MINUTES OF THE DISCUSSION PANEL "INSTRUMENTS OF DIGITAL INCLUSION" OF THE III GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IPAIT

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Chamber of Deputies, Brasilia, Brazil

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Deputy Inocêncio Oliveira, Chairperson of the panel, welcomed the Parliamentarians present, further to the other participants and observers, and declared the panel opened with the following composition:

Deputy Inocêncio Oliveira (Brazil)	Chairperson
Deputy Philemon Rodrigues (Brazil)	Co-Chairperson
Mr. Rogério Santanna, Secretary of Logistics and Information Technology for the Federal Planning, Budget, and Management Department (Brazil)	Key-note speaker
Honorable Kim Suk Joon (Republic of Korea)	Key-note speaker
Deputy Vanderlei Assis (Brazil)	Panelist
Deputy Adelino Antônio (Angola)	Participant
Deputy João Francisco Antônio (Angola)	Participant
Deputy Luiz Piauhylino (Brazil)	Participant

Mr. Paulo César Siqueira (Brazil)   Participant

Parliamentarian   Roberto   Contreras Participant
(Honduras)

Senator Rahhou El Hilaa (Morocco)   Participant

Senator Pridi Hiranpruek (Thailand)   Participant

Below are set out the main points addressed by each person integrating the panels.

1. Honorable Kim Suk Joon (Republic of Korea)

There is a big difference in computerization: among the countries, among the regions of each country, and among people, considering their social class and age.

The population not connected to Internet limits its participation in political life; because Internet has become the center of political activities.

There are 3 stages for eliminating the digital exclusion:

1 - Universalization of access to Internet. Republic of Korea, in 2002 and 2003, provided the access to Internet to more than 1,400 locations;

2 - Promotion of education in Information Technologies, and construction of the infrastructure required therefore;

3 - Production and distribution of quality information on the Internet, in a number of areas.

For reaching the 3 stages, proper laws should be implemented, required plans determined, and an agency for implementing the digital inclusion created.

Republic of Korea is internationally engaged in furthering the digital inclusion. It has already trained more than 1,500 IT technicians from other countries, and it has programs with different countries.

The universalization of the digital activities is centered in the man, and intends to eliminate differences between people's age, social classes, regions and countries.

Upon the questions of Deputy João Francisco Antônio, from Angola, Senator Rahhou El Hilaa, from Morocco, Deputy Inocêncio Oliveira, from Brazil, and Deputy Adelino Antônio, from Angola, answered by Dr. Kim Suk Joon, the next expositor started.

2. Mr. Rogério Santanna (Brazil)

Mr. Rogério Santanna initially mentioned the Brazilian government guidelines as regards electronic government: to provide even more services to population; provide all society with access to electronic services; use the free software as a strategic resource; rationally use public funds; and make available on the internet the systems to be created.

Brazil has a National Program for Electronic Government and a Brazilian Digital Inclusion Program. The electronic Government has thousands of systems, and an interoperability system was set forth among them. As per Digital Inclusion in Brazil, we must mention that classes A and B, which represent only 10% of the population, almost monopolize the access to Internet. The purpose of the government is to extend such access to classes C, D, and E.

The expositor set out, promptly upon, Brazilian Government main projects for Digital Inclusion. They are: 1 - The Connected PC: intending to eliminate the taxes levied on computers, for people to be able to buy them at installments of R$ 50.00, including the 15-monthly hour access to Internet; 2 - "Casa Brasil" Project (House Brazil): intending to install telecenters spread throughout the country, where population shall have

access to Internet and other services; 3 - Connected Schools: intending to take Internet to all of the 232,000 Brazilian public schools; 4 - Infrastructure: intending to take IT infrastructure to the whole country.

Finally, he set out the 3 most successful electronic services of the Brazilian Government: 1 - Electronic shopping - ComprasNet: the Government purchases the greatest portion of materials electronically; 2 - Electronic vote: the computerization of elections in Brazil; 3 - Income Tax: 97% of income tax returns are filed by Internet.

After the questions of Mr. Paulo César Siqueira, from the National Institute for Information Technology ("ITI"), from Brazil, answered by Dr. Rogério Santana, the next expositor started.

3. Deputy Vanderlei Assis (Brazil)

The digital inclusion is one of the main forms for promoting the end of misery and the economic growth.

The free software, adopted as a government policy in Brazil, is indispensable to the digital inclusion. Brazil remits abroad more than 1 billion Dollars per year, only for paying for software use licenses.

Only disseminating the use of the free software shall be possible to population to actually obtain IT knowledge.

Promptly upon, the panelist mentioned a number of digital inclusion experiences in Brazil, in a number of states, among the different existing tenths, as a highlight to the Internet portal of the Chamber of Deputies.

He mentioned the need of creating a National Agency for Computing and Information Technology, in order to encourage IT diffusion.

In concluding, he set out some lessons than could be learned from the Brazilian experience: the digital inclusion is not a quick action, but a fruit of cumulative experiences; there is not a single model for infoinclusion

programs, but many interlinked initiatives; ITs are instruments for poor fight; free software reduces the cost of the digital inclusion, increases projects' sustainability, and promotes income distribution.

Senator Pridi Hiranpruek, from Thailand, made questions, which were answered by the lecturer.

The event was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.