e u r o p e a n CONNEXTON

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

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FORUM SPECIAL ISSUE

Editorial



For this edition I put in a lot of thought on who should contribute to Connextion. Truth be told, this is a key question always troubling an editor. In this issue, I wanted to propose something new, to give us a fresh insight into the forum.

My aim was also to get something different from our Forum Members.

For this reason I decided to ask some of the attendees of the Warsaw forum who are not Forum Members to talk freely about their forum experience. So for this edition, I requested the following people to write an article for Connextion, Ms. Jennie Walls and Ms. Elizabeth Goulding, the students of Mr. Simon Davies who made a keynote speech at the forum, Dr. Anja Jerichow from Siemens AG whose colleague Dr. Stephan Lechner made a presentation about "Holistic Security in a European Environment" and then Mr. Jesper Holmberg, who has joined our office since April and was drafted in as forum photographer.

While I have achieved a fresh approach for this edition it is still indispensable to have a message from a Forum Member, no? Here again the question arose of who to chose, Over 200 Forum members all with their personal views on the Forum and then it struck me how about that French Forum Member, Mr. Fabrice Axisa who has attended every forum since the inception of our forum concept. I know he enjoys the forum very much and will give us his unique overview on 9 years of the forum. Well, enough from me, let's now enjoy something new and different.

Ko Takahashi General Manager Hitachi Corporate Office, Europe

The Forum: continuous success due to dedicated team and members

Fabrice Axisa

The first EU Hitachi Science and Technology Forum was organised in October 1998 at Juan-les-pins (France). I remember it very well, as the hotel was only 300 meters away from my home! The next eight forums have been, for me, enjoyable occasions to visit European towns like Krefeld (Germany), Dublin, Brussels, Antwerp, Budapest, