**Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies**
**An Advocacy Initiative of the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development**
g3ict.org

*In collaboration with*

**OCAD University**

**Inclusive Design Research Centre and Inclusive Design Institute**
idrc.ocadu.ca

*And*

**The Province of Ontario**

February 1st, 2012

Dear Colleague:

We have the honour to invite you to participate in **DEEP: Designing Enabling Economies and Policies**, an international in-depth think-tank to substantively address the persistent and urgent challenges faced by persons with disabilities in our digital economy.

This by-invitation think-tank will take place on **May 23 to 25th, 2012** at OCAD University in Toronto, Canada, with a welcome reception the evening of the 23rd followed by 2 days of the think-tank. Please hold the dates!

This will not be another international advocacy gathering to raise the profile of the issues and persuade decision makers that this is a priority. The purpose of this event is to engage a diversity of fresh perspectives, new ideas, together with seasoned experience, and insight gained from failures and successes. We assume that all participants agree that digital inclusion is necessary and urgent for individuals with disabilities who are currently marginalized and for society as a whole, so that we can spend time during the think-tank designing strategies, plans, collaborative projects, cross-sector collaboration and new disruptive ways to break the current global impasse

in this area. Toronto, Ontario, Canada has been chosen as a venue to learn from the current experiences in Ontario in implementing the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

To identify levers and innovative approaches that go beyond current strategies, the think tank will engage a broad diversity of perspectives that cross current boundaries with respect to discipline, sector, disability and jurisdiction. Sessions are also designed to facilitate the greatest interaction possible among diverse but creative participants. Online community processes will be used to publish results and follow up on plans and road maps established during the event. We intend to begin a global discourse that leads to concrete advances and continues beyond the dates of the think-tank.

We will forward a draft program shortly. Knowing your interest, experience and insights relevant to this important challenge, we invite you to participate in this critical think-tank. (Travel support may be available for participants from low-income countries, please contact us if you require assistance.)

Please confirm your attendance by email to idi@ocad.ca by February 20, 2012. We look forward to your positive response and valuable contribution.

Yours sincerely,

Axel Leblois
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