



The Second General Assembly of the International Parliamentarians'
Association for Information Technology -IPAIT II
17-19 May 2004, Conrad Bangkok Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

IPAIT2/2004/DAILY 07

SUMMARY OF THE E-EDUCATION AND E-SOCIETY PANEL DISCUSSION

Hon. Lt. Kudeb Saikrachang, the Chairperson of the Panel Discussion, welcomed the participants.

PARTICIPANTS

- Chairperson : Hon. Lt. Kudeb Saikrachang
Member of the House of Representatives (Thailand)
- Co-Chairperson : Mr. Perez Francisco
Member of the Parliament, Leader of the delegation
(Philippines)
- Rapporteur : Hon. Mrs. Pornpich P. Patanakullert
Member of the House of Representatives (Thailand)
- Country Report
Speakers : 1. Hon. Lt. Kudeb Saikrachang
Member of the House of Representatives
(Thailand)
2. Mrs. Kim Hee Sun
Member of the Parliament, Leader of the
delegation (Korea)

THE MEETING

The meeting lasted from 13.30 to 14.40 hours. About 30 participants attended the meeting. Two papers were presented by Thai and Korean delegates, Hon. Lt. Kudeb Saikrachang and Mrs. Kim Hee Sun, respectively. The country reports will form part of the final report of IPAIT II.

POINTS RAISED IN THE DISCUSSION PERIOD

1. One issue was the "Digital Divide" and lack of opportunities for access to ICT among the disadvantaged sections of the society, and Korea has proposed several solutions, such as seeking financial support, providing education so more people could gain access to ICT.
2. Another issue raised was the lack of sufficient ICT infrastructure especially in countries with a large area (such as in the case of Saudi Arabia) which would then require provision of distance learning and intranet; introduction to several applications in support of technology, development of educational

institutions and government agencies; exchange of know-how and technology with the developed countries.

3. Also, because information technology changes very fast and the content of the internet is mainly in English, some countries find it difficult to keep up because of the language barrier. This therefore causes the development gap between the developing and developed countries whose population has a better knowledge of English.

4. One issue that was a source of concern to participants was that broader and enthusiastic use of English in accessing the internet might in future lead to a lack of interest in the local language, and thus undermine the local language's predominance.

5. A question was raised as to how to reform intellectual property laws in a way that supports education, including e-Education.

6. Another point was raised that there were no participants from the developed countries present in the discussion. This issue would be further discussed in the next meeting which will be held in Brazil.
