

Editorial note



The Forum 2004 working group met in Brussels by the end of November under the leadership of its chair-

man, Dónall Mac Dónaill.

Year after year, due to all members' commitment to have a better Forum for the year to come, I can see a lot of progress areas. Mr. Konidaris, from the INFOSO Directorate General, has kindly accepted to be the 2004 Forum moderator. He joined the 2004 working group which has been dedicating serious thought about your greater involvement in the Forum presentations and discussions, given more attention to the split working sessions and the need for a strong moderator, more time for a general discussion period on the Sunday morning session with the participation of all speakers.

Your efforts are bearing fruit as exemplified by the many positive comments we got from several Commissioners, senior officials and MEPs to whom was sent the Antwerp summary.

The Forum is on track ! Let's make new progress in May in Stockholm.

All my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Norikiyo Koide
General Manager
Hitachi Corporate Office, Europe

ALL ABOARD!

....To Stockholm

It is already December. Most of you are probably busy making plans for the coming Holiday season. Some of you will soon start traveling to see family and friends around the Continent while some of you have already decided not to spend hours on the crowded highways and will make use of technology by calling friends with a videophone to wish them Happy Holidays. While making those plans and thinking about your New Year's Resolutions, don't forget to mark your new calendar for the Hitachi Science and Technology Forum 2004 which will take place in Stockholm next May. After listening to expert speakers and participating in intriguing Discussion Sessions, attendants of the Forum will find answers to most, if not all, questions that they are now asking themselves about the positive and negative aspects of traveling. This is because next year's Hitachi Forum will address the issues related to Transportation and the effect of Information Technology (IT) on Transport.

In late November, members of the Working Group for the Forum got together with the Forum Moderator Mr. Spyros Konidaris, the Forum Fellows and Hitachi officials from Japan and Brussels at the Conrad International Hotel in Brussels to discuss the organisation and program of the next year's Forum. At the meeting, WG Chairman Dr. Mac Dónaill summarised the discussions that took place among WG members on the subject prior to the meeting, while Mr. Konidaris presented his thoughts on the subject. With his IT background, Mr. Konidaris considered himself as a user of Transport and approached the subject by asking what type of Transport users demand and how IT tools help in meeting that demand. Participants of the meeting also heard from Mr. Yamano and Dr. Yamaashi on Hitachi's current research and business activities related to Transportation and IT.

At the end of the two-day meeting during which the participants discussed the contents of these presentations and other thought provoking views, a few Umbrella Topics (UT) were agreed upon as possible topics to be included into the Forum program. Although additions and revisions will be made to the final program, the UT list included Safety and Security issues related to the Transport of both people and goods (freight), the impact of Transportation on the Environment as well as the Efficiency, Accessibility, Comfort and Privacy issues related to Transportation.

The meeting participants unanimously agreed that next year's Forum should continue its tradition and become another successful event where important contributions to the policy debate in Europe on the subject of Transportation are made.

Besides the discussion topics and speakers, participants of the meeting in Brussels also heard about the social events that are being planned during the Forum. There will be time for the attendants to spend time with friends and stroll in the Old City section of Stockholm, which is walking distance from the Forum venue.

So, while you are still making those travel plans for the coming Holidays, why not start thinking about the Forum topics as well as your schedule for

next May. Besides listening and discussing, there will be enough time for meeting old and new friends and enjoying the accommodations in Stockholm. And Gentlemen, don't forget to pack a tie and a jacket in your suitcase. Because they may be what you need to enjoy a superb dinner at a fine Club in an old city.

*Have a safe travel and
Happy Holidays.*

Bülent Önay (Turkey)

Forum 2004 Working Group Member
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Materials Eng. Dept, Dokuz Eylul
University, Izmir, Turkey



■ *The Working Group met, in November, to discuss the 2004 Forum.*

Hitachi R&D in Europe

The Corporate Technology Group (CTG) of Hitachi Europe Ltd. was established in April 1989 in the campuses of Cambridge University and Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and later in Sophia Antipolis near Nice, to carry out collaborative research and development for advanced technology with leading European partners.

Hitachi Cambridge Laboratory (HCL) is an "embedded laboratory" situated in the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge University. In close collaboration with the Microelectronics Research Centre (MRC) of the University, HCL is a truly international team of researchers, and its openness for research has produced a profitable collaboration for over a decade in creating new concepts of advanced electronic/optoelectronic devices, such as Single Electron Devices and Quantum Information Processing Devices.

Hitachi Dublin Laboratory (HDL) is situated in TCD campus and enjoys close links with the researchers in the Clinical Medicine Department as well as with the Mathematics and Computer Science Departments. One of the biggest challenges in post genomic era is to take the knowledge from the Human Genome Project and use it to find the genetic basis of the common diseases like cancer, heart diseases etc. The main research subjects of HDL include Bioinformatics to research and develop new algorithms and software systems.

Hitachi Sophia Antipolis (HSAL) was opened in 2000, and is situated in Sophia Antipolis, France. It carries out close collaboration with Institute Eurecom, INRIA (The French National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Control) and other French Institutes and Industries. HSAL is pursuing research themes that deal predominately with mobile computing and communications. At present one of the major projects is an Ad-hoc networking system. The aim is to establish tentative network systems based on wireless technologies which in turn will eliminate the complexities in infrastructure setup and management. This type of network will be useful for Emergency services and on the road Vehicle network systems

The Global Corporate R&D group consists of 6 Corporate Laboratories within Japan, overseas R&D groups in the US, Europe of which CTG is part of, China as well as the many R&D teams based within business groups. The total number of researchers exceeds 8,300 with R&D expenditure of 223 billion yen in 2002 fiscal year. The International Cooperation between the R&D groups is well maintained in various collaborative projects. An example being, after basic research and development in an overseas Laboratory this is then passed onto the specific business group to produce the actual product. It is imperative that such flexibility and strategic cooperation is installed within the R&D groups so fruitful results can be efficient in the rapid changing borderless age we live in.

The development of leading edge technologies is becoming more and more important to differentiate to

whom our competitors are. Considering the current status of the world economy, we cannot expect a high growth rate in this market anymore, and only a few top companies can survive in this particular market. CTG will however continue to play an important role in the front line of R D research and development.

Dr. Kazumasa Takagi

General Manager
Corporate Technology Group
Hitachi Europe Ltd.

**Visit the new
Forum homepage:
www.hitachiforum.com**

**Date for your agenda
The 7th EU Hitachi
Science and Technology
Forum 2004
Sheraton Hotel, Stockholm
Friday May 14 -
Sunday May 16
The theme will be:
"Transportation and IT,
Impact on European
Society".**

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The Hitachi Corporate Office, Europe welcomes and encourages your comments and ideas.

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