

CONCLUSIONS OF THE 2nd OECD WORKSHOP ON BROADBAND: INFRASTRUCTURE, APPLICATIONS AND USE

The Working Party on Telecommunication and Information Services Policies and the Working Party on the Information Economy held a joint Workshop on Broadband in Seoul, Korea on 4-5 June 2002. This Workshop followed-up on a joint Workshop held in December 2001. The purpose of the Workshop was to further examine broadband issues on the supply side as well as demand side and the relevant policy issues. The agenda for the Workshop is attached.

Dr. Seungtaik Yang, Minister of Information and Communication, Korea opened the Workshop and welcomed the TISP and WPIE delegates to Korea. Dr. Andrea Camanzi, representing BIAC and Dr. Sang-Chul Lee, President of Korea Telecom gave keynote speeches on the economic implications of broadband in the digital economy. The Workshop examined broadband strategies and developments from the perspective of network supply and development and the development of broadband applications, including specific areas of use. The Policy Session discussed specific national experience in broadband.

The Concluding Session of the Workshop was chaired by Richard Simpson, Chair of the Working Party on the Information Economy. In his summary remarks, he noted that the discussions were fruitful in establishing priorities for future OECD work in the area of broadband. He noted the need to better define broadband in the public policy context, stressing functional rather than technical criteria, and to address key questions that underlie national broadband strategies, specifically to elaborate the relationship between broadband networks and e-business transformation (the "virtuous circle") and its related impact on:

- Productivity and growth.
- Analyze and quantify the importance of broadband for business and for the delivery of public services.
- Demonstrate empirically the relevance of broadband for community development and its implications for governmental policies in the areas of regional development and the "digital divide".
- Identify the areas of "market failure" in the deployment of broadband infrastructure in order to identify where and when government involvement is most appropriate.

In particular he suggested the following typology of policies is of overall relevance for broadband development and use.

Broadband Workshop conclusions for policy

Typology of Governmental Policies: To promote broadband		
Policy & Regulation	Pricing: Universal Service Obligation	Ground rules for E-business; IPR
E-Government	Government as user	Citizen awareness and use
Diffusion	Aggregate Local Demand	Promote E-Business Adoption

Priority areas for policy development, implementation and evaluation are:

- Innovation, convergence in infrastructure, content.
- Competition and affordability.
- Demand aggregation.
- Underserved groups, proactive policy.
- Technology neutrality.
- Government vision to tackle chicken-and-egg issue, critical mass, network externality.

Work in the above areas of broadband infrastructure and use is being pursued in detail in the TISP Working Party (on infrastructure) and the WPIE (on applications and use) under the broad guidance of the ICCP Committee.