers to some U.S. "Information Society" initiatives
Tom Kalil, White House National Economic Council

1. Educational Technology Initiative

- Federal Communications Commission will begin 20 to 90 percent discounts for telecommunications services (including Internet access) for schools and libraries on January 1998. [See <http://www.fcc.gov/learnnet/>]
- The Congress is likely to approve \$500 million in funding for Department of Education programs designed to help states and localities with the "4 pillars" of the President's Educational Technology Initiative -- computers, connectivity, content, and teacher training. [See <http://www.ed.gov/Technology/>]
- Grassroots efforts like "NetDay" [<http://www.netday.org>] and "TechCorps" [<http://www.ustc.org>] and ThinkQuest [<http://io.advanced.org/thinkquest/>] continue to thrive.

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Judy Moline
National Institute of Standards and Technology
(p) 301-975-4601
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E-mail: jmoline@nist.gov

Theme 2: Global Interoperability for Broadband Networks

Steve Goldstein
National Science Foundation
(p) 703-306-1949
(f) 703-306-0621
E-mail: sgoldste@nsf.gov

Ramon De Paula
NASA
(p) 202-358-4692
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Cheryl Garnette
Department of Education
(p) 202-219-2267
(f) 202-219-2106
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Theme 6: Environment and Natural Resources Management

Larry Enomoto
NOAA/NESDIS
(p) 301-457-5214
(f) 301-736-5828
E-mail: lenomoto@nesdis.noaa.gov

Eliot Christian
U.S. Geological Survey
(p) 703-648-7245
(f) 703-648-7069
E-mail: echristi@usgs.gov

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Judy Moline
National Institute of Standards and Technology
(p) 301-975-4601
(f) 301-948-7242
E-mail: jmoline@nist.gov

Theme 11: Maritime Information Systems

Bruce Carlton
U.S. Maritime Administration
Department of Transportation
(p) 202-366-5772
(f) (202) 366-7403

17 octobre 1997

G7 Pilot Projects

Contacts in France

0. National Coordinator

Emmanuel Gabla

Direction des Postes et Télécommunications

Ministère délégué à La Poste, aux Télécommunications et à l'Espace

téléphone : +33 1 43 19 19 39

télécopie : +33 1 43 19 63 00

courrier électronique : Emmanuel.Gabla@industrie.gouv.fr

1. Global Inventory Project

Edouard Guillermoz

Direction Générale des Stratégies Industrielles / SERICS

Ministère de l'Industrie, de la Poste et des Télécommunications

téléphone : +33 1 43 19 45 13 ou 32 49

télécopie : +33 1 43 19 35 51

courrier électronique : Edouard.Guillermoz@industrie.gouv.fr

2. Global Interoperability for Broadband Networks

Edouard Guillermoz

Direction Générale des Stratégies Industrielles / SERICS

Ministère de l'Industrie, de la Poste et des Télécommunications

téléphone : +33 1 43 19 45 13 ou 32 49

télécopie : +33 1 43 19 35 51

courrier électronique : Edouard.Guillermoz@industrie.gouv.fr

3. Cross-Cultural Education and Training

Michèle Baron

Direction de l'Information Scientifique, des Technologies Nouvelles et des Bibliothèques

Ministère de l'Education Nationale, de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche

téléphone : + 33 1 46 34 37 55

télécopie : + 33 1 46 34 46 34

courrier électronique : michele.baron @ mesr.fr

4. Electronic Libraries

Dominique Coq

Direction du Livre et de la Lecture
Ministère de la Culture

téléphone : +33 1 40 15 75 02
télécopie : +33 1 40 15 74 04
courrier électronique : coq @ opera.culture.fr

Gaëlle Bequet

Direction du Livre et de la Lecture
Ministère de la Culture

téléphone : +33 1 40 15 73 01
télécopie : +33 1 40 15 74 04
courrier électronique : bequet @ opera.culture.fr

Sonia Zillhardt

Bibliothèque Nationale de France

téléphone : +33 1 53 79 59 14
télécopie : +33 1 53 79 50 45
courrier électronique : sonia.zillhardt @ bnf.fr

5. Electronic Museums and Galleries

Philippe Avenier

Direction des Musées de France
Ministère de la Culture

téléphone : +33 1 40 15 35 33
télécopie : +33 1 40 15 35 30
courrier électronique : avenier @ culture.fr

Dominique Piot-Morin

Département des Affaires internationales
Ministère de la Culture

téléphone : +33 1 40 15 37 22
télécopie : +33 1 40 15 37 40
e-mail : Piot @ culture.fr

Bernard Schoetter

Direction des Musées de France
Ministère de la Culture

téléphone : +33 1 40 15 34 01
télécopie : +33 1 40 15 34 10

Jean-Pierre Dalbera
Direction de l'Administration Générale
Ministère de la Culture

téléphone : +33 1 40 15 81 37
télécopie : +33 1 40 15 83 84
courrier électronique : dalbera @ culture.fr

Jean-Louis Pascon
Direction de l'Administration Générale
Ministère de la Culture

téléphone : +33 1 30 85 67 74
télécopie : +33 1 30 85 68 68
courrier électronique : pascon @ culture.fr

6. Environment and Natural Ressources Management

M. Le Sastre
Direction Générale de l'Administration et du développement
Ministère de l'Environnement

téléphone : + 33 1 42 19 17 60
télécopie : + 33 1 42 19 17 71 (31 secr.)

