XIV WORLD CONGRESS

WCIT 2004
Information Technology
ATHENS 19-21 MAY 2004

News

ATHENS 19 - 21 MAY 2004

THE FUTURE IS NOW

Saturday, May 22, 2004

An event of

Hosted by
Federation
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WCIT 2004 – *Declaration of political leaders signed*

Mr. W. Hord Tipton, CIO,
US Department of Interior signs the Declaration.

The evolution of technology passes through humanistic
aspects – without it, it will fail", Prof. Pavlopoulos.

An initiative of the organizing committee of the 14th World Congress on IT, was the highlight of the third and final day of the Congress, which was dedicated to "New directions in e-democracy and e-government". The "Declaration of Political Leaders on the Human-Centered Technological Development in the Service of the Citizen" was signed yesterday by 15 Ministers and government officials from all around the world, who were invited by the Greek government to take part in the Congress and endorse this political as well as humanistic text.

Opening the special ceremony, Greek Minister of Interior, Public Administration & Decentralization, **Prof. Prokopis Pavlopoulos**, declared that technology may help us link the world in an enormous human-centered network. It may also contribute not only to economic progress, but also to the protection of the personal integrity of every user. "The evolution of technology passes through humanistic aspects – without it, it will fail", said Prof. Pavlopoulos, adding that technology should always have a human face.

Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece **Mr. Evripidis Stilianidis**, who was not able to attend the ceremony, sent a message confirming the government' s commitment on technological development. The Declaration signed by Ministers and representatives recognizes that electronic government has the potential needed to shape new relationships between citizens, representatives and governments and also, that a holistic, citizen-centered approach to e-gov should be based upon a commitment to adding value, efficiency and transparency, improving quality, broadening and deepening participation at all levels of the society.

It also states that, in order to accomplish this mission, e-gov should be targeted at improving public management by integrating fragmented responsibilities, simplifying existing administrative procedures, facilitating collaborative, cost-effective use of all resources and public access to ubiquitous and multi-modal information, maximizing transparency by ensuring that administrative procedures are open to online inspection and involvement, designing, packaging and channelling services according to the needs of citizens and businesses, and finally fostering new opportunities for democratic participation by facilitating new forms of engagement in public dialogue and consultation.

Electronic government should be further promoted –according to the clauses of the declaration- within a context of concrete action plans, and e-gov policies should be formulated and evaluated upon their capacity to produce a more inclusive, pluralistic and participatory system of governance, both at national and global level. Finally, international collaboration and sharing of best practices constitute –as stated in the declaration- two important pillars for realizing the benefits of electronic government and electronic democracy.

access2democracy launched

Anew Non Governmental Organization with global reach and aspirations, access2democracy, was officially launched yesterday, during the third day of WCIT 2004, by the President of PASOK, George Papandreou, in his capacity as a member of the Honorary Board.
The new organization was inspired by the success of the e-Vote project, during the Greek EU Presidency, last year, when over 175,000 people e-voted on various subjects.

Special Event

WCIT 2004 *Sailing Regatta*
Saturday, May 22

Sail on the waves of the majestic Aegean; try your sailing skills under the guidance of professional skippers; live the experience of the Sailing Regatta.

WCIT 2004 closes its gates with a tournament that will sail you through the clear blue waters of the Saronic Gulf to the beautiful island of Aegina, where you will have the opportunity to meet the culture and way of life of the world-known Greek islands. First, second and third place winners will be determined by the best-combined racing time of both legs of the sailing course. The regatta starts at 09:00 and finishes at 21:30 with the award reception, at the Hellenic Offshore Racing Club.

Passing the crystal

The 14th WCIT closing ceremony was highlighted by two short speeches by SEPE President Spyros Vyzantios and WITSA Chairman George Newstrom and the handover of the "perennial" crystal to the city of Austin, Texas, ghost of 15th WCIT in 2006.

The handover of the perennial crystal. From left to right:
Will Wynn, Luis Saenz, Fred Mapp, George Newstrom, Spyros Vyzantios.

Mr. Newstrom thanked Athens and **Mr. Vyzantios,** personally, for a "superbly organized event" and recalled how Athens' bid for the 14th WCIT had prevailed against very strong opponents in 2000. **Mr. Fred Mapp**, CEO of the 15th WCIT said his aim was to inspire, connect and lead the transformation of the ICT sector. Also present at the handover were the Mayor of Austin, Will Wynn, and Texas' Assistant Secretary of State Luis Saenz. A video was projected, showcasing Texas' position as a leading center of technological development and including a message from Gov. Rick Perry inviting ICT experts to the 15th WCIT.

