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To: All Invitees 5 July 2006

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**Subject: Digital Opportunity Forum,
ITU/KADO conference, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 31 August - 1 September 2006**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are delighted to invite you to join the "Digital Opportunity Forum 2006", which is being organised by the Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion (KADO) in conjunction with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC) of the Republic of Korea. The conference aims at bringing together practitioners, researchers and experts from academies and governments in the field of information and communication technologies (ICTs). The "Digital Opportunity Forum" creates an alumni network of the Korea IT Learning program (KOIL) and will provide an opportunity to discuss the themes of international cooperation in ICT development and the creation of digital opportunity. The forum will also specifically examine the creation of the Digital Opportunity Index (DOI), a composite statistical index intended as a tool to assist policy-makers and regulators in policy evaluation and performance benchmarking.

The inaugural Digital Opportunity Forum will be held on 31st August – 1st September 2006 in Seoul, Republic of Korea (see enclosed draft agenda). Membership is open to all, and is particularly aimed at KOIL alumni and stakeholders in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The Conference is intended as an annual event, at which members will meet to discuss the evolving global digital divide, to present the status of ICTs in their countries and showcase best practices.

KADO and ITU would be greatly honoured if you would join us at the first Conference of the Digital Opportunity Forum. The success of the Conference depends on your participation and contributions. (A limited number of fellowships are available to assist participation, in particular from developing countries. Fellowships will be awarded on the basis of abstracts and essays to be submitted. For more details, please visit the website of the Forum, www.itu.int/digitalbridges/forum and www.dof.or.kr (to be launched in late July) or contact us by email at the address above.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

(signed)

Yeon-gi Son (Ph.D)
President/CEO
Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion
(KADO)

Dr Tim Kelly,
Head, Strategy and Policy Unit
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Enc: Abstract, Draft agenda



Digital Opportunity Forum 2006

“Working Together toward the inclusive digital world”

August 31 - September 1, 2006 Seoul, Korea

Abstract

Digital Opportunity Forum 2006 aims at exploring how international cooperation can contribute to the development of ICTs that result in empowered communities and enhanced welfare. The Conference will also focus on measuring the Information Society, notably through the use of the Digital Opportunity Index (DOI), developed by ITU in a multi-stakeholder partnership with UNCTAD, the Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion (KADO) and the Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC) of the Republic of Korea.

The WSIS *Geneva Plan of Action* (Paragraph 28b) calls for international performance evaluation to benchmark implementation and progress towards building an inclusive Information Society. As part of its continuing work beyond WSIS, ITU is organizing this conference, in conjunction with KADO, to contribute to bridging the digital divide and exchange ICT policy and field experience.

The Conference's Objectives

Digital Opportunity Forum 2006 aims at

- ◆ establishing an alumni network for the Korea IT Learning Program (KOIL);
- ◆ enhancing international cooperation towards narrowing the digital divide through the discussion of national policies and presentation of case studies;
- ◆ measuring the digital divide through the DOI and looking for new ways to use the DOI as a tool to support policy-making.

Structure and themes of the Conference

The Conference will feature a keynote speeches session as well as seven regular sessions.

Keynote speakers of the Conference will include:

- ◆ **Prof. Jeffrey James**, Development Economics, Tilburg University, the Netherlands
- ◆ **Dr. Rohan Samarjaya**, Executive Director, LIRNEasia, Sri Lanka

Discussion topics throughout the sessions of the Conference include:

- ◆ **International cooperation in ICT development:** the discussion will be conducted on the basis of the presentation of the background papers, selected on the basis of submissions from KOIL fellows and other experts, which are intended to provide food for thought on the issues of international performance benchmarking in ICTs and international cooperation for building an global Information Society for all.
- ◆ **Digital Opportunity Index (DOI):** following a general presentation of the DOI methodology and its comparative advantages, a number of different case studies will be presented, applying the DOI in ICT policy development in particular national context and adapting it to each country's special needs. These case studies will be prepared on the basis of guidelines provided by the DOF Secretariat (available at www.itu.int/digitalbridges/forum). The final session will focus on a discussion of the possible improvements to be made to the DOI and the development of a policy tool-kit.

Digital Opportunity Award

The best background papers, both on International cooperation in ICT development and Application of the DOI, will be given a special “Digital Opportunity Award” on the final day of the Forum.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

A. Outline

From August 31, 2006 to September 1, 2006, the Digital Opportunity Forum will be held at the COEX InterContinental Hotel, Seoul.

The conference aims to bring together practitioners, researchers and experts from governments, regulatory agencies, and academic organizations from each nation, as well as international and regional organizations, to commemorate the inauguration of the official Korea IT Learning Program (KOIL) alumni network as the "Digital Opportunity Forum". The Forum will discuss two main themes: international cooperation in ICT development and the development of the Digital Opportunity Index (DOI) as an analytical policy tool.

The Forum will comprise seven sessions each of which will showcase ICT success stories and policies designed to enhance international cooperation and bridging the global Digital Divide. The forum will also examine new ways to use the DOI as a tool to assist policy-makers and regulators in policy-evaluation and performance benchmarking.

