

IGF Workshop: Using ICTs and the Internet to meet environmental challenges

Time: 11 am – 12:30 pm. Tuesday 17 November 2009

Place: Room 6, Bibliotheque Alexandrina.

Description: Governments, business, civil society and international organisations have developed a broad variety of initiatives and tools aimed at making the use of ICTs and the Internet greener. Beyond ICTs themselves, this includes using ICT and Internet-based applications to improve environmental performance in buildings and urban systems, transport systems, and electricity generation and distribution (“smart” applications and systems) and to help to change social behaviour to make societies more eco-friendly and consumers more environmentally conscious. The UN Climate Change Conference, COP15, is being held in December 2009, and many of these initiatives and tools are specifically aimed at ameliorating the impact of climate change.

In May 2009, more than 200 experts from governments, business, NGO’s and science institutions came together at an OECD conference in Helsingør, Denmark to discuss how ICT’s can improve environmental performance and address climate change [see <http://www.oecd.org/sti/ict/green-ict>]. One of the key outputs of the conference was the urgent need to move from discussion to action – shifting from the “think-tank” to the “do-tank”.

The aim of this workshop on the role of green ICTs and the Internet is to debate which actions to take. The focus is on discussing policies and next steps for improving environmental performance, making more effective use of the Internet in meeting environmental targets, harnessing the ICT sector’s potential for sustainable growth and employment, and underpinning and speeding green growth in the long haul towards economic recovery.

The workshop will immediately follow that on “Greening the Internet”, and will aim at developing key policy messages that complement and build on the preceding workshop.

Chair: Mr. Ahmad Abou Al Seoud, Under Secretary of State - Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, Egypt

Speakers:

- Dr Hossam Allam, Regional Programme Manager, Strategic Concerns Programme, Head, ICT4D Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)
- Ignacio Campino, Vice President, Representative of the Board of Management for Sustainability and Climate Change, Deutsche Telekom
- Heather Creech, Director of Global Connectivity, IISD
- Finn Petersen, National IT- and Telecom Agency, Denmark
- Graham Vickery, Head, Information Economy Group, OECD

The workshop is under the Cross-Cutting Priority of Diversity and is organised by Denmark and the OECD.

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