



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/CECI/CONF.6/1
6 April 2009

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

International Conference on Technological Readiness
for Innovation-based Competitiveness: Promoting an Enabling
Information and Communication Technology Policy
and Regulatory Framework

Geneva, 29-30 June 2009

INFORMATION NOTICE¹

Note by the Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) promotes a policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness in the UNECE region.
2. At its third session held on 3-5 December 2008, the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI), recognizing the importance of information and communication technologies (ICT) for strengthening innovation-based competitiveness “welcomed a stronger emphasis on capacity-building activities and policy advisory services in the Programme of Work for 2009-2010”². In accordance with that recommendation,

¹ Prior to the session, delegates (with the exception of delegates from the Geneva-based missions) are requested to present themselves with a valid identification card/passport at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix 8-14, (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge. Delegates encountering problems in accessing the Palais des Nations should contact the secretariat at ceci@unece.org or telephone: +41 22 917 15 02.

² ECE/CECI/2008/2, paragraph 32 (k).

the Committee decided to organize an International Conference on Technological Readiness for Innovation-based Competitiveness: Promoting and Enabling Information and Communication Technology Policy and Regulatory Framework.

3. ICT is an integral part of the knowledge-based economy. Similar to earlier industrial revolutions, the wide diffusion of ICT has contributed significantly to raising economic efficiency and has triggered a revolutionary transformation of everyday life. In the business sector, ICT have given rise to new innovative products and services and new ways of doing business.

4. The wide usage of ICT and the proliferation of ICT networks have facilitated new forms of collaboration in innovative activities and innovation processes. The innovation process itself has become increasingly open, with enterprises often obtaining ideas and knowledge for innovation from external or even global sources. ICT facilitates linkages and cooperation among firms. Thanks to ICT-based business-process outsourcing, innovative enterprises in emerging economies also play an important role as global suppliers of services.

5. At the same time, many ICT-related innovative enterprises, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), are facing specific challenges in securing adequate financing to support their operations and develop new services and products. These problems are even more acute now due to the negative effects of the global economic and financial crisis. Open innovation and ICT-based collaborative models have given rise to new challenges in the domain of intellectual property rights (IPR). These and other related aspects will be among the issues addressed at the International Conference.

6. This Information Notice provides some details regarding the organization of the Conference, which will be held in Geneva on 29 and 30 June 2009.

II. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

7. The Conference will address selected policy-relevant issues related to the promotion of ICT-based technological readiness, innovation and competitiveness. It will seek to cover related cross-cutting issues, highlighting the importance of ICT in different CECI thematic areas, such as innovation and competitiveness policies; commercialization and protection of intellectual property rights; financing innovative development; entrepreneurship and enterprise development.

8. In view of the cross-cutting nature of many of the topics to be discussed, members of the UNECE Teams of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies and on Intellectual Property will take part in the Conference.

9. The Conference will aim to clarify issues related to the promotion of ICT-based technological readiness, innovation and competitiveness and to facilitate the sharing of good practices among policymakers, experts and other stakeholders. It will identify good practices in promoting an enabling policy and on regulatory frameworks to strengthen the basis of member countries' knowledge-based development.

10. It will address the following key policy-relevant issues:

- (a) Promoting enabling ICT policies and strategies for an efficient knowledge-based economy;
- (b) Facilitating the wide diffusion of ICT and ICT-based applications as a prerequisite for innovative entrepreneurship;
- (c) Policies and strategies to support the emergence and financing of innovative enterprises in the ICT and ICT-enabled sectors and coping with the negative effects of the global crisis;
- (d) Promoting new ICT-based business opportunities in countries with economies in transition to enable them to participate in global value chains;
- (e) Policies supporting ICT-based entrepreneurship as the future basis of innovation-based competitiveness;
- (f) Policies and regulatory framework in facilitating e-business development and ensuring security in cyberspace;
- (g) Promotion of a supportive ICT infrastructure as a factor contributing to open innovation and collaboration;
- (h) Policy responses to IPR challenges related to open and global ICT-based innovation activities; and
- (i) Policy coordination and the role of public institutions in support of innovative ICT-based SMEs.

