

e u r o p e a n CONNEXTION

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE EU HITACHI SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FORUM

ISSUE 23

APRIL 2006

Editorial



2006 Warsaw Forum

Arrangements for the Warsaw Forum are progressing well. The Forum agenda has been tailored by the working group members and we have had positive comments by the speakers about its focus and scope. It is the first time I am involved in the Forum preparation and I

realize the amount of work the it involves. With this in mind, and again with the full support of the working group members, some important changes have been made so that the Forum will move closer to its key objective: to become a well recognised contribution to the European public policy debate.

The 2006 Forum parallel working sessions will be moderated by experts who will introduce the working session with a short presentation to launch the debate. The findings, specifically called recommendations in the agenda, will be presented during the Sunday general session by the moderators themselves. This will give a greater chance to all Forum members to be completely involved in the discussion. Later on, when the Forum summary will be published, your recommendations will be drafted by the moderators.

Initiated last year, the participation of Hitachi's business partners will be increased. This is an additional way to enlarge the working sessions debates and will also allow Forum members to meet colleagues from other companies and other fields of activities.

At the request of several Forum members Sir Stephen Gommersall, Chief Executive Europe, will present an overview of Hitachi's businesses in Europe.

I am sure we will have an interesting and challenging Forum and I am looking forward to meeting you together and individually.

Ko Takahashi
General Manager
Hitachi Corporate Office, Europe

Your commitment is key for the Forum

I am greatly looking forward to meeting you, Forum members, in Warsaw in May.

Following last year's Forum in Athens, we have reviewed together with the organising team in Brussels the Forum objectives and further improvements in an already well established and successful operation.

The Forum's key objective is to contribute to the European public policy debate. At a time when Hitachi has ambitious goals in Europe, I strongly believe we need to make sure the benefits of innovative technologies are well understood by our European fellow citizens. This is of critical importance for ICT which brings great advantages to everyone's daily life, but also affects it in many ways. ICT is the chief engine for achieving the knowledge society called for in the Lisbon agenda. It is important also to understand and identify the fears and misunderstandings generated by this new and constantly evolving technology. In a global world one cannot

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

Warsaw Forum Special Session

How and where do members see areas for improvement for the Forum? Is Connexion an effective communication channel? Which areas could be improved? Do you regularly use the Forum website? A useful tool? Areas for improvement?

These are some of the questions that Forum Members are invited to discuss during an ad hoc session to be held on Friday May 19, 2006 at 17:00, just before the official opening of the Forum.

The following day, the Forum Members representatives will attend a breakfast meeting with the Forum Fellows to report the findings of the discussion.

Those interested, and unable to attend the meeting, can put their views forward by sending their comments by Email to Etienne Dancer (edancer@free.fr) or to Chris Marsh (chrisdavidmarsh@hotmail.co.uk) who will serve as relay for the others.

ignore the challenges created by the digital divide. I look forward to getting your views and suggestions which will be summed up in the different parallel working sessions. These working sessions will be moderated and reported upon by experts who will encourage a broad debate.

The working group members, whom I want to thank for their support and enthusiasm, said last year that Forum members were interested in getting a better understanding of Hitachi's operations in Europe. I will gladly review with you where we are today, and some of the technologies on which we

plan to build Hitachi's future in Europe. We have also gone one step further in inviting representatives of our European business partners. They will bring views and experiences of companies operating in different fields, different markets, with different companies' cultures and I hope their participation will enrich our Forum and will give you opportunities for new contacts.

The Warsaw Forum will bring together some extremely renowned and qualified speakers and moderators, whom I would like to thank for having accepted our invitation. Their presence was made possible thanks to the efforts of

Mr. Takahashi and his team in Brussels.

Together with them, my gratitude goes also to the Forum Chairman Forum, Dr. Nakamura, to the Forum Fellows and to you the Forum members whose commitment to this event is something we value most highly.

Stephen Gomersall
Chief Executive
for Europe
Hitachi, Ltd.



The EU Hitachi Science and Technology Forum *Between continuity and change*

The Forum is getting close to its tenth anniversary, ten years during which Hitachi's commitment to contribute to society through science and technology has been again and again reaffirmed and demonstrated; ten years also during which year after year European scientists and engineers, who at one time were interns at Hitachi, have met to address central issues related to science and technology. These issues are often at the heart of heated debates in Europe, thus the importance to make sure that such issues, often highly complex, characterised by uncertainties, touching upon human values and societal choices are dealt with in a dispassionate way and on the basis of as much objective facts and analysis as possible.

In a world where science and technology are among the primary movers and factors of change, - often radical changes bringing about quantum jumps and challenging established values - scientists and engineers have a special responsibility. They are the ones involved in the research which is at the root of discovery. They are the ones who - if any one has a kind of overview and if such overview is feasible - are in the best position to assess developments in science and technology, their significance, what they offer and their risks. In-deed, progress in science and technology are such and are taking place at such rapid speed that such an assessment is highly difficult and implies a lot of humility, the courage to say "I don't

know", the courage to say "I doubt" and even to say "no".

Gathering of scientists and engineers are more than ever essential. But such gatherings have to be relevant, address the real issues, with a range of objectives in mind, to share, to learn together, to challenge oneself into new thinking and different thinking, to look critically at developments in science and technology and at its possible societal impact.

For the last ten years, the challenge to be relevant has been central to the organisers of the Hitachi Forum. Although there is continuity in the way the Forum is organised, there have also been changes, sometimes of a rather unnoticeable nature, sometimes more significant. The Forum 2006, scheduled to take place next May, will again draw on the successful experiences of the past years, on what has worked and worked best. It will however be designed so as to be even more effective, more challenging, and thus ultimately allow the fellows to be in a better position to contribute to the very much needed societal debate. Another dimension of the Forum has to be underlined. The Forum is the result of a Japanese initiative addressed to the European. It should thus not only be a platform where Europeans debate about critical issues from a European perspective, but increasingly so - at a time when a rapid power shift is taking place between Europe and Asia - a place where to build bridges and understanding between Japan and

Europe. Indeed, developments in science and technology are also of interest and concern to the Japanese society. There might be differences or similarities in perceptions, in approaches and in policies. This is worth having a regular dialogue to which the Forum should also serve.

Jean F. Freymond
2006 Forum General Moderator
Director, Center for Applied Studies in
International Negotiations (CASIN)

Don't get lost!
Help us keep the Forum Directory updated!

If you change your coordinates, private or professional, please let us know at below address - we don't want to lose track of you!

European Connexion
is published by Ko Takahashi
and edited by Yukako Kinoshita.

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

 Hitachi, Ltd.
Hitachi Corporate Office, Europe
Avenue Louise 326, Bte 11
1050 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 (2) 643 48 88
Fax: +32 (2) 640 08 98
Email: kinoshitay@gbd.hitachi.co.jp

HITACHI
Inspire the Next



Visit the Forum homepage: www.hitachiforum.com