

Editorial

Internet Fundamental to Economic Infrastructure

“Policies affecting the Internet can no longer be seen as narrow sectoral policies having to do with telecommunications, but as mainstream economic policies reflecting the fact that the Internet has become a fundamental economic infrastructure,” OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría stated at the conclusion of the Ministerial meeting on the Future of the Internet, held in Seoul, Korea in June.

Twenty-two hundred participants from 68 countries attended the event where the Chairman of the Korean Communications Commission stressed that “the Internet is a powerful driver of innovation, growth and productivity globally. Moreover, it is providing opportunities for significantly improving performance in diverse areas, including the environment, healthcare, education and public services. Realizing the full potential, however, requires governments and other stakeholders to work closely together to create and maintain a policy environment and infrastructure that are robust and responsive to a growing set of challenges and opportunities.”

The major advances in the Internet over the last decade while praised in presentations at the Ministe-

rial, the need for ensuring “user confidence is key, however, the features that make the Internet so attractive – openness, anonymity and global reach – are potential vulnerabilities. No country is excluded from the opportunities that the Internet can bring and no country is spared the challenges of securing confidence in the Internet.” In particular participants identified “intertwined challenges related to security, privacy, digital identity management and consumer protection. Risks include data breaches, identity theft, cyber fraud and the growing problem of malicious software.”

Empowering consumers in the Internet economy was strongly endorsed, in particular security aspects such as developing effective electronic identification practices. Mobile devices received attention because they offer opportunities to greatly expand mobile communications, especially for developing countries. The OECD, with 39 countries and the European Union as its members decided to review the Ministerial Declaration after three years the progress towards achieving goals urged by participants.

Russell Pipe, Editor

Dedication

Tan Sri Ir. Radzi Mansor: Leadership for Malaysian Telecom and Multimedia Industries



During the last 20 years Malaysia has moved impressively ahead in making multimedia an industry sector with its Multimedia Super Corridor as well as modernizing the telecommunications market, regulatory structure and services. Throughout his career, Radzi Mansor has made important contributions to these achievements. A chartered professional engineer, Radzi has applied his abilities to both technical and managerial challenges. He has been conferred Honorary Fellow by the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations

(2004) and admitted to the Academy of Fellows by the Malaysian Institute of Directors (2007).

Radzi began his career in telecommunications in 1965 when he joined the Telecommunications Department, Government of Malaysia as an Assistant Controller of Telecommunications. He served in several positions the following 25 years. Following his retirement he returned as Advisor on various Flagship Application projects for the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) of Malaysia, a one-stop agency established by the Government to oversee the development and implementation of multimedia projects for the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC). He was appointed Chairman of Telekom Malaysia and its Group of Companies in 1999 and Co-Chairs the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT).

The Global Information Infrastructure Commission (GIIC) has benefited from Radzi's longstanding participation and strong support and his leadership has been recognized by other international professional organizations.

Russell Pipe, Editor