11. A report containing the main conclusions of the Conference will be presented at the fourth session of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration. The results of the Conference will also be used as inputs in preparing a training module on ICT policy for promoting innovation-based competitiveness, including e-commerce regulatory framework, to be used in future capacity-building work. The module is to be delivered in 2010.

III. VENUE

12. The Conference will take place in the Conference Room VII, Palais des Nations, Geneva (Switzerland) on 29-30 June 2009.

IV. ORGANIZATION

13. Registration of participants will start at 8.30 a.m. on 29 June. The Conference will start on the same day at 10.00 and finish on 30 June at 18.00.

14. The Conference will be organized into several working sessions dealing with different themes. The sessions' moderators will briefly introduce their topics; this will be followed by presentations, roundtables and a general exchange of views. The moderators will conclude by summing up the discussion.

V. PARTICIPATION

15. Participation is open to interested parties from Member States of the United Nations, representatives of United Nations specialized agencies and other international and non-governmental organizations interested in the activities of UNECE. Besides government officials,

participation from academia and the business community is also expected. No conference fee is charged for participation.

VI. PASSPORTS AND VISAS

16. All participants should be in possession of a valid passport, with an entry visa (if required), which can be obtained from the diplomatic representation of Switzerland accredited to their country of residence. It is advisable to make such visa applications well in advance of the date required. The UNECE Secretariat will provide letters to the Swiss authorities (i.e. consulates) confirming the Conference attendance for those participants who need such a letter and request it directly from the UNECE Secretariat.

VII. PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION

17. Interested parties are invited to fill in the attached Registration Form (Annex I) and return it by **12 June 2009** at the latest to the following address:

Michiko Enomoto
Economic Affairs Officer
ECID, Room 451
UNECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Fax: (+41 22) 917 01 78
E-mail: michiko.enomoto@unece.org

or

Andrea Hegedus
Programme Assistant
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Fax: (+41 22) 917 01 78
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VIII. DOCUMENTATION

18. The UNECE Secretariat will prepare a detailed Provisional Programme, which will be circulated to participants one week before the Conference.

19. Interested experts are invited to prepare papers and briefing notes relating to topics to be addressed at the Conference as indicated in item 9 of the Information Notice.

20. Papers to be presented at the Conference should be submitted to the UNECE Secretariat by **17 June 2009** in one of the UNECE working languages (English, French or Russian) in electronic format (Word for Windows), preferably by e-mail. The papers submitted by this date will be posted on the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/ceci/>) and will be available for downloading. A limited number of copies of papers will be available in the meeting room during the Conference.

IX. TRAVEL AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS

21. Participants are requested to make their own hotel and travel arrangements to and from Geneva (Annex II).

X. FURTHER INFORMATION

22. Further information on the Conference can be obtained from:

Michiko Enomoto
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CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel: (+41 22) 917 59 89
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Annex I

[ENGLISH ONLY]

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

International Conference on Technological Readiness for Innovation-based Competitiveness:
Promoting an Enabling ICT Policy and Regulatory Framework

Date: 29-30 June 2009

Participant

Mr. Family name First name

Ms.

Participation Category

Head of Delegation <input type="checkbox"/>	Are you based in Geneva as a representative of your permanent mission ? YES NO (<i>delete non applicable</i>)	Observer Organization <input type="checkbox"/>
Delegation Member <input type="checkbox"/>		NGO (ECOSOC Accred.) <input type="checkbox"/>
Observer Country <input type="checkbox"/>		Other (Please Specify Below) <input type="checkbox"/>
Participating <u>From / Until</u> <input type="text"/>		