"e-democracy,
does e- mean more and better?"

The way forward
The Information Society In European Union

The third session on "e-democracy, does e- mean more and better" started with Mr. Mats Karlson, Country Director for Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone of the World Bank described briefly the so-called quiet IT revolution in Ghana. He stressed how this quiet revolution has changed the fundamentals of project development in economic and social life. Despite this example, global insecurity in the underdeveloped world is increasing not only violence but also social injustices. He stressed the need to create a secure environment through the use of IT opportunities.

Andreas Papandreou, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Athens, offered some comments in deliberative polling. He underlined the new opportunities deriving from the use of ICT as a globalizing force that engages citizens in decision making. The Internet, if used properly, is an active medium, and e-democracy is a valuable tool in promoting the participation of the public in decision making. He also reserved to the political responsibility of elected representatives, NGOs and the business community towards realizing the potential of digital technologies to enrich deliberative democracy. He finally described the European e-Vote initiative.

Ted Selker, Co-director of the Caltech-MIT Voting Project, explained that practice has shown that non e-voting methods inherit by default inaccuracy. This is due, among other things, to human errors in counting, lost ballots, handling problems, and transcription errors. E-voting on the other hand, eliminates all of the above, achieving a much more accurate result.

Mr. Selker gave an outline of the voting situation in USA. Technology has been introduced and being used widely, but factors such as multiple races in the same state, non-uniform state legislation, constant change of ballots, and non-uniform voter registration data, leave room for error. Mr. Ted Selker concluded his speech, presenting some of the factors that will improve voting.

Prof. Stephen Coleman, Oxford Internet Institute, Oxford University made a very interesting approach on democracy in the age of the internet. He focused on the current problems of democratization. He stressed the limits of the existing institutions, the vertical position of their engagement in the democratization processes and the disengagement of citizens from traditional politics. "The public is more intelligent" he said, they deny to vote, they don't

European Union follows its own way towards the Information Society, according to Dr. Rosalie Zobel, Director IST Research, European Commission, who explained the initiatives, described the goals and analyzed the policy objectives of the 25-countries block, as a keynote speaker in WCIT 2004.

Mrs. Zobel reminded us that Europe wants to be –according to Lisbon Strategy, 2000– "the largest knowledge-based technology by 2010". The vision of the then 15 leaders towards online Europe is being materialized by a series of initiatives, like eEurope (broadband access, e-business, e-government, security, skills, e-health, etc.) and the establishment of European Research Area, that is the first step towards a single market for research, in the "old world". Dr. Zobel emphasized the importance of ICT sector in economy, as a key enabler for productivity growth, as a facilitator of more efficient public services and as a tool for solving societal changes. The EU approach to Information Society was the creation of a new regulatory framework, the promotion of eEurope Action Plan and the stimulation of R&D through Framework Program 6.

The first objective, to get Europe online was fulfilled by eEurope 2002 Action Plan, the second, to have new EU member states and candidate countries online, was also fulfilled by eEurope 2003. The next objective, to be fulfilled by eEurope 2005 Action Plan, is the establishment of e-services on secure broadband infrastructure. Member states are committed to this Plan, a co-ordination mechanism has been established complemented by a benchmarking mechanism and the exchange of good practices is common among them.

Mrs. Zobel admitted that there are still wide discrepancies among the member states while the whole block lags behind US and Japan in R&D investment. However, the EU goal is to spend 3% of GDP for R&D by 2010 in order to catch up with them. The European 6th Research Framework Program has a budget of 17,500 million euros (3rd IST call -288 million euros- is to be announced soon), while FP 7 will focus particularly on space and security.

"The public is more intelligent", stressed Prof. S. Coleman.

Mr. A. Papandreou speaking on deliberative polling.

follow political speeches and panels. He insisted on the opportunities offered by e-democracy but set up the policy framework necessary. e-government should not be transformed to e-Ilusion.

Governmental or private monopolies should not be involved in the process, we should not allow companies to shape the future of the internet. He referred also to some striking examples from the U.K. Parliament's e-initiatives towards domestic violence and the exciting response of women, providing thousand pieces of evidence for domestic violence. He finally insisted on the opportunity given by e-democracy to widen the horizons of the participants by bringing together people with different views and voices.

