

OECD and Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation to hold a high-level conference on “ICTs, the environment and climate change”

The Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation will host a high-level OECD conference on the potential of information and communication technologies to combat climate change and improve environmental performance.

Mr Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General, and Mr Helge Sander, Danish Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, will open the conference, which will be held on 27-28 May 2009 in Helsingør, Denmark.

“To achieve a low-carbon economy, the development and deployment of new technologies is essential,” said Mr Gurría. “First, to expand the pool of available technologies and their potential to mitigate climate change. And second, to reduce the cost of new or emerging technologies that will be non-polluting or reduce emissions. Together, they will help to lower future marginal cost of mitigating climate change.”

“We have to strengthen international cooperation concerning research, innovation and technological development in order to handle climate-related problems and other environmental challenges,” Mr Sander said. “Therefore, it is so important to focus on Green IT. This in order to improve the performance of the ICT industry as well as to boost beneficial IT applications across all spheres of society. The conference in Helsingør can make an important contribution to the United Nations Climate Change Conference, which will take place in Copenhagen at the end of 2009.

This high-level conference follows up on an OECD workshop in Copenhagen in May 2008 (www.oecd.org/sti/ict/green-ict) and the OECD Ministerial Meeting on the Internet Economy in Seoul in June 2008 (www.oecd.org/FutureInternet).

The purpose is to bring together policy-makers, business representatives and academic experts to discuss and advance the policy agenda on the contributions of ICTs in the area of climate change and improving environmental performance.

For further comments by the Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Helge Sander, please contact Mr Allan Boldt, phone +45 3392 9739, e-mail abo@vtu.dk.

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