Marie-Christine Combes
Ministère de l'Environnement / DGAD

téléphone : + 33 1 42 19 16 66
télécopie : + 33 1 42 19 18 32

Christian Weber
Ministère de l'Environnement / DGAD

téléphone : + 33 1 42 19 16 56
télécopie : + 33 1 42 19 20 12

Berangère Quincy
Ministère de l'Environnement / DGAD

téléphone : +33 1 42 19 17 58
télécopie : +33 1 42 19 17 72

Jean-Louis Weber
Institut Français de l'Environnement

téléphone : +33 38 79 78 78
télécopie : +33 38 79 78 70

8. Global Healthcare Applications

Alain. Lefebvre

Direction Générale de la Santé
Ministère du Travail et des Affaires Sociales

téléphone : +33 1 40 56 46 83

télécopie : +33 1 40 56 40 56

André Ernst

Direction Générale de la Santé
Ministère du Travail et des Affaires Sociales

téléphone : +33 1 40 56 42 43

télécopie : +33 1 40 56 40 56

Agnès Leclerc

Division des relations Internationales
Ministère du Travail et des Affaires Sociales

téléphone : +33 1 40 56 73 71

télécopie : +33 1 40 56 72 43

8.1 Public Health

Hubert Isnard

Direction Générale de la Santé
Ministère du Travail et des Affaires
Sociales

téléphone : +33 1 40 56 47 87

télécopie : +33 1 40 56 40 56

courrier électronique : dgs vs @ Isicom.fr

Pr Jacques Drucker

Réseau National de Santé
Publique / Hôpital National de
Saint-Maurice

téléphone : +33 1 43 96 65 01

télécopie : +33 1 43 96 65 02

8.2 Cancer Network

Christine Jestin

Direction Générale de la Santé
Ministère du Travail et des Affaires Soc.

téléphone : +33 1 40 56 54 39

télécopie : +33 1 40 56 40 26

Béatrice Fervers

Fédération nationale des centres de
lutte contre le cancer

téléphone : +33 1 44 23 04 14

télécopie : +33 1 45 84 66 82

8.3 Cardiovascular Disease Network

Pierre Larcher

Direction Générale de la Santé
Ministère du Travail et des Affaires Soc. Hôpital cardiologique (Lille)

téléphone : +33 1 40 56 53 75

Pr Michel Bertrand

Service de Cardiologie

téléphone : +33 3 20 44 53 02

télécopie : +33 1 40 56 40 26

télécopie : +33 3 20 53 58 74

8.4 Emergency Telemedecine

Jean-Michel Fay

Direction des Hôpitaux

Ministère du Travail et des Affaires Soc

Pr Louis Lareng

Institut européen de télémedine

Hôtel-Dieu Saint Jacques (Toulouse)

téléphone : +33 1 40 56 43 69

télécopie : +33 1 46 62 49 63

courrier électronique : dhsi @ santé.worldnet.fr

téléphone : +33 5 61 77 86 39

télécopie : +33 5 61 77 86 42

8.5 Enabling Mechanisms

Patrice Hernu

Sous-Directeur des statistiques et des
études de santé

Ministère du Travail et des Affaires Soc.

Alexandre Chatelain

Adjoint bureau S15 - DII

Ministère du Travail et des Affaires
Sociales

téléphone : +33 1 40 56 46 60

télécopie : +33 1 46 56 57 98

téléphone : +33 1 40 56 51 92

télécopie : +33 1 40 56 50 45

8.6 Datacards Harmonization

André Loth

Direction de la Sécurité Sociale

Ministère du Travail et des Affaires Soc.

