

The Evolving Knowledge-Based Global Economy

Overview of Background and Context - Non-Paper

Economic and Social Council
High-level Panel of Experts on
Information and Communication Technology
United Nations Headquarters, New York
17-20 April 2000

Nature of Networked Information Economy

Nature & properties of information

- Information as representation of real world
 - Common medium to map the real world
 - Geographic information systems - mapping the real world
- Material properties - properties of a "free good"
 - Zero mass
 - Zero physical size
 - Travel at speed of light
- Common access to properties of the whole
- Intelligence principles governing information
 - Management enhanced by intelligent protocols
 - Value enhanced by intelligent organization
 - Organization enhanced by intelligent relational databases
 - Access and flow enhanced by intelligent networks
 - Understanding enhanced by intelligent practice

Nature & properties of networks

- Nature of the Internet
 - Network of networks
 - .net as highest top-level domain
 - Centrality of protocol
 - Power of a network

Nature of property in a networked information economy

- Intellectual & artistic properties
 - Patents
 - Trade marks
 - Copy rights
 - Domains

- Domain as seat of property
 - Address, identity & public presence
 - Knowledge / resource base
 - Nature of domain as property
 - Top level country domains
 - Domain registration policy & practices
 - Theory & practice of domain prices / rental

- Network infrastructure & bandwidth as property
 - Wired networks
 - Wireless bandwidth
 - Global
 - National
 - Local

- Nature of markets in a networked information economy
 - Information exchange as essence of market transaction
 - Re-defining markets - Domain as market
 - Framework for a "perfect free market"
 - Necessity & feasibility of full-cost markets

Evolutionary stage of the Internet

- New Economy technologies
 - Software
 - Hardware
 - Digital content

- dot.com engages the Old Economy
 - Energy markets
 - Building materials & processes
 - Automobiles & auto parts

- Accelerating adoption of Internet
 - The wireless revolution
 - Leapfrogging infrastructure limitations
 - Wireless Application Protocol
 - Virtually instant installation & access to global markets

- Images & sound - language of the Internet
 - Downloadable music & sound - massive emerging market
 - Downloadable television - biggest market of all?
 - Tuvalu & .tv domains