The ICCP Committee has been invited to undertake an evaluation of its Working Parties as part of the renewal of its mandate and those of the Working Parties. It should be noted that the evaluation of the Working Parties, and recommendations on mandates have to be transmitted by the ICCP Committee to Council by 12 December 2008. The full ICCP Committee evaluation is in document DSTI/ICCP(2008)5

This item is for information and discussion by the WPIE. The drafts have been prepared in conjunction with the WPIE Bureau.

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RENEWAL OF THE WPIE MANDATE AND EVALUATION BY ICCP OF ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

1. The mandate of the ICCP Committee and those of its four working parties (CISP, WPIE, WPISP, WPIIS) expire on 31 December 2008. Prior to proposing to the Council the renewal of the Committee’s mandate, ICCP delegates have been requested to:

   1. Review the terms of reference of the Committee and, where appropriate, make proposals for amendment following upon the Seoul Ministerial meeting; and

   2. Undertake an evaluation of the continuing relevance of the Committee’s Working Parties.

2. The requirement to undertake such an evaluation and to submit its results to the Council together with the proposed renewal of the Committee’s mandate follows recent amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation. The objective is to assess whether the rationale that led to the establishment of sub-groups continues to exist. This evaluation is different from the OECD-wide in-depth evaluation process which is expected to be performed for the ICCP Committee and its working parties in the course of the 2009-2010 biennium.

3. In light of the discussion on the need and appropriateness of the continued existence of its working parties, and of any proposed revisions to their mandates based on the outcomes of the Seoul Ministerial, the ICCP will be invited to agree on the renewal of its Working Parties’ mandate for a four-year period, a duration proposed for the Committee.

4. Annex 1 contains the proposed revisions to the WPIE mandate, submitted at the request of the ICCP Chair, by the Chairs and Bureau members of the working party.

5. Annex 2 consists of major recent outputs; and brief outlines of the working parties’ planned main contributions to the ICCP PWB for 2009-2010 and contributions to the overall goals of the Seoul Ministerial.

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1 According to article 21 c) of the Rules of Procedure of the OECD, prior to the renewal of their own mandate, Committees established by the Council shall undertake an evaluation of the continuing relevance of their own sub-structure and submit to the Council its results together with the proposed renewal. See C(2007)14/FINAL made available on OLIS on 1 August 2008.
ANNEX 1. PROPOSED MANDATE SUBMITTED TO ICCP FOR EVALUATION OF THE WPIE

Working Party on the Information Economy (WPIE)
Proposed Terms of Reference

Note: Paragraph 4 has been harmonised with the other ICCP Committee working parties.

“The Working Party on the Information Economy (WPIE) shall be responsible for:

1. Analysing policy frameworks that foster creativity and innovation, strengthen economic growth, productivity and employment, contribute to tackling global challenges in areas such as the environment, healthcare, and aging societies, and expand international economic development in conjunction with high speed information and communications networks and the growth of the information society.

2. Reviewing and evaluating economic, social and employment impacts of the development, diffusion, application and use of information and communication technologies, products and services, electronic business and digital content and undertaking related policy reviews.

3. Identifying factors that encourage the use of information and communications technologies, products and services, electronic business and digital content and their applications in the economy and society; and developing tools for measurement and international comparisons.

4. Undertaking its work in close co-operation with other ICCP Working Parties and relevant bodies of the Organisation to ensure complementarity of efforts and effective use of resources. In conducting its work the Working Party will also, as appropriate, work with and consider the views and expertise, of non-member economies, international organisations and non-governmental stakeholders, including business, trade unions, civil society, and the Internet technical community.

5. Undertaking work as requested by the Committee and submitting the results for review on a regular basis, taking into account the strategic objectives of the ICCP Committee.


The terms of reference of the Working Party on the Information Economy shall remain in force until 31 December 2012, unless the ICCP Committee decides otherwise.”
ANNEX 2. WPIE MAJOR OUTPUTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO ICCP PWB 2009-2010

Working Party on the Information Economy (WPIE)

1. The aim of the Working Party on the Information Economy is to analyse development of the information technology sector, the economic and social implications of development, application and use of ICTs across the economy and society, draw out policy implications and undertake national policy reviews as appropriate.

2. The Working Party has focused on three key themes: i) analysing the impact of new technologies, the Internet and their applications in areas including digital content, employment and offshoring, social use of ICTs and associated policy implications; ii) examining issues related to creativity, innovation, development and use of specific new technologies, in areas including RFID, public sector information and high speed broadband and their policy implications; and iii) developing indicators in new and emerging areas to underpin analysis.

3. In meeting its mandate the WPIE has: i) produced a broad range of influential analytical reports and the bi-annual *Information Technology Outlook*; ii) held major conferences and workshops exploring specific issues (a major international conference on digital content in Rome in 2006, a foresight forum on the Participative web in Ottawa in 2007, and workshops on public sector information, and a new venture on ICTs and the environment); and iii) developed new indicators in specific areas (measurement of ICT employment, indicators of digital content).

