

OECD-Canada Technology Foresight Forum  
Conclusions and  
Priority-setting for the ICCP

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1 Ottawa, ON

2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, October 3, 2007  
3 at 6:09 p.m.

4 MR. OXLEY: To close us out and to  
5 highlight some of the policies of the OECD I want  
6 to introduce Richard Simpson, the Director General  
7 of Electronic Commerce at Industry Canada and your  
8 Chair of the Information Computer Communication  
9 policy.

10 Richard...?

11 MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, John;  
12 thank you, Michael and your panellists for an  
13 excellent concluding session I agree.

14 Don't look so worried, I only have  
15 five minutes and I'm going to take even less than  
16 five minutes to conclude. John worried everybody,  
17 I think, what he said "Here is the Chair of the  
18 ICCP and he is going to summarize the policy  
19 lessons coming out of today" and people thought  
20 "Oh, my God, 8:30 maybe."

21 --- Laughter

22 MR. SIMPSON: No, I just have a  
23 few things to say.

24 An excellent final session. When

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1 you follow Michael Geist to the podium it's always  
2 an easy job because he doesn't leave very much on  
3 the table and I don't have too much to pick up,  
4 except really, well, maybe mop up work and comic  
5 relief. The comic relief you have already heard I  
6 have to say, so don't expect any more jokes.

7 First, I want to thank all of the  
8 speakers today and you, the participants in the  
9 forum, for the outstanding contributions you made  
10 to the event and to our knowledge about the  
11 participative web.

12 I don't think anyone can leave  
13 here today with any doubt...maybe I will put it  
14 another way, without a sense of amazement about  
15 the profound changes that are under way in the  
16 economy and society, brought about by the  
17 participative web.

18 What is really remarkable, when  
19 you look across the range of these impacts, is the  
20 way in which they pose challenges and  
21 opportunities right across the community, from  
22 governments, where there are clearly major shifts  
23 in policy going on and in the future to deal with  
24 the new web, but also the transformation of

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1 business models that are happening.

2 I think David Crane said in one  
3 session that there's this accelerating pace of  
4 change, and I certainly think that's what's  
5 happening in the business community. It was  
6 highlighted right at the opening session.

7 I was talking to one of our  
8 business people in ISP, and had felt a little bit  
9 intimidated by the fact that, you know, electronic  
10 commerce is my business, so to speak. I work with  
11 the OECD, and we try to understand what's  
12 happening in the economy, and with the information  
13 communications technology specifically, but I was  
14 a little intimidated because, you know, some of  
15 this stuff, like, I really hadn't had any direct  
16 experience of it, I had heard about most of it,  
17 and I was really worried about how far behind I  
18 was falling.

19 I was talking to Tom Copeland, one  
20 of our ISPs, and he said, You know, I'm really  
21 learning a lot here. I'm in this business, but I  
22 really wanted to find out what some of my  
23 customers were using the web to do. And I  
24 thought, Okay, well, that's the test of a very

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1 effective event. When you can have somebody who's  
2 involved in that business learning something, not  
3 just policy-makers, then that's really fantastic.

4 So I mean the shifts in government  
5 policy are happening, you have transformation of  
6 business models, but the one sleeper in this whole  
7 thing is the fact that we are almost reinventing  
8 our civic culture.

9 The changes in associational and  
10 political life are astounding. Even though  
11 there's lots to come in the governmental policy  
12 area and in terms of business transformation, I  
13 think this is the one that's really going to be,  
14 to use a phrase that Michael likes to use, the  
15 elephant in the room. I think this is the one  
16 that's maybe going to have the most changes for us  
17 in the future.

18 So that's what I have taken away  
19 from the general themes of the conference.

20 Mais finalement, je voudrais  
21 remercier les personnes qui ont organisé le forum  
22 pour votre travail extraordinaire: le groupe à  
23 l'OCDE mené par Graham Vickery et Sasha Vincent,  
24 et aussi les membres de l'équipe d'Industrie

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1 Canada, Sherry Scott, Josie Broka, Anthony Forano,  
2 they happen to be over there. I could mention  
3 four or five other members of that team and people  
4 working in the OECD who have made the conference a  
5 success. I want to thank them for their work.  
6 Nous sommes tous d'accord, je suis certain, que  
7 les résultats sont excellents.

8 Speaking about results, and  
9 keeping in mind my responsibilities as chair of  
10 the ICCP, we will be taking those results back to  
11 the ICCP, which is meeting here tomorrow and  
12 Friday. And certainly we will take the policy  
13 implications which the panel has very expertly  
14 summarized for us, but I think also from today we  
15 will be taking back more than that.

16 I think we have really seen the  
17 major elements of a vision of the future of the  
18 global Internet economy, which will be built  
19 around the participative web. And that's very  
20 important for us at this time because, as most of  
21 you know, a ministerial conference is being  
22 organized by the OECD for June 2008, which will  
23 take place in Seoul, Korea, and its subject-matter  
24 is exactly this issue: the future of the global

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1 Internet economy and this will be the type of  
2 thing which will very much inform our discussions  
3 tomorrow and Friday and into the future.

4 One final point, we will be all  
5 invited to a reception, which will start in about  
6 30 seconds officially. I think John is probably  
7 going to give you the details about where exactly  
8 it's being held. We are certainly very pleased to  
9 be inviting you to that reception, on behalf of  
10 Research in Motion, RIM, the BlackBerry people,  
11 who we are very proud of in Canada, and I hope to  
12 see you all there.

13 Thank you, again, for an  
14 excellent, excellent day's work.

15 --- Applause /

16 MR. OXLEY: I'm not going to say  
17 anything other than thank you.

18 Off to the right, in the main  
19 room, okay, you will notice there's a little card  
20 in your welcome packages, with some coupons on it,  
21 as well, too, our lovely friends, Research in  
22 Motion, are sponsoring a party. Please take all  
23 you have learned to you from the wonderful  
24 conversation of the panellists and go enjoy

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1       yourself off to the right.

2                               Thank you so much.

3       --- Upon recessing at 6:17 p.m.