Prof. Chrysanthos Dellacoras, Associate Professor of Management, MIT referred to the incentives that constitute the core driver of human behaviour. Citizens can be empowered and a direct bidirectional communication link between the citizens and the governments can be established. Ten years of experience with e-communities and e-commerce have taught us that a lot of incentives can be put in place through proper engineering of information systems that power e-communities. e- democracy efforts have a lot to gain from incorporating such lessons into their systems.

e-Government: *Focusing on the citizen*

Mr. Apostolos Andreoulakos, Greek Deputy Minister of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization.

"We must work together to remove the digital divide", Mr. Abdul Moyeen Khan, Minister of Science and Information and Communication Technology of Bangladesh.

The pressing need for the introduction and development of e-government, as well as the promotion of e-democracy, for the convenience of modern citizens and the improvement of their participation in state affairs was the main conclusion of the first session of the day (entitled "The State-of-the Art"). All speakers agreed that the utilization of new technologies can actually help people become more involved in the decision making activities of modern states, while at the same time it can promote a higher level of political transparency – a crucial element of modern democracy.

Mr. Apostolos Andreoulakos, Greek Deputy Minister of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization, referred extensively to the principles of the democratic State of ancient Athens, which could offer the model for the new technological political environment of our days. "The new technologies diminish red-tape and bureaucracy, re-establishing the citizen at the centre of the political sphere", Mr. Andreoulakos said, stressing the fact that IT can create a virtual meeting place for the discussion of political affairs and the making of important decision, thus bringing the citizens closer to the government as well as to each other. Using new technologies for political purposes is also a means for promoting the transgression of

separating lines between citizens and the inclusion of the underprivileged ones into the political process.

A glimpse to the unknown but also rapidly developing economy of Bangladesh was offered to the audience by **Mr. Abdul Moyeen Khan**, Minister of Science and Information and Communication Technology of Bangladesh. Mr. Khan, who was substituting Mr. Arun Shourie who was unable to attend, stated that his government is "aiming at removing the science and technology divide between the rich and the poor, the north and the south, the east and the west". On the other hand, the delegates had the opportunity to listen to the point of view of two of the most developed countries, in regard to e-democracy. **Mr. Yoshihiko Sumi**, Policy Advisor, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (substituting Mr. Jose-Maria Figueres), explained his country's IT policy which is mainly focused on "providing user-oriented administrative services" and "achieving simple governmental procedures that guarantee high-quality efficiency". **Mr. W. Hord Tipton**, CIO, US Department of Interior, spoke on behalf of the USA government, explaining the ways in which it is trying to create a unified and simplified e-Government system, in order to provide its citizens with efficient and accessible electronic services, in all the main areas of interest. Mr. Tipton defined the government's "Federal Enterprise Architecture" as the facilitation of expansion of e-Government by identifying opportunities to collaborate, consolidate and leverage IT investments". "Investments in ICT directly affect economic growth since they enhance competitiveness, increase business opportunities and provide access to the market rural communities", **Dr. Carlos Alberto Primo Braga**, Senior Advisor, International Trade Department, The World Bank, stated, adding that "the total size of the ICT market grew from \$1.4 trillion in 1994 to \$2.6 trillion in 2003". Dr. Braga called for a close collaboration between governments and corporations for the creation of a coherent regulatory system, which will support and promote the development of the industry worldwide. He also noted that new technologies create significant potentials for developing countries, which should concentrate on improving their ICT infrastructure and regulatory environment while at the same time try to bridge the inherent "digital divide".

Access2democracy
is officially launched

A new Non Governmental Organization with global reach and aspirations, access2democracy, was officially launched yesterday, during the third day of WCIT 2004, by the President of PASOK, Mr George Papandreou, in his capacity as a member of the Honorary Board.

