

**OECD-APEC GLOBAL FORUM:
POLICY FRAMEWORKS FOR THE DIGITAL ECONOMY**

**SPECIAL WORKSHOP
THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY:
CONSULTATION AND A PLAN OF ACTION**

**Keynote Presentation:
Achieving the Summit Goals — A Perspective of the APEC & U.N. ICT Task Force**

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Dear Honorable participants and guests of the conference!

We are now entering a new age of evolution. I call it “The Age of Cybervolution” and it is not associated with any specific calendar date.

For the first time in history we are witnessing an artificial symbiosis of organic, inorganic and information components of the universe. Now microchips are infused into organic objects, and DNA molecules are used as semiconductors in microchips. Information technologies are tying together the surrounding world. Comprehension of this process is acknowledged by the world as a new challenge. One of the groups that undertook the task of discerning these new realities became the United Nations ICT Task Force, the Bureau of which I represent today at this conference.

On 29 April 2002 in Geneva, the official opening of the European and Central Asian regional networks of the United Nations ICT Task Force took place. Corresponding regional networks already exist in Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and the Middle East.

Closing the circle of European and Central Asian regional networks allows the development of uniform technological policies of the countries involved, the sharing of knowledge with those who are just about to take their first steps on the path towards IT, the creation of new jobs, and the improvement of education and medicine.

The participants of this conference share the Okinawa Charter declarations on the Global Information Society and declarations from regional conferences on the Information Society in preparation for the WSIS.

Stressing the importance of the active participation of our countries in creating the Global Information Society of the 21st century, special attention was paid to the role of knowledge as a factor in economic success and social prosperity under new circumstances.

Free access and efficient use and sharing of knowledge and information open new possibilities to overcome inequity and poverty, laying out the groundwork for stable development. This is especially tangible for countries with transition economies in Europe and Central Asia.

If not so long ago, experts were estimating the potential of any country by three main dimensions — **political, economical and military** — then nowadays, due to the Digital Cybervolution we are witnessing the emergence of a fourth — **informational**. It is not fully developed yet, but it is already obvious that soon it will lead to substantial revision of the traditional dimensions.

There are several distinct driving forces for it.

One is the set of **technological innovations** that are at our disposal, such as the growing information infrastructure that includes Internet, cable networks, satellites, cell phones, etc. Now, information transactions are far from the traditional “one-to-many”, such as in traditional radio or TV, but rather “many-to-many” such as we see in dialogue-type information media. This enhances the availability of information of all kinds — whether it is commercial, social, diplomatic, military or any other type.

The other driving force is the **rapid proliferation of new ways of interaction** — numerous state, public and private entities rapidly establish their own links for key information exchange.

The third key factor is that information and power are merging. Political leadership today should provide the **leadership of ideas, cultural and spiritual values, moral norms, laws and ethics**, and not just the rough force of power. Therefore it should become a way of interaction with the broadest information sources that include cyberspace and infospheres and has deep, conscious, human awareness on a global scale.

The world is sprouting with a communication net knitted of copper, optic cables and radio signals. Soon, all communication networks — wired or wireless — will be connected into one cyberspace that will in turn merge with our “real” world to provide an individual with the services needed despite where a person is at the moment.

As we know, this is the concept of “intellectual space”, where any device can be a resource or service for any other device through a uniform and available infrastructure based on open standards. This is the space, where people have mobility; all devices are connected with each other and the net and are ready to serve at any time, in any place.

We see that global WAN are blooming with the local LANs and that the evolution of Internet is constantly on its way. People are now talking about the Hypernet, which should arrive within the next few years. The next generation of Internet will be characterized by the seven trends: Fast, Ready, Everywhere, Natural, Wise, Easy and Secure.

New ecosystems are emerging — the ecosystems of science, business, government, etc. Our planet is evolving to be one entity, and that will in turn create new contradictions. We need to figure out these new trends to be ready for them.

The awareness of those processes and new realities laid out the call for the World Summit on the Information Society.

We have a unique opportunity to multiply our efforts through the cooperation of different working groups and Task Forces. Our conference showed the effectiveness of such an approach.

What place does Russia have in the Global Information Society?

From a geopolitical point of view, the northern part of Eurasia is the shortest connecting path between the three major centers of economic power: the USA and Canada, and the Pacific and Atlantic economic regions. Therefore, Russia can serve as a bridge that can connect these regions.

There is the optic line between St.Petersburg and Tokyo; the Trans-Eurasia railroad, which provides new doorways to the countries of the Atlantic region; the Trans-Eurasia highway, which is now widely discussed internationally; and definitely the North Polar Way, where the Russian Atomic Ice-Breaking Fleet provides year-round passage.

Part of the path that connects the information resources of Europe, Russia and some Central Asian countries has already been erected. Now we need to connect the global information resources of this region with Japan and Malaysia.

Intellect received a powerful tool to use through the development of Information Technology. Now we need to think how to use it for effective dialogue.

The Bible says, “For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.”

However I also want to mention here the Zen teaching: “In the treasury within, you have everything — and you can use it. You do not need to look outside of yourself.”

We will find the correct path if will follow this wisdom.