

Lynn St Amour – Final press conference, OECD Ministerial

18 June 2008

Good afternoon.

We thank the OECD and the Korean Communication Commission again for the opportunity to share our experiences in the technical Forum and to participate in this OECD Ministerial event.

We are happy to hear that this relationship will be deepened, as indicated in the Seoul Declaration.

This event was an unprecedented opportunity for delegates from OECD member states to join discussions on technical, civil society, and business issues through the stakeholder forums, and to share experiences and exchange perspectives on the “Future of the Internet Economy”.

A consistent message that emerged from the technical discussions, both in the stakeholder forum and in the subsequent sessions – and one that is worth repeating – is that the Internet is successful due to its unique model – shared global ownership, globally reachable collaborative engagement models, development based on open standards (which are openly developed), and freely accessible processes for technology and policy development.

The genius of the Internet is that it is individuals – all of us – that make it what it is.

This “Internet Model”, as it is commonly called, relies on multistakeholder collaboration and on processes that are local, bottom-up and accessible to individuals around the world, whether they be from academia, research, governments, business, or civil society.

Over a billion users, hundreds of purpose built organizations, and tens of thousands of different companies make decisions every day that affect how the Internet develops and what is deployed. As a result of the core

principles underlying the Internet's development – such as the end-to-end principle – users are free to innovate, experiment, generate value, and enjoy the connectivity, information and services that others make available. More than any other communications medium, it is the users that define what the Internet is and what it will become.

The technical stakeholder Forum on Monday was organized following this same model. The 17 organizations (coordinated on this occasion by the Internet Society (ISOC)) are all active in the Internet's development, but are only a small part of all those that contribute to the Internet's evolution.

I would like to thank all those worked so hard for the technical forum and note that, as always, it has been a pleasure to work with these diverse organisations. All of our organizations are listed in our memorandum.

We are motivated by a common vision of an open, accessible and global Internet, and collaborate to create the standards, provide operational oversight and to build or nurture an environment that will facilitate the Internet's development.

Through the stakeholder forum, we prepared a formal Memorandum that we presented this week to the ministers of the OECD member states.

With that Memorandum, we express our shared desire to achieve the fullest benefits of the Internet for all participants in the global economy.

The memorandum was founded upon a need to preserve five basic abilities, namely:

- The ability to connect
- The ability to communicate
- The ability to innovate
- The ability to share, and
- The ability to choose.

In the memorandum, we encouraged OECD member states to join us in open and collaborative processes to support these fundamental capacities.

Once again, we wish to thank the OECD for calling for the technical forum, thereby acknowledging that decisions about the Internet must be firmly based on the technical realities that underlie the Internet.

Furthermore, we welcome the recognition in the Seoul Declaration that, moving forward, discussions about the Internet should fully engage stakeholders from across the civil society, business, and technical organizations.

In turn, we, the technical organisations who came together for this event, commit to:

- Develop and deploy technologies and practices to meet the evolving needs of the global Internet.
- Engage with governments and other stakeholders of OECD and non-OECD countries alike to enhance confidence, ensure security, and encourage innovation and interoperability at a global level.
- Invite governments to join us in an open and collaborative community, together with businesses and civil society, as we work to extend the benefits of creativity and convergence to all communities, in all parts of the world, in an environment that will inspire confidence based on the full assurance of security.

The Internet has the potential to bring shared economic and social benefits to all the world's citizens. The genius of the Internet is that the core principles behind its evolution empower individuals to create boundless opportunities.

We look forward to working with you all, preserving the genius of the Internet, in the years to come.