4. Some key items of the Working Party’s output over the last four years include:

   i) Analysing the impact of new technologies and their implications: Analytical reports were prepared over the last four years which examined new technologies and their policy implications. These included the series of in-depth reports on digital content including: scientific publishing, on-line games, music, mobile content, film and video, user-created content and online advertising. Policy principles for the development of digital content were prepared and endorsed at the Seoul Ministerial on *The Future of the Internet Economy*. A series of in-depth reports and new analysis was devoted to the development of ICT-related employment and associated offshoring of services, including the rise of the Indian IT services industry. Further studies were devoted to the changing use of ICTs by individuals and households and the impacts of broadband on household use.

   ii) Examining issues related to the development and use of specific new technologies. Analytical reports in this area included the series of reports on radio frequency identification (RFID), exploring technological developments, applications, impacts and policy approaches. A set of policy principles for the development and use of RFID were prepared in conjunction with the WPISP and these were endorsed at the Seoul Ministerial on *The Future of the Internet Economy*. The impact of on-line development and access to Public sector information was analysed in depth in a series of policy papers and workshops. A Recommendation of the OECD Council for Enhanced Access and more Effective Use of Public Sector Information was developed and endorsed at the Seoul Ministerial on *The Future of the Internet Economy*. The Working Party in co-operation with the WPCISP prepared a report for the Council monitoring the Recommendation on Broadband Development.

5. New work has been initiated on ICTs and the environment covering both the impacts of the ICT industry on the environment and the potential of ICTs to be innovatively used to improve environmental
performance, and this is seen to be of major importance by Member countries, as witnessed in the interventions on this subject at the Seoul Ministerial.

iii) New data and indicators. The biennial publication of the Information Technology Outlook presents the most recent comparable data on the IT sector and ICT applications and use across the economy and society, and provides a comparative overview of policy developments and new policy priorities in OECD countries. The publication is linked to and provides original inputs into the Key ICT Indicators series and as well as providing inputs into the Broadband Portal. New indicators have also been developed in specific areas including measurement of ICT employment and related offshoring, indicators of digital content, and in conjunction with WPIIS ongoing revision of definitions of the ICT sector, ICT products (goods and services), ICT trade, and ICT use by business and by households.

6. In the context of the Seoul Ministerial the Working Party provided a series of background documents, Policy Guidance and a Council Recommendation on PSI as well as contributing (with the WPCISP) to monitoring the OECD Council Recommendation on Broadband Development.

7. The Working Party has also undertaken on a request basis nine separate Peer Reviews of national policies for the diffusion and use of ICTs by business. Peer Reviews have been undertaken of Austria, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland. These reviews have proven influential in developing and modifying policy in the reviewed countries.

8. The output of the Working Party has been used widely both in Member countries and non-Member economies, is considered to be highly relevant in addressing the policy issues and policy needs of OECD Member countries and the European Commission and is seen to be effective as the PIR results confirm. The data and analysis published in the Information Technology Outlook are used extensively across the OECD by government departments, industry and experts. The regular updates of data for the ICT sector and ICT employment are used extensively and prove useful in supporting policy analysis and defining policy objectives. Peer reviews have been used to develop and modify policy in the reviewed countries and have provided background and policy directions to other OECD countries and non-Member economies when evaluating their policies or in developing policy in new areas. Work on the digital content and ICT employment and offshoring has been widely distributed and cited extensively in other international publications (UNCTAD, WTO, EC, etc.). The work on digital content and PSI will be presented in the December IGF.

9. In meeting the strategic objectives of the ICCP Committee the CISP Working Party will, in its work programme for 2009-10 concentrate on three keys areas: i) Networked ICTs and their impacts on the Economy and Society, including ICTs and the environment, new growth sectors, and impacts on growth and employment; ii) ICT enabled innovation, including creativity, research, innovation and networked collaboration, and sensor-based environments; iii) Benchmarking ICT, particularly the Information Technology Outlook; iv) Country analysis and reviews (on a voluntary basis). This work will be undertaken as appropriate with the WPCISP, WPISP, WPIIS and other bodies of the Organisation. Analytical reports, workshops and proceedings are proposed in the above areas. The staff months in the Part 1 budget allocated to the Working Party’s activities have not changed over the last four years despite increased outputs, particularly related to the Seoul Ministerial on the Future of the Internet Economy.

10. In undertaking its work over the next four years the Working Party will work towards fulfilling the goals set by the Seoul Ministerial on The Future of the Internet Economy, particularly in working towards Realising the Future of the Internet Economy. This will include synthesis of the work on networked ICTs and their impacts on the Economy and Society, in particular working towards achieving
sustainable economic growth and employment, identifying the role of ICTs in improving environmental performance and working towards a Council Recommendation on ICTs and the environment.