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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques
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English - Or. English

**CENTRE FOR CO-OPERATION WITH NON-MEMBERS
DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

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OECD Global Forum on Knowledge Economy

JOINT OECD/UN/UNDP/WORLD BANK GLOBAL FORUM

Exploiting the Digital Opportunities for Poverty Reduction

OECD, Paris, 5 and 6 March 2001

This agenda is for the meeting on Exploiting the Digital Opportunities for Poverty Reduction.

Please arrive at 19 rue de Franqueville entrance at 9:00 a.m. on Monday 5 March for registration. Please note breakfast showcase outside Room 1 from 8:30 - 10:00 on Tuesday 6 March.

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Joint OECD¹/UN/UNDP/World Bank Global Forum
Exploiting the Digital Opportunities for Poverty Reduction
OECD, Paris, 5 and 6 March 2001

AGENDA

Forum Co-Chairs: Ambassador Martin Belinga-Eboutou, Cameroon, President of ECOSOC
 Jean-Claude Faure, Chairman of the Development Assistance Committee

Objectives:

- examining the role of development co-operation to help countries exploit digital opportunities
- sensitising donors to the role of ICT in development and poverty reduction
- sharing information on donor initiatives to bridge the digital divide
- identifying roles and priorities for all actors: governments, private sector, civil society, international and regional organisations - in developed and developing countries
- presenting OECD work and experience and making it accessible to developing countries
- assisting the work of the *dot force* and the UN ICT Task Force.

Monday, 5 March 2001

10.00 Welcome and Setting Forum Objectives - Sally Shelton-Colby, OECD Deputy Secretary-General and OECD Member of *dot force*

Keynote Address: Maria Inês Bastos on behalf of Tadao Takahashi, General Co-ordinator of the Information Society Programme, Brazil

10.30 Session 1 The importance of ICT as a tool for development and poverty reduction

- Moderator: Denis Gilhooly, Director of ICT for Development, UNDP
- Panel: Pradeep Mehta, Secretary General, Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS), India
 Andrea Goldstein, Senior Economist, Development Centre, OECD
 Brian Hammond, Head of Development Reporting Systems Division, OECD

Establish why the information and communications technology (ICT) is vital to development. ICT is much more than the Internet; it encompasses telephones, radio, television - any means of sharing information and knowledge more widely. And it is not a question of "either development or ICT", but of how to apply ICT in ways that address the needs of the poor and enhance growth and development opportunities to narrow the currently widening gaps between segments of the world population. The focus will be on information, knowledge, identity and shaping globalisation, not on computers and connectivity.

11.15 - 11.45

Coffee

¹ The Forum is an inaugural event of the *OECD Global Forum on the Knowledge Economy*, part of a programme of Global Forums managed and funded by the OECD Centre for Co-operation with Non-Members. The Development Co-operation Directorate has lead responsibility for the forum in OECD, working in co-operation with DSTI, and DEV.

Names in italics are still to confirm their attendance.

11.45 Session 2 Development Assistance in the Digital Age

- Chair: Jean-Claude Faure, Chairman of the DAC
- Panel: Richard Fuchs, Director of ICT for Development, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
Amos Tincani, Adviser, Regional integration, new technologies, information society, research and development, DG Development, European Commission
Robert Wade, Professor of political economy and development, London School of Economics; fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study, Berlin.
- Discussion

A frank assessment of the potential and imperative to make the fullest possible use of ICT in attaining development objectives, with strong support by the donor community through well-targeted and co-ordinated initiatives. Discuss the opportunity to revolutionise the "aid business" itself - to provide many more models of development assistance on a peer-to-peer basis - between the private sector and NGOs as well as governments, and South to South as well as North to South. Show linkages between ICT/knowledge on the one hand and wealth creation/sustainable growth/employment/poverty reduction on the other. Include the role of ICT to build institutional capacity, promote effective governance and management reform.

13.15 - 14.30

Lunch

14.30 Session 3 How ICTs can help to achieve Education for All

- Moderator: Alain Modoux, Assistant Director-General, Sector of Communication and Information, UNESCO
- Panel: Teresa Peters, Executive Director, Bridges.org
Meddie Mayanja, Project Officer, Nakaseke MCT Pilot Project, Uganda National Commission for UNESCO
Fay Chung, Director, UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA), Ethiopia
- Discussion

To show how the achievement of universal primary education by 2015 and gender equality in education by 2005 are more likely to be attained through the imaginative use of ICTs to promote learning. To cover the quality aspects and the need to move to lifelong learning and the development of IT skills to benefit the whole economy.

