

International anti-spam initiatives unite at the IGF

The six leading international anti-spam initiatives will launch a new online information resource to assist in fighting spam on 1 November 2006, at the first meeting of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum in Athens, Greece.

The website www.StopSpamAlliance.org aims to help coordinate international action against spam more effectively and improve information sharing. It will contain information on anti-spam laws and enforcement activities, consumer and business education, best practices for fighting spam, and international co-operation.

"We know there's no simple single solution to fight spam, and the OECD's work on the anti-spam toolkit stressed the importance of a holistic approach to combating spam", said Claudia Sarrocco of the OECD. "International organisations could and should work together more effectively against spammers, and this initiative will help them do that".

Jean-Jacques Sahel, of the London Action Plan, said that "the website is an exciting development, providing one entry point for those interested in the global fight against spam. This embodies the WSIS principles of working in partnership and bringing the particular skills and competences of a wide range of public and private stakeholders together."

ITU Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi welcomed the announcement of the joint website, "ITU is pleased to contribute to this initiative which we see as closely linked both to ITU's mandate from the World Summit on the Information Society to facilitate building confidence and security in the use of ICTs and its new Partnerships for Global Cybersecurity initiative."

Shamsul Shafie, Chair of the APEC SPSG, said that "APEC welcomes the initiative. Work against Spam cannot be successful without strong co-operation between regional organisations and among both private and public stakeholders. The website will allow users from every corner of the globe to share information on how best to combat Spam."

This co-operative initiative involves the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), the EU Contact Network for Spam enforcement Authorities (CNSA), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the London Action Plan for Spam Enforcement (LAP), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the Seoul-Melbourne MoU.

For further information, please visit

www.StopSpamAlliance.org

or contact Claudia Sarrocco of the OECD's Information and Communications Policy Division (email Claudia.sarrocco@oecd.org; tel. + 33 688 289508), Jean-Jacques Sahel, London Action Plan (tel. +44 7939148871), or Robert Shaw, International Telecommunication Union (tel. +41792173520).