



United Nations Climate Change Talks, Barcelona, 2-6 November 2009

ICTs and climate change: Official side-event by ITU, OECD, GeSI

5 November 2009

The *International Telecommunication Union* (ITU) and *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development* (OECD) in partnership with the *Global e-Sustainability Initiative* (GeSI) held a side-event on “**Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Climate Change**” where top decision-makers from governments, international organisations and industry shared their views and solutions on how ICTs can help to address climate change.

The side event addressed ICT solutions to climate change challenges. The capabilities of ICTs to **monitor, measure and exchange** huge amounts of information and the sheer **ubiquity of ICTs** underlines their fundamental role in improving environmental performance.

The event showed that there is wide agreement on the following:

- There is a widely shared vision that ICTs are a major part of the solution in tackling climate change and related environmental challenges. ICT performance has to improve further, but “smart” applications in **transport, buildings and urban environments, energy generation, distribution and production** are, and will increasingly be, ICT-enabled.
- There needs to be a better fit between **environment and ICT policy communities**. Both are fundamental, but need to mix productively and urgently.
- **Better information** is crucial for greater efficiency, to reap the undoubted benefits of ICT applications across the economy.
- **Green growth policies** need to address issues of equity and the digital divide through use of ICTs. Harnessing the capabilities of ICTs to empower consumers is essential to measure and manage individuals’ environmental footprints. To serve this purpose, affordable and relevant ICT applications need to be diffused and used globally.
- **Life cycle approaches** from cradle to recycling and re-use are critical. This applies to design for recycling and reduction of hazardous wastes in the ICT life cycle, through to improving understanding of how ICT fits into broader applications in energy, transport, buildings, production and consumption.

Panel discussants at the event were:

- **Malcolm Johnson**, Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, *ITU*
- **Graham Vickery**, Head of the Information Economy Group, *OECD*
- **Luis Neves**, Chairman, *Global e-Sustainability Initiative*
- **Daniel Torres**, Sustainable development advisor to Secretary of State Francisco Ros Perán, Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade; Director, *National Observatory for Telecommunications and the Information Society* (Spain)
- **Atsushi Taketani**, Director, Commerce and Information Policy Bureau, *Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry* (Japan)
- **H.E. Mauricio Montalvo**, Ambassador, *Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations Office at Geneva*
- **Enrique Ramos**, Deputy Vice President, Metering solutions, *Abengoa-Telvent*
- **Yoh Somemura**, Senior Research Engineer, *NTT Energy and Environment Systems Laboratories*
- **David Eurin**, Head of Energy Consulting, *Analysys Mason*
- **Monique Meche**, Director, Environment Policy and Sustainability, *Cisco*
- **Kevin Grose**, Coordinator, Information Services Climate Change Secretariat, *UNFCCC*

Further information

OECD: www.oecd.org/sti/ict/green-ict

and <http://tiny.cc/pq2Wi>

ITU: www.itu.int/themes/climate

GeSI: www.gesi.org