16.00 - 16.30

Coffee

16.30 Session 4 How ICTs can help to achieve Health for All

- Moderator: Michael Scholtz, Special Representative of the Director General, World Health Organisation
- Panel: Willy Haftel, Director of IT, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Planning, Bolivia
Eliazar Karan, Information Officer/Programs Officer, SatelLife HealthNet, Kenya
Judi Nwokedi, Co-Director, Love Life, South Africa
- Discussion

To show how the achievement of reduced infant, child and maternal mortality, and universal access to primary and reproductive healthcare by 2015 are more likely to be attained through the creative use of ICTs for training health staff in the field, for providing guidance to mothers and adolescents, etc.

18.15 - 20.00

Cocktail sponsored by Alcatel

**With Keynote address by Jacques Dunogu , Secretary General of Alcatel
ICT: A "leapfrog strategy" for developing countries?**

Tuesday 6 March 2001

08.30 - 10.00

Breakfast showcase

An opportunity to visit the exhibition of initiatives and projects demonstrating how governments, civil society and the private sector are working together with imaginative use of ICTs to improve the lives and livelihoods of the poorest people

10.00 Keynote Address Jacques Attali, President, PlaNet Finance, France

10.15 Session 5 ICTs for opportunities to the poorest people through micro-enterprise

- Moderator: Mohammed Masud Isa, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Grameen Telecom
- Panel: Solo Pittard, Programme Adviser, Ministry of Finance and Rural Development, Papua New Guinea
Raslan Ahmad, Executive Secretary, National Information Technology Council, Malaysia
- Discussion

To show how access can enable even the poorest people in the remotest communities to earn a livelihood. For example, using a basic cellular phone to create a business, access crop advice and prices, sell crafts globally through e-commerce.

11.30 - 12.00

Coffee

12.00 Session 6 ICTs to promote wealth and opportunity through private sector development

- Moderator: Raafat Radwan, Chairman of Information & Decision Support Center for the Cabinet of Ministries (IDSC), Egypt
- Panel: Shashank Kansal, President, Information Technology and Telecom International, Nepal
Martin Hilbert, Production, Productivity & Management Division, UN Economic Commission for Latin America
Pensri Guntasopatr, Director of Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Science Technology and Environment, Thailand
- Discussion

To illustrate the role of the private sector in wealth and opportunity creation through the use of new technologies in developing countries. To discuss the enabling policy and regulatory environment to foster improved and affordable access and promote economic growth through an ICT-assisted private sector.

13.15 - 14.30

Lunch

14.30 Session 7 Sharing experience and best practice on e-commerce and e-government

- Moderator: John Dryden, Head of Information, Computer & Communications Policy Division, OECD
- Panel: Lishan Adam, Regional ICT Advisor, UN Economic Commission for Africa
Silvia Bidart, Executive Director, Software and Information Technology Argentine Association (CESSI), Argentina
Gowrie Ponniah, Assistant Secretary General for External Relations, Worldview International Foundation, Sri Lanka
Danilo Piaggese, Co-ordinator, Information Technology for Development Division, Inter-American Development Bank
- Discussion

To discuss how to share - between OECD, emerging and developing countries - the knowledge gained to date for a successful move towards a digital economy and e-commerce. Make the relevant material in the OECD and other organisations widely available. The session will include issues such as policy, regulatory, and network readiness; connectivity and access; human capital development, knowledge creation and sharing; content and wealth creation.

16.00 - 16.30

Coffee

16.30 Session 8 The way forward

- Chair: Martin Belinga-Eboutou, Cameroon, President of ECOSOC
- Panel: Sally Shelton-Colby, OECD Deputy Secretary-General and OECD Member of *dot force*
Yasuhisa Kawamura, Director of IT Co-operation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
Amir Dossal, Executive Director, UN Fund for International Partnership
Bruno Lanvin, World Bank and Executive Secretary of the DOT Force
Rosa Cissé, ICT Director, Mali Telecommunications (SOTELMA), Mali

Draw out the lessons from the forum and the showcase examples to feed into the *dot force* and the UN ICT Task Force initiatives. Suggest policies and strategies for developing countries, regional and international bodies and donors to make full and effective use of ICT in their programmes for development co-operation and poverty reduction. Establish roles and priorities for all actors: governments, private sector, civil society, international and regional organisations - in developed and developing countries.

18.00 Close