Document Language Preference English French Other

Official Occupation (in own country) Passport or ID Number Valid Until

Official Telephone N°. Fax N°. E-mail Address

Permanent Official Address

Address in Geneva

Accompanied by Spouse Yes No

Family Name (Spouse) First Name (Spouse)

<p>On Issue of ID Card Participant Signature</p> <p>Spouse Signature</p> <p>Date</p>	<p>Participant photograph if form is sent in advance of the conference date.</p> <p>Please PRINT your name on the reverse side of the photograph</p>	<p>Spouse photograph if form is sent in advance of the conference date.</p> <p>Please PRINT your name on the reverse side of the photograph</p>	<p>Security Use Only</p> <p>Card N°. Issued</p> <p>Initials, UN Official</p>
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Annex II**LIST OF HOTELS**

(relatively well placed with regard to the Palais des Nations)

[ENGLISH ONLY]

<p>Pax** 68, Rue du 31 Décembre CH-1207 Geneva Tel. (+4122) 787 50 70 Fax (+4122) 787 50 80 Web: http://www.hotel-pax-geneva.ch/</p>	<p>Ramada Encore Genève*** 12, Route des Jeunes (La Praille) CH-1227 Carouge/GE Tel. (+4122) 309 50 06 Fax (+4122) 309 50 15 Web: http://www.ramadaencoregeneve.ch</p>
<p>Strasbourg-Univers*** 10, Rue Pradier CH-1201 Geneva Tel. (+4122) 906 58 00 Fax (+4122) 906 58 14 Web: http://www.hotelstrasbourg.ch/</p>	<p>Hotel Montbrillant**** 2, Rue Montbrillant CH-1201 Geneva Tel. (+4122) 733 77 84 Fax (+4122) 733 25 11 Web: http://www.montbrillant.ch/</p>
<p>Mon-Repos*** 131, Rue de Lausanne CH-1202 Geneva Tel. (+4122) 909 39 09 Fax (+4122) 909 39 93 Web: http://www.hmrge.ch</p>	<p>Manotel - Edelweiss**** 2, Place de la Navigation CH-1201 Geneva Tel. (+4122) 544 51 51 Fax (+4122) 544 51 99 Web: http://www.manotel.com/en/index.php</p>
<p>Capitole*** 15, Rue de Berne CH -1201 Geneva Tel. (+4122) 909 86 00 Fax (+4122) 741 22 45 Web: http://www.hotelcapitole.com</p>	<p>Manotel - Chantilly**** 27, Rue de la Navigation CH-1202 Geneva Tel. (+4122) 544 40 40 Fax (+4122) 544 40 99 Web: http://www.manotel.com/en/index.php</p>
<p>Nations*** 62, Rue du Grand-Pré CH-1202 Geneva Tel. (+4122) 748 08 08 Fax (+4122) 734 38 84 Web: http://www.hotel-les-nations.com</p>	<p>Grand Pre**** 35, Rue du Grand Pré CH-1202 Geneva Tel. (+4122) 918 11 11 Fax (+4122) 734 76 91 Web: http://www.grandpre.ch</p>
<p>Montana*** 23, Rue des Alpes CH-1201 Geneva Tel. (+4122) 732 08 40 Fax (+4122) 738 25 11 Web : http://www.hotel-montana-ge.ch</p>	<p>Intercontinental**** 7-9, chemin du Petit-Saconnex CH-1211 Geneva 19 Tel. (+4122) 919 32 61 Fax (+4122) 919 38 38 Web: http://www.intercontinental.com/geneva</p>
<p>Moderne*** 1, Rue de Berne CH-1201 Geneva Tel. (+4122) 732 81 00 Fax (+4122) 738 26 58 Web : http://www.hotelmoderne.ch</p>	<p>Crowne Plaza***** 34, Route François Peyrot CH-1218 Geneva Tel. (+4122) 747 02 63 Fax (+4122) 747 03 03 Web: http://www.crowneplazageneva.ch</p>

Annex III. MAP OF THE PALAIS DES NATIONS

[ENGLISH ONLY]