B. Organizational details

- Title : Digital Opportunity Forum 2006 (DOF)
 - Venue: COEX InterContinental Hotel, Seoul, Korea
 - Date: August 31- September 1, 2006

- Host
 - Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC) of the Republic of Korea

- Co-Organizers
 - Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion (KADO)
 - International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

C. Programme at a Glance

31 August 2006

Program	Time	Content (Title/Speaker)
	09:30 ~10:00	Registration
Opening	10:00~10:50	DOF Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opening Remarks ● Congratulatory Remarks from VIPs ● Welcome from Sponsors ● Responses from DOF fellows ● Introduction of Digital Opportunity Forum (DOF) ● Commemorative video

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

	10:50~11:00	Break
Keynote speeches	11:00~12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keynote speeches - Prof. Jeffrey James, Development Economics, Tilburg Univ., the Netherlands - Dr. Rohan Samarajiva, Executive Director, Lirne Asia, Sri Lanka
	12:00~13:30	Luncheon
Session 1	13:30~14:45	<p>1-1: International Cooperation in ICT Development (Asia-Pacific Region)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chankrisna Kith, Deputy Director, National ICT Development Authority, Cambodia ● Dao Ngoc Phong, Manager, Ha Noi Post & Telematics Department, Vietnam ● Tahir Hameed, PhD, ICU, Pakistan ● Sudhir Kumar Marwaha, Director, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, India
	14:45~15:00	Coffee Break
Session 2	15:00~16:15	<p>1-2: International Cooperation in ICT Development (CIS Region)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annamaria Kedves, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Communication & IT, Romania ● Tofiq Babayev, Director, Baku Scientific and Training Centre, Azerbaijan ● Roumen Trifonov, Secretary of Coordination Council for Information Society, Bulgaria ● Oleksandr Larin, Consultant, UN office, Ukraine
	16:15~16:45	Coffee Break
Session 3	16:45~18:00	<p>2-1: Digital Opportunity Index (DOI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction of DOI (methodology, 2005 rankings) ● Presentation of 2006 World Information Society Report
	18:00~18:15	Wrap-ups
	18:30~20:30	Welcome Reception

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

1 September 2006

	Time	Content (Title/ Speaker)
	09:00 ~9:30	Registration
Session 4	9:30~10:45	1-3: International Cooperation in ICT Development (Africa/South America Region) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Awadia Gamis Daw Shoam, Engineer, National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC), Sudan ● Amine Mcharek, IT Engineer, CERT (Telecommunications Research & Studies), Tunisia ● Francisco Javier Leiva Martinez, National Public Rural Telephony General Coordinator, Undersecretary of Telecommunications, Chile ● Irak Lopez Davila, Head of Project, Infotec, Mexico
	10:45 ~11:00	Coffee Break
Session 5	11:00~12:15	2-2: Digital Opportunity Index <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4 selected case studies applying the DOI
	12:15~13:45	Luncheon
Session 6	13:45~15:00	2-3: Digital Opportunity Index <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4 selected case studies applying the DOI
	15:00~15:30	Coffee Break
Session 7	15:30~16:30	2-4: Policy Tool-kit for the DOI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion of development of a policy tool-kit for the DOI by relevant specialists and organizations
Closing	16:30~17:30	[Closing Ceremony and DOF Awards]

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

[Profile of keynote speakers]

Rohan Samarajiva

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URLs: www.lirneasia.net, www.lirne.net,

CURRENT POSITIONS:

- Executive Director & Chairman of the Board, LIRNE asia, 2004-
- Chairman of the Board, Lanka Software Foundation, 2005-
- Secretary & Director of External Programs, LIRNE.NET[Learning Initiatives on Reforms in Network Economies, a collaboration among leading universities of Denmark, the Netherlands, South Africa and the UK, LIRNE asia and LIRNE americas], 2001-
- Member, Management Team, World Dialogue of Regulation for Network Economies (WDR; www.regulateonline.org), 2001-
- Honorary Professor, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, 2003-
- Guest Faculty, MA in Regulatory Studies, TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, 2004-
- Guest columnist, "Choices" Lanka business online, www.lankabusinessonline.com
- Guest columnist, "Vikalpa" Ravaya Sinhala weekly newspaper, 2006

EDUCATION:

- Ph.D., Simon Fraser University, Canada. 1985
- M.A (Communication), Simon Fraser University. 1982
- Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. 1979

SELECTED PUBLICATION:

- Concept paper for a dam-related hazard warning system in Sri Lanka(2005)
- Getting from dysfunctional government to effective government: mopping a path to Sri Lanka(2004)

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Jeffrey James

Email: M.J.James@uvt.nl <M.J.James@uvt.nl>

URLs: <http://center.uvt.nl/staff/james/>

CURRENT POSITIONS

- Professor of Development Economics, Tilburg University, The Netherlands

EDUCATION

- Ph.D, 1983, Oxford University, "X-efficiency, advertising & new products: Applications of the new theory of demand to developing countries"

MAJOR FIELDS

- Microeconomic analysis of developing countries, technology and development

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (co-authored publications are indicated with *)

- "New technologies: Employment and labor markets in developing countries" *Development and Change*, 24, 405-437 (1993)
- "Flexible specialization: New technologies and future industrialization in developing countries" *Futures*, 25, 713-732 (with A. Bhalla) (1993) "The employment effects of an income redistribution in developing countries" *World Development*, 21, 817-827 (with HA Khan)
- "Microelectronics and the Third World," *Technology and Innovation in the International Economy*, Edward Elgar (1994)
- *The State, Technology and Industrialization in Africa*, Macmillan (1995)
- "Technology and industrialization in Tanzania: Some paradoxes resolved," *Public Choice*, 89, 375-392 (1996)
- "Technology choice and income distribution," *World Development*, 25, 153-165 (with HA Khan) (1996)
- "The political economy of inappropriate technology - Industrialization in sub-Saharan Africa" *Development and Change*, 27, 415-431 (1996)
- "The determinants of technological capabilities - A cross-country analysis," *Oxford Development Studies*;* (1997)
- *Technological Systems, Employment and Income Distribution in Developing Countries*, Macmillan Press;* (1998)
- "A three gap analysis of structural adjustment in Pakistan," *Journal of Policy Modelling*, forthcoming.* (1998)