Jacques Sauret

Direction de la Sécurité Socioale

Ministère du Travail et des Aff. Soc.

téléphone : +33 1 40 56 55 74

télécopie : +33 1 40 56 71 32

téléphone : +33 1 40 56 75 73

télécopie : +33 1 40 56 75 76

9. Government Online

Michel de Rocca

Direction Générale des Stratégies Industrielles / SERICS

Ministère de l'Industrie, de la Poste et des Télécommunications

téléphone : + 33 1 43 19 40 20

télécopie : + 33 1 43 19 35 51

courrier électronique : Michel.DE-ROCCA@industrie.gouv.fr

10. Global Marketing for SME's

Pascal Lagarde

Direction Générale des Stratégies Industrielles / SERICS

Ministère de l'Industrie, de la Poste et des Télécommunications

téléphone : +33 1 43 19 43 76

télécopie : +33 1 43 19 28 51

courrier électronique : Pascal.LAGARDE@industrie.gouv.fr

11. Maritime Information Systems

François Escaffre

Direction des Ports et de la Navigation Maritimes

Ministère de l'Aménagement du territoire, de l'Équipement et des Transports

téléphone : + 33 1 40 81 71 35

télécopie : + 33 1 40 81 71 32

Charles Bergano

Direction des Ports et de la Navigation Maritimes

Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Équipement et des Transports

téléphone : + 33 1 40 81 71 83

télécopie : + 33 1 40 59 89 81

Global Standards Conference
"Building the Global Information Society for the 21st Century"
Brussels, 1 - 3 October 1997

General Information about the Global Standards Conference:

The aim of the Conference was to facilitate the timely and coherent development of the Global Information Society/Global Information Infrastructure (GIS/GII) by identifying and promoting the resolution of outstanding standardization issues.

Four major themes were addressed in workshops during the event :

- Electronic commerce - topics such as banking, financial services, teleshopping and trade.
- Services to the public - for example, service information, libraries, museums, remote provision of welfare services, education, telemedicine and intelligent transportation telematics systems.
- Individual use - services including interactive entertainment, telelearning and the provision of information and communications.
- Communications infrastructure interoperability (a horizontal topic) - including statements from the users, manufacturers and service providers, technical convergence and related policy issues, and contributions from various global standards organizations.

The points that Ira Magaziner presented as an introduction to a brief presentation of the Administration paper "Framework for Global Electronic Commerce" follow.

Talking Points:

- o The United States has been pleased to work with the EU Commission, representatives from European member states, other G-7 governments, and industry in preparing for the October Global Standards Conference.
- o The Administration is equally pleased that the conference is being organized and shaped primarily by the private sector. From our perspective, this is entirely appropriate, given the leading role of industry in standards-development.
- o We understand that the primary purpose of the conference is to bring together the diverse interests involved in GII-related standards development to exchange views and experiences in the four key areas identified as the major themes for the conference.
- o In that regard, we are aware that the conference is not seeking to arrive at specific conclusions or recommendations. The Administration concurs with this approach, and strongly supports the intent of the conference to share perspectives among participants with a view toward identifying issues to be resolved.
- o We commend the diverse private sector interests for their collaborative efforts to shape the conference, as well as the international standards bodies for their role as sponsors and the Commission for providing support as necessary.
- o We are all here out of recognition that standards are critical to the development of the Global Information Infrastructure (GII), which is, and will continue to be, a heterogeneous federation of networks. The significant economic and social benefits that

we expect the GII to deliver can only be achieved through innovation, interconnectivity and interoperability. In that sense, standards are in fact the "bottom line".

- o The United States feels strongly that competitive market forces, voluntary standards processes, and agreements among service providers, equipment suppliers and other participants should be relied upon as the primary vehicles to achieve the goal of interoperability.
- o In our experience, the voluntary, open, market-driven, and consensus-based standards development process used in the United States has proven effective in balancing diverse, and often competing, interests in the telecommunications and computer markets.
- o As new interests and constituencies emerge with the advent of new applications and services, we believe they should participate actively in the standards development processes.
- o We also believe that governments have a role to play, primarily as users and, where appropriate, as facilitators in standards development. The United States has encouraged the development of voluntary standards through private standards organizations, consortia, testbeds and R&D activities. The U.S. government has also adopted a set of principles to promote the acceptance of standards developed by private, consensus organizations.
- o The United States also supports the globalization of standards -- all national networks, applications and services are seeking interconnectivity and interoperability across borders. We also believe, however, that national and regional standards are stepping stones toward global standards, and recognize that multiple standards can both coexist and compete in different circumstances and different markets.
- o Let me turn now to one of the specific themes of the conference, Electronic Commerce. There are so many areas where standards are critical to the further development of electronic commerce. To cite just a sampling: electronic payments; security; copyright management systems; video and data-conferencing; high speed network technologies; and digital object and data interchange.
- o SEGUE INTO THE ADMINISTRATION'S E-COMMERCE PAPER?

