

H.E. Miran Skender's speech

**2008 EU-Japan Cooperation Forum on ICT Research**

March 4 & 5, 2008 Mita Kaigisho – Tokyo, Japan



れっせき みなさま  
ご列席の皆様、

ほんじつ にち さいしょ こうえんしゃ まね  
今日は、日EU・ICTフォーラムに、最初の講演者としてお招きいただきまして、  
たいへんこうえい ぞん ふつかかん にち そうごきょうりよく  
大変光栄に存じます。この2日間にわたるフォーラムが日EUの相互協力へのさらなる  
しげき こんかいと あ ま さんかしゃ いちらん うかが  
刺激になることは、今回取り上げられるテーマや参加者の一覧からも窺えるように、  
かくじつ い  
確実なものだと言えましょう。

みじか はなし おも すす えいご  
さて、ICTのことで短くお話したいと思いますが、よりスムーズに進めるように、英語  
つづ りかい ねが  
で続けさせていただきます。ご理解のほどよろしくお願ひします。

ICT is one of the fields of human activities that can best meet the challenges posed to the future of mankind. There are quite a few of these challenges, it is enough to mention the problems of climate change and environment preservation alone. We can hardly imagine how we could limit and reduce the harmful effects of industrialization, increased traffic volume and other influences on the environment without relying on information technology. And if this is the case now, how could we then expect to cope with these tasks without information technology in the future? Besides, ICT is of equal significance with regard to other problems that mankind is facing, like poverty for example. ICT can thus be an important means of strengthening of democracy. In short, we are talking about the field of human creativity that seems limitless. At present, we can only speculate what future generations will yet bring forth, but the dynamics of these changes remain unpredictable.

Everyone's life, mine included, has been affected by the ICT during the last 20 – 30 years. For some these changes are more important, for others less, but we will all agree that now life without information technology and new forms of communication is simply unthinkable. And we mustn't forget that this happened in shorter time than it takes for one generation. Yet, we're still only at the beginning. Scarcely any human activity is possible today without the support of information technology. Industry cannot ignore it for certain, but neither can media or, if you prefer, parliaments and courts around the Globe, nor the world of entertainment, music, moviemaking and other creative activities of man.

There is yet another dimension to the ICT. It is one of the most promising spheres of cooperation between Japan and EU. Information technology offers limitless possibilities for cooperation, and more than that, it contributes successfully to removing any obstacle that may hinder this cooperation. The level of economic cooperation achieved on both the Japanese and EU sides, but also the future development plans of the two are very much alike. We all strive for a balanced growth of economies, for protection of our environment, for secure and decent living of our citizens and possibly all mankind. Without ICT these goals cannot be reached. Therefore Japan and EU have excellent opportunities in the filed of ICT, but also many responsibilities.

It is enough to look at the topics that are going to be discussed during these two days at Mita Kaigisho to understand the ambitious nature of this time's EU – Japan Cooperation Forum on ICT



Research 2008. The topics include, among others, ubiquitous network technologies, new generation network, next generation information retrieval, analysis technologies, and if I may go a little bit more into details, nanoelectronics, photonics, e-transport, e-health and more.

I strongly believe that the organizers of this year's forum, namely the EU Commission on the European side and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, METI, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Japanese side will thereby attain the appointed goals, especially the main one which is to enlarge cooperation between EU and Japan in the field of ICT, because it is mostly this field that offers best opportunities to those willing to cooperate. New information technologies are not exclusive domains of big and strong economies, they can serve for benefit of all. I myself come from a small European country Slovenia where we try to make the information technologies the key factor of economic growth. Some of these technologies that were developed in Slovenia have also found their way to Japan. In fact, to smaller states information technologies might present the best opportunities for their development. There are plenty of such cases in the EU. So now is the time to transfer and integrate these achievements into the joint EU – Japan projects in order to develop new technologies that will serve for the good of Japan, Europe and all mankind.

さいご ふたたび にほんご はなし みじか おも にほん  
では、最後に再び日本語で話を短くまとめさせていただきたいと思います。日本と  
じょうほうつうしんぎじゆつ ぶんや きょうりよく かのうせい もっと おお みいだ しん  
EUは、情報通信技術の分野においてこそ、協力の可能性を最も多く見出せると信じ  
しょうらい にほん そうほう はってん じゅうだい よういん  
ています。将来では、ICTは日本とEU双方の発展にとって重大な要因となるでしょう。  
ことし にほん そうごきょうりよく きょうか  
ですから、今年のフォーラムが、日本とEUの相互協力がいっそう強化していくきつ  
まちが おも わたし のぞ かいほつ さまざま  
けとなることは間違いないと思います。私の望みとしては、ICT開発のため、様々なレ  
にほんこくない いきない さまざま ばしょ ひんぼん かいごう ひら  
ベルで、そして日本国内やEU域内の様々な場所でより頻繁に会合を開いたりして、  
きょうりよく はぼ ひろ おも  
協力の幅を広げていきたいと思います。  
せいちょう  
ご清聴ありがとうございました。