The Greek Socialist leader declared that access2democracy's chief aim is to foster e-democracy, because "in many parts of the world, democratic ideals are of lower priority than the ideal of consumerism; voter turnouts are in free fall; citizens find themselves participating – only nominally – every four years while events overtake them and people define themselves in terms of what they want – not what they do". He added that there is huge potential to revitalize democracy," if we can somehow persuade our citizens to become less cynical about politics. If we can harness the enthusiasm and faith of the millions of people who selflessly donate their time, energy and money to NGOs to promote a variety of good causes. Political leaders must convince these people that a better, more democratic world is possible as a result of their collective action". He also said that technological advances are a source of hope for the future of democracy around the world, he called for action to ensure that the people do have the power and strategies for creating a global electronic demos, or e-Demos, and he revealed that during the Greek EU Presidency, last year, over 175,000 people e-voted on various subjects. Inspired by the success of the e-Vote, access2democracy was conceived as an NGO.

The next speaker, **Mr. Kumi Naidoo**, Secretary General and CEO, CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation, asked for respect of differences of the various stakeholders, as well as for the support of business community. Finally, **Mr. Michail Bletsas**, Director of Computing, MIT Media Lab, declared that this is an opportunity to bring politicians, businesses and citizens together, before asking the delegates to support e-partnership, by completing a Web-based questionnaire in www.access2democracy.org

Mr. Michail Bletsas asked for "contributions to the a2d site".

Mr. Kumi Naidoo asked for the support of the business world.

Commemorating
Michael Dertouzos

The last session of the 14th WCIT was a commemoration of the work of the late Professor Michael Dertouzos, one of the true visionaries of information technology.

Professors Ioannis Tsoukalas, General Secretary for Research and Technology at the Ministry of Development, **Christos Halkias**, Dean of Athens Information Technology, the graduate studies center founded by Intracom, and **Victor Zue**, Co-Director of the Laboratory for Computer Science (LCS) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, referred to the various aspects of Dertouzos' work as a scientist, administrator and as an inspiration to countless scientists and researchers.

Michael Dertouzos was born in 1936 in Athens. In 1954 he graduated from Athens College. He remained very loyal to his alma mater, and recently served for six years as President of its Board of Trustees in New York City. He received a Fulbright Scholarship to study at the University of Arkansas, where he received a Bachelor's in 1957 and a Master's in 1959. He got his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering in 1964 from MIT and was immediately hired as an assistant professor there. He became full Professor in 1973 and next year, LCS Director, a position he held until his death, on August 27, 2001.

Author of several books, including "The Unfinished Revolution", in which he expressed his frustration with the gap between the humanistic promise that he had seen for computers and how things have turned out in the commercial world, Dertouzos was also an entrepreneur, founding Computek in 1968 to market an early display terminal based on his patents. Above all, Dertouzos was known for his humanistic bent, which led him to pursue developments in Information Technology that would be of use to all people. His overarching vision was of computers serving man rather than the other way around. As Professor Zue said, his visions were often initially ridiculed, because they were

Marco Escobedo, first winner of the Michael Dertouzos Awards.

Christos Doulkeridis, second winner of the Michael Dertouzos Awards.

Michalis Anastassopoulos, third winner of the Michael Dertouzos Awards.

far ahead of their time: in 1976, for example, he predicted that by the mid-1990's three out of every four homes would have desktop computers. In 1980 he proposed a vision of a networked world forming an "information marketplace" that sounds very much like the World Wide Web, we are only beginning to realize.

It was Dertouzos who lured World Wide Web founder Tim Berners-Lee to MIT and helped found the World Wide Web consortium. He then convinced hundreds of companies, large and small, to join the World Wide Web Consortium. He also advised the European Commission and the World Economic Forum, among others.

Following the commemoration, the Michael Dertouzos awards were presented to three young scientists for contributions with a potential to benefit humanity. Then third-place award, along with a prize of €6,000, went to **Michalis Anastassopoulos**, a researcher at the Fraunhofer Institute of Software and Systems Engineering, who is working on software product lines for pervasive computing. Yiota Paparrigou, Managing Director of SciNet presented the award. The second-place award of €9,000, presented by Cathy Liddell, Dertouzos' widow, went to **Christos Doulkeridis**, a Ph.D. candidate at the Athens University of Economics and Business, for a project allowing data access using mobile devices. First place, and an award of €15,000 went to **Marco Escobedo**, a research at Telmex's (Mexico's main telecommunications company), for a project designed to provide VoIP services for rural networks. Escobedo's system has already been tested in a mountainous area of the Dominican Republic and further tests will follow.