Concluding remarks:

Main Results and Key Issues
General Rapporteur: Mr. Franco ARZANO
Ericsson - Italy

Introduction

At the G-7 ministerial conference on the Global Information Society (GIS), held in Brussels in 1995, all participants agreed on the importance of facilitating the timely and coherent development of the GIS as the most strategic driver for economic and social development at all levels. This should be achieved through the establishment of a consensual standardisation process and the adoption of a market-led approach to the development of new technologies that respect the principle of open interfaces. As a follow-up to this

on-going initiative, the first Global Standards Conference has provided an open forum for the gathering of essential market players, in order that they may:
exchange views regarding actual and potential applications, along with related practical experiences;
identify factors leading to the successful and fast implementation of selected applications, as well as the business opportunities that they make possible;
investigate the voluntary standards and related technical regulations that are needed to shape the implementation of the GIS, in order that it may realise its full potential in today's global environment;
share perspectives on the appropriate timing of the introduction of applications to meet the requirements of the GIS.

Many issues were of common concern across the thematic workshops, therefore, in this overview of the conference proceedings, I will highlight issues of crucial importance to developing and promoting a favourable business environment.

Interoperability

As stressed in most of the workshop reports, it is the conviction of the conference participants that standards must focus on interface, as opposed to implementation, as the best means of arriving at globally harmonised solutions for the interoperability of ICT products and services. In effect, the global information infrastructure will be a federation of heterogeneous networks operating via standardised interfaces for the interconnection of networks and which allow applications to be run across them with seamless interoperability. On this issue, we must take into account a concern raised by several participants in Workshop 2 (Services to the Public): the cost to the end-user of such interoperability.

Market Developments

International standards are certainly the best available means of achieving the goal of free trade without obstacles in the form of technical barriers. They are essential to the development of new markets and to building the confidence of consumers, manufacturers and service-providers. As highlighted in Workshop 1 (Electronic Commerce), in the development of electronic commerce, markets should be self-regulated and driven by the private sector, while its global nature must respect multilingual realities and avoid adhering to a single business model.

Furthermore, in order to avoid the distortion of competition, the principle of non-discriminatory and technology-neutral taxation should be applied to the use of the Internet.

As discussed in the workshops, the expansion of open, multi-lingual standards could significantly increase the volume and value of the world-wide use of the GIS. These standards could act as a catalyst to user- and industry-led innovations that better serve the globe's rich and diverse cultures.

Technology Implications

As discussed in Workshop 4 (Interoperability), standard interfaces must be technology-neutral, accommodating new advances in technology to the extent possible. At the same time, new standards should be defined for advances that cannot be accommodated within existing standard interfaces. In this sense, the whole set of standards is a tool for change, intended to harness the waves of "creative destruction" to the benefit of users, operators, manufacturers and the society as a whole. Furthermore, this GIS will not realise its full potential without the world-wide adoption of strong encryption techniques that are easily accessible and that ensure confidentiality and the mutual recognition of digital signatures. At the same time, billing and payment technologies are important building blocks for the GIS.

It is equally important to identify interfaces between different modules of software, for example the application programming interface (API), and ensure that such interfaces are open. In a competitive environment, emerging technologies should help users to come together and express their requirements for the development of open interfaces.

Public Interest

The main challenge in building a global electronic market place is to facilitate the emergence of open communities of commerce for existing enterprises, as well as for new virtual enterprises, that can build upon each other's services and cater to world-wide markets while meeting local needs and requirements.

There is no one approach to building the GIS. Therefore, it is vital to recognise the validity of minimum legal requirements, self-regulated or voluntary agreements and formal standards in order to enhance global communication and the exchange of goods and services across the Internet.

In order to empower users and consumers, standards should be adaptable to cultural and linguistic needs on national and regional levels, while ensuring full transparency on available market solutions to the consumer. It is important to minimise the risk that their elaboration becomes unclear to users and customers as a result of the proliferation of standardisation bodies.

In fact, the private sector should lead activities in technical fields, with governments continuing to participate fully in such activities as users. In this respect, a broad range of issues was addressed in Workshop 3 relating to the importance of integrating content rating and user control in the standardisation process.

Processes and Follow-Up

Standardisation bodies should adapt their activities to respect the need for timely procedures essential to the rapid development of ICT and new electronic services, thereby maintaining their fundamental role as a platform for reaching consensus on global standards. In practice, standards bodies should be encouraged to increase their bilateral or multilateral activities, thereby enhancing co-ordination and potential convergence. This could be achieved by implementing the actions proposed in the concluding remarks made in the report by Workshop 4, as well as by creating an "international charter", as proposed by Commissioner Bangemann, to lay the groundwork for establishing global interoperability.

Winding up my remarks, allow me to add a personal consideration. Over the past three days, more than 450 executives, experts and users, coming from all corners of the globe, debated in open and constructive fora the problems to be solved for the timely deployment of applications for the Global Information Society, while striving to identify standardisation problems related to the technical and legal implications of the GIS. We must not consider our work concluded today. Indeed, the momentum that we have gained should be maintained by continuing to promote an open forum for a constructive dialogue amongst all actors involved in the creation of an environment favourable to the promotion of global solutions aimed at better serving the needs of all market segments.