

Internet Governance Forum, Hyderabad, India, 2008

In December 2008 the OECD participated in the third Internet Governance Forum which took place in Hyderabad, India. Below is a report on the three events organized by the OECD.

73. OECD Open Forum: "Outcomes of the OECD Ministerial meeting on The Future of the Internet Economy"

The Open Forum reported on and discussed the main outcomes from the OECD Ministerial Meeting and the business, civil society/organized labour and Internet technical community Fora, where they related to the themes of the Internet Governance Forum. In respect to governance this included a discussion of the multi-stakeholder participation in public policy processes as developed in the context of the OECD Ministerial.

The Forum was chaired by Ambassador David Gross, Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy, United States. Panelists for this event included Peter Voss, Head of Division, International Policy for Information & Communication Technologies, Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, Germany; Tom Walker, Director Europe and International, BERR, United Kingdom; Gulshan Rai, Director at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, India; Joseph H. Alhadeff, Vice President for Global Public Policy and Chief Privacy Officer, Oracle Corporation, Chair of BIAC's Information, Computer and Communication (ICCP) Committee, Vice Chair of ICC's Commission on E-Business, IT and Telecoms; Katitza Rodríguez Pereda, Public Voice Coordinator; Bill Graham, Strategic Global Engagement, Office of the President, Internet Society (ISOC) and Marcus Courtney, Head of Department, UNI Telecom Global Union.

Ambassador Gross opened the workshop by saying the Ministerial meeting had been one of the highpoints of his time working for the United States Government as the Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy. He thanked the Korean hosts for their outstanding hospitality and the OECD Secretariat for their work in preparing the meeting. He underlined the importance of the Seoul Declaration to policy makers in respect to ICTs and the Internet before turning to introduce the speakers on the Panel. Joe Alhadeff said that the business community had found the Ministerial very useful by way of outreach across their community and to other stakeholders. He noted a highly successful one day forums for the business, technical community and civil society/organized labour communities had taken place the day before the Ministerial which was the culmination work commencing in 2006. He said the Ministerial had assisted to highlight within the business community the role of the OECD as well as an opportunity to provide inventory of what they were doing in support of their recommendations.

Bill Graham spoke next as a representative of the Internet technical community. He noted that the Community had co-ordinated input from 17 different technical organizations and been able to put together a common statement to present to Ministers. Mr Graham stated the Internet is successful due to its unique model in that it is individual as who make the Internet what it is through local, bottom up processes. He said the technical community's goals included preserving the ability to connect, to communicate, to innovate, to share and to choose. They hoped to continue to work with the OECD to encourage open and collaborative processes for Internet governance. Mr Graham closed his remarks with some "take-aways". These were that preparing for the Ministerial with fellow organisations provided opportunity to: 1. Clarify working relationships and positions, 2. Hold exchanges on speakers, etc. with other stakeholders, 3. Have the opportunity to work with governments and contribute to

background material. Overall he concluded the event had been an excellent way to show the multi/stakeholder approach will work.

Peter Voss representing the German Government highlighted some of the elements he felt were most important in the Seoul Declaration. In the view of the German Government, the "Seoul Declaration" is valuable for three main reasons: First, it would enhance awareness of the fact that the Internet economy is important for everyone's future; Second, it would raise awareness of the fact that it is not only the task of governments to shape the future development of the Internet economy. Rather, such key issues as the security of the Internet depend on collaboration between governments, companies, civil society and users themselves; And third, the Seoul Declaration will help us above all to define common policy objectives that we all agree are well-suited to promote the future development and security of the Internet economy – which is of such great importance to all of us. Mr Voss particularly mentioned those sections dealing with ICTs and the environment as ones that deserve attention and action. Marcus Courtney representing organized labour discussed how the follow up to the Ministerial should address the global financial crisis. He called for an expanded role for stakeholders, investment in next generation networks and job creation including in developing countries. He also underlined the importance of addressing human rights and collective bargaining rights in relation to ICTs.

Tom Walker, representing the UK Government, spoke about the positive message in the Seoul Declaration for co-operation with the IGF. He noted that Ministers had the participation of the OECD at the IGF and that he thought the organization had an important role to play in contributing an economic perspective to IGF events. He underlined the importance of this contribution in relation to debates of NGNs, the creation of market friendly environments and consumer protection. He said the vision Ministers articulated was one of open borders, level playing fields together with more jobs and wealth creation. Katitza Rodríguez Pereda, participating from Civil Society, noted that Civil Society had coordinated the views of organisations from over 50 countries in putting together their statement for Ministers. She urged that there be greater Civil Society participation at the OECD particularly in areas such as discussion on privacy. She said she hoped Civil Society participation in OECD meetings would be formalized in the near future along with that of the technical community.

Gulshan Rai participated in the panel on behalf of the Indian Government. Dr Rai noted that India had adopted the Seoul Declaration and already had found it useful in several areas when making ICT policy. Dr Rai also talked about the importance of engagement for India in global forums discussing ICT policy and said the Ministerial had assisted them to initiate greater stakeholder communication. During the discussion period questions ranged across how events such as the Ministerial could help stakeholders co-ordinate their positions beyond national boundaries; how to empower users including in the area of privacy; how to make greater progress with the transition to IPv6 as requested by the Seoul Declaration as well as how to further develop broadband access. In closing the Open Forum, the Chair thanked the panel and the participants for their contributions both to this Forum and to the Ministerial as well as the OECD Secretariat for organizing the event.

68. OECD Best practice Forum on the "Enhanced Internet-enabled access and use of public sector information".

This Best practice Forum was designed to improve understanding of the economic impacts of improved access and use of public sector information (ranging from meteorological and mapping information through to museums, archives and cultural information) and to highlight the use and applications of the OECD Council Recommendation for Enhanced Access

and More Effective Use of Public Sector Information. The Open Forum was chaired by Graham Vickery, OECD Secretariat and expert panellists covering various view-points on the use and impacts of public sector information comprised: Chris Corbin, ePSIplus, UK; Rajeev Chawla, Commissioner, Survey Settlement & Land Records Department, Karnataka State, India; Ilkka Lakaniemi, Nokia Siemens Networks, Finland; Dr Govind, National Informatics Centre, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, India (Anne Fitzgerald, Queensland University of Technology, Australia could not participate at the last minute due to flight routing problems, but provided input on lessons from recent Australian experience).Govind

The Best practice Forum was opened by Graham Vickery OECD Secretariat who briefly introduced panel members and outlined the themes in the OECD Council Recommendation on PSI, highlighting the most significant elements and reflecting on progress so far, particularly in relation to the IGF. Chris Corbin followed and welcomed the OECD Council Recommendation in terms of laying out the economic principles that should underlie access to and social and commercial use of public sector information. This work has helped to clarify the European Commission Directive on Public Sector Information and to suggest new areas for possible extension of the Directive to make its use more economically efficient.

Rajeev Chawla gave a fascinating description of how land records and transactions involving these records have been transformed by their digitisation and placing on the Internet. This has hugely increased access, decreased user costs and improved economic efficiency. Ilkka Lakaniemi discussed the potential for new service delivery based on public sector information but pointed to barriers that have inhibited the development of these services, most of which are addressed in the OECD Recommendation. Finally Dr Govind gave a run-down on some of the initiatives of the Indian government to open up information and improve the use of this information for public and commercial use.

The Best practice Forum was completed with a Q & A session looking at how policy can contribute to improving access to and use of public sector information and what are the biggest hurdles to improving access and use. Discussion was led particularly from developing countries that are in the process of improving access to and use of public sector information and follow-up contacts were made with various participants to provide further information and advice as well as diffusing information more widely, for example through press articles.

Workshop 16. Digital Content Strategies and Policies

The workshop was designed to shed light on digital broadband digital content development, access and use, and to provide and inform the context for policy discussion, analysis, review and development. In this context, it also presented the OECD Policy Guidance for Digital Content (<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/20/54/40895797.pdf>) adopted at the recent OECD Ministerial on the Future Internet Economy. The digital content principles are grouped under three main themes which provided a framework for discussion at the Workshop: 1) Promoting an enabling environment, 2) Enhancing the infrastructure and 3) Fostering the business and regulatory climate.

The OECD has worked with a wide variety of stakeholder communities on the subject of Digital Content to prepare its digital content principles. Drawing on this rich pool of partners, panelists included excellent speakers from business (Venkata Rao, Head of Portals & Consumer Marketing, Sify Corp, Steve DelBianco , Executive Director, NetChoice, Nicklas Lundblad, European Policy Manager, Public policy and Government Affairs, Google, and Santosh Anoo, Head of Strategy and Operations, Deloitte Consulting India Pvt. Limited, civil society (Jeremy Malcolm, Project coordination, Consumers International-KL Office for Asia Pacific and the Middle East) and government (Mark Carvell, Assistant Director, International Communications Policy, United Kingdom Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform) who all made excellent presentations from their respective perspectives, i.e. Internet portals, the media and electronic commerce industry, search and online advertising, and other industry fields, the perspective of consumers and, finally, the one of government.

Participants also provided valuable feedback on afore-mentioned policy fields and giving useful country-specific contexts. The workshop was completed with a Q & A session on how to apply the OECD principles (also in a non-OECD context), also pointing to areas for new work. The meeting was chaired by Graham Vickery, Head of Information Economy Group, and Sacha Wunsch-Vincent, Organisation for Co-operation and Economic Development (OECD).

Participation in other Events

OECD staff members also participated as speakers or panelists in events organised by the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA); NASSCOM; the ITU; Packet Clearing House; the Internet Society; the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI); Global Information Infrastructure Commission and the Electronic Privacy Information Center.