



# Global Public Policy Summit BERMUDA 2009

Summary Remarks  
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I was asked to do a wrap up of the sessions that we have had for two days. And I would ask you not to rate me with your electronic devices because I think I have captured all the main points that we have discussed.

If you recall we divided the conference into seven parts:

- 1) State of the global ICT industry;
- 2) Information security and privacy;
- 3) ICT and economic stimulus plans;
- 4) Internet and Internet governance;
- 5) ICT for the environment;
- 6) International institutions and what role they play in this arena of policy and ICT; and
- 7) Future technology trends.

## **The State of the Global ICT Industry**

We heard from an expert from Global Insight that there are some green sprouts appearing, showing signals of economic recovery and growth for the world economy and for our industry. The Global Insight expert noted five driving forces:

- 1) Convergence;
- 2) mobile leapfrogging;
- 3) expanded broadband;
- 4) empowered citizens; and
- 5) ICT for healthcare

in his presentation which , of course, we will be able to provide to you.

## **Information Security and Privacy**

In the area of information security and privacy protection we indeed have said that it is everyone's business and WITSA encourages a strong public/private partnership to address these important issues. Collaborative solutions were recommended between our industry and policymakers so we can minimize the threats from cyber attacks and to ensure that our systems and data remain protected. It was also noted that we have to have an appropriate balance between privacy protection and information security. We want one to complement the other, but we do not want an imbalance where privacy protection may indeed inhibit information security and cyber security approaches.

In fact, the session challenged WITSA to be more active in the information security arena perhaps by:

- 1) starting a partnership or pilot partnership with various stakeholders involved in information security in Africa, for example;
- 2) creating some international watch and learning network including WITSA members and others;
- 3) looking at strategies regarding malicious cyber attack; and
- 4) establishing a website or portal hosted by WITSA that would provide security and privacy information as well as serving as resource for industry and government to go to learn about these issues and solutions being suggested.

## **ICT and Economic Stimulus Plans**

The panel of government and business experts had a lively discussion on the role of governments in providing economic stimulus and public sector investment, the critical role of innovation as an economic driver, and the role of ICT skills.

On the role of government stimulus in ICT projects during a recession, a general wariness was expressed about such government programs even as the panelists recognized that on a macroeconomic level they had might be beneficial. There was concern that broadband

investments such as the massive ones in Australia and elsewhere could distort competition and be inefficient. There was also concerns about the long term effects on the economies, especially in the US and Europe because of the debt structure there.

There was also a lively debate on innovation in which all the panel members and many in the audience contributed. They recognized that while the spur of innovation had come from individuals and businesses, governments did have a role to enable the correct climate and to work on global solutions that related particularly to copyright and intellectual property rights. There was also an interesting debate on whether foreign direct investment helped innovation with contrary arguments being made on the need for innovation to be considered as more of a lifecycle issue.

And finally the panel members talked about IT skills where they saw the real issue was to ensure that the ability for people to move globally across borders and that there was concern that government should not mandate certain types of skills that could be incompatible with local employment opportunities. There was a general consensus that the link between skills training and employment opportunities needed to be stronger.

### **The Internet and Internet Governance**

The Internet governance panel was probably the calmest debate on Internet governance in some years which may indicate either we had the right people or we did not but we surely had the major decision makers on internet governance from ICANN, the United Nations Internet Governance Forum, and the Internet Society (ISOC). The panel members concurred that WITSA is on target with the following principals:

- 1) keep the Internet open and accessible to all;
- 2) ensure reliability and security;
- 3) recognize the multistakeholder nature of the Internet governance forum and its continuation for further policy development discussions;
- 4) strengthen and broaden the involvement in leadership in industry in these relevant forums; and
- 5) ensure that the global public policy in governing national systems enable the use of ICT products.

The panel did challenge WITSA and the private sector to maintain strong private sector leadership and participation in ICANN and Internet Governance Forum meetings. There must be strong private sector involvement to ensure the continuation of the private sector-led, multistakeholder approach to the Internet and Internet Governance issues.

### **ICT for the Environment**

In the area of ICT for the environment, the first part of the session presented data and trends on global warming and climate change as a way to show urgency and importance to this challenging issue. It was not a positive message in many respects but at the same time it was a way to draw our attention to it and the seriousness of it.

The second part of the panel focused on why climate change matters for the ICT industry. The panelists talked about various projects and approaches that certain ICT organizations or companies were doing to address the issue including recycling, reduction of power consumption in the data center and by ICT products. It was also pointed out that most policy makers are focused on the carbon footprint of the ICT industry or, as it was pointed out, the two percent of the problem and did not pay enough attention to the fact that ICT could be the solution to the other 98 percent of the problem. It was noted that ICT can help other sectors to address the climate change challenges successfully and effectively and our work would have to be focused more on promoting how we have solutions for the remaining 98 percent.

There was a challenge to WITSA by the panel to engage more fully in the 2 percent/ 98 percent debate and that WITSA should gather more case studies to show the effectiveness of ICT help other industries to address the environmental challenges. It was suggested that there should be:

- 1) an action plan created and presented on this matter at the World Congress (WCIT) in The Netherlands in 2010; and
- 2) there should be a follow-up program to reach out and to talk about the results globally in order to raise awareness and get people to focus on how ICT can be part of the solution as well as our industry cleaning up and taking care of the two percent part in our sector.

### **International Institutions and What Role They Play in this Arena of Policy and ICT**

The next panel focused on the international institutions that have traditionally focused on been global policies. That is to say the World Trade Organization (WTO) in terms of global trading rules, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in terms of a think tank for global economic studies and best practice policies, the World Bank for development advisory assistance to developing in countries, in particular on how to deregulate, regulate appropriately, implement policies that help to create economic growth and development in their countries, including the use of ICT products and services, and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in promoting the telecommunications infrastructure.

The representatives of these institutions were asked to give concrete evidence that their institutions have a positive role to play in promoting ICT and expanding economies and we asked them if these institutions were simply relics of the past. To no big surprise, the four representatives did rise to the challenge and presented a lively defense of their institutions, including what we had hoped for -- facts, figures and good concrete data which we will share with you. The WTO representative said that this period has been the longest delay between trade rounds as we await a successful conclusion of the Doha Round and that WTO agreements did provide stimulus, especially the basic telecom agreement and deregulation approaches, for ICT products and services at that time and going forward. In general, the World Trade Organization provides a legal framework for international trading rules that investors and traders rely upon as they do their business

globally. And this is an important aspect. In addition, the WTO representative said if the WTO was not there to help out globally how would we arrange international trade as it would be difficult to arrange such global rules through bilateral arrangements.

The World Bank representative pointed out that the World Bank was quick to infuse capital into the marketplace in response to the economic downturn and the World Bank also has a plan to make sure that in the post-crisis period the Bank will continue its lending program and its advisory services, and we heard about one recent project in areas of trade facilitation.

The OECD representative did say he was sure he was invited to talk about the beneficial aspects of ICT because the OECD studies have shown that ICT does matter and is directly linked to economic growth. In addition, he pointed out that in the recent economic crisis, governments were coming to the OECD to seek more advice and studies and it is a forum for policy coordination and cooperation on these issues and, hopefully, on issues mattering to us in the future as the OECD addresses technology and communications issues.

The ITU representative said that this institution is the technical advisors to promote the telecommunications infrastructure and interconnection with outreach to developing countries in particular.

But many in the audience asked about the coordination and cooperation among those international institutions and what were they doing to reach out to national governments so that these governments could understand the opportunities that the programs presented or, more importantly, the obligations that the agreements imposed upon them. And here we had an interesting and lively discussion that many officials, especially in the developing countries, did not fully understand or fully know the facilities made available by all these institutions and that this was indeed a problem for coordination and reaching out to these groups. And so it was suggested that there be more raising of awareness by these institutions, and more training of officials, regulators, trade negotiators. This led to an opportunity for WITSA to be part of the network to link to the national governments and to encourage them to look to these institutions for whatever projects and programs that may be beneficial to bring ICT to their countries. Thus, WITSA could try to assist in overcoming the problem of a lack of awareness, a lack of coordination, through such a network between national governments and these international institutions.

So these representatives said these international institutions are not relics of the past, but like rapid changes in technology in our industry, there have been rapid changes in policy makers, trade negotiators and government officials that know about these institutions and policies and so it is an ongoing learning process that WITSA must continue to help countries and our associations to link into these international institutions. And we were at least able to provide a vehicle for immediate contact points with our guests this afternoon.

## **Future Technology Trends**

Finally, the innovation panel was asked to identify what would be the next generation technologies, or next new technology wave, if you will. Sensors were identified, cloud computing with ubiquitous networks, consumer driven personalization to remove complexities for the user were also mentioned. The panel talked about the progression from hardware to software, the people who use the technology, and policies. It was noted that the key component in all future technologies is training people and having them understand the technologies going forward.

### **The Bermuda Declaration**

That sums up the two days of intensive talks. We worked you very hard. And we appreciate your activities. And finally I have been asked to announce the Bermuda Declaration. We did ask you for your inputs and finally to vote on the nine recommendations that were in the Declaration. And I must say that over 90 percent of the participants voting approved the nine points that we raised. I would like to read those:

- 1. ICT is a proven driver for global economic activity and growth.**
- 2. The economic growth generated by the development of the ICT sector will benefit all economies.**
- 3. Access to ICT and the knowledge and information provided by the Internet is an important part of an inclusive information society and is essential for broader sustainable economic growth.**
- 4. Public-private partnerships are a critical part in building ICT infrastructure and an information society.**
- 5. There should be an open trading system between nations free from barriers for ICT products and services. We urge WTO Members to reach the compromises needed to achieve a successful conclusion to the Doha Development Agenda with an ambitious and balanced outcome, including comprehensive results in services.**
- 6. Harnessing the power and benefits of ICT for society will not come automatically. Only if business and governments work together with other partners, including their education systems, can people everywhere be assured of access to ICT tools and the knowledge and empowerment they deliver.**
- 7. International strategies to tackle climate change need to make full use of ICT as one of the most powerful tools available, and one of the only ones that can produce dramatic changes without negative effects on prosperity or individual lifestyles.**
- 8. With the pressure on global public finances, governments should recognize the use of ICT and technology-enabled change as tools to address their operational costs and efficiencies.**
- 9. The continued success and growth of ICT depends on trust and confidence; privacy and security should be appropriately integrated into ICT programs, systems, and products from the beginning.**

And thanks to you we have the Bermuda Declaration in its final form. Let me, on behalf of WITSA and our organizers, thank you for that.