POLITICAL LEADERS DECLARATION ON TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SERVICE OF THE CITIZEN

Ministers and Government Officials of Greece and Bangladesh, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ecuador, Hungary, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Malta, Nepal, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Turkey, USA, met in Athens, Greece, on May 21, 2004 within the framework of the 14th World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT2004) and exchanged views on the technological developments for e-Government. Considering the principle topics of the e-Government session, the Ministers and Government Officials concluded to a "Political Leaders Declaration on Technological Developments in the Service of the Citizen", recognizing that:

1. electronic government has the potential to shape new relationships between citizens, representatives and governments;

2. a holistic, citizen-centered approach to electronic government should be based upon a commitment to adding value, efficiency and transparency; improving quality; as well as broadening and deepening participation at all levels of society;

3. in order to accomplish this mission, electronic government should be targeted at
   i) improving public management by re-integrating fragmented responsibilities,
   ii) simplifying existing administrative procedures, facilitating collaborative, cost-effective use of all resources,
   iii) maximising transparency by ensuring that administrative procedures are open to online inspection and involvement,
   iv) designing, packaging and channelling services according to the needs of citizens and businesses,
   v) simplifying public access to ubiquitous and multi-modal information,
   vi) fostering new opportunities for democratic participation by facilitating new forms of engagement in public dialogue and consultation;

4. electronic government, though well-positioned in the world-wide political agenda, should be further promoted within a context of concrete action plans;

5. e-Government policies should be formulated and evaluated upon their capacity to produce a more inclusive, pluralistic and participatory system of governance, both at the national and at the global level;

6. international collaboration and sharing of best practices constitute two important pillars for materializing the benefits of electronic government and electronic democracy.

WITSA Global IT Excellence Awards

Seven organizations from around the world were honored by WITSA for their achievements in the use of information technology, at last night's splendid ceremony. The WITSA Global IT Excellence Awards cover three broad categories in the ITC field. In addition, a Chairman's award was presented.

This year's winners of the Public Sector Excellence Award were:

Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Romania: for their unparalleled approach of transparency, which is based on disseminating economic and financial information through the Internet (by its portal: www.mfinante.ro).

Yokosuka City: for its Electronic Bidding System, which automates most tasks handled by bidding processors while the results of the bidding process are automatically displayed online, and made available to the public.

The winners of the Private Sector Excellence Awards were:

Ms. Emmy B. Simons receives the WITSA Chairman's Award on behalf of The United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Terra Payments (Canada): for the automated risk management system for international transactions.

East Japan Railway Company Suica System (Japan): for the introduction of the Suica (Super Urban Intelligent Card) contactless card in railways.

The winners of the Digital Opportunity

Award were:

PEOPLink/CatGen (USA): for their CatGen ("catalog generator") e-commerce platform, which enables any enterprise anywhere to create and maintain a database of business data to support their own web catalog.

Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion: for their efforts to bridge the "digital divide" at home and abroad, by ensuring the "informatization" of the deprived (creating, for example, Internet Access Centers in developing countries like Cambodia, Vietnam and Romania).

The winner of the Chairman's Award was:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID): for their overall efforts to improve livelihoods, health, environment education and democracy, being the largest country-to-country donor organization in the world. In 2002 and 2003, USAID spent more than 200 million dollars in outside contributions – all using IT for developmental purposes.

Picture it!

Full room for WCIT 2004.

SEPE's booth at the Exhibition Hall.

WCIT banner in front of Megaron Moussikis.

The luxurious halls of Megaron Moussikis were a delight for the delegates.

Maro Leonardou, the facilitator of WCIT 2004 and Deputy General Manager of SEPE Andreas Kitrilakis.
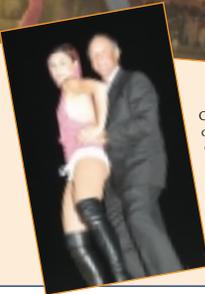

Shake, shake, shake...

Harris Miller, president of WITSA, proved to be an excellent dancer.
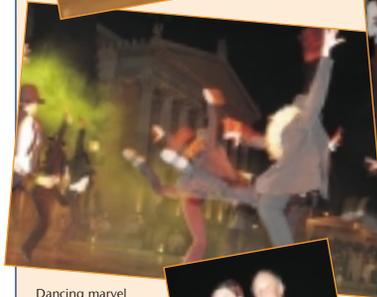
Dancing marvel in front of Zappeion Megaron.

Chairman of WITSA, George Newstrom, has conquered the top...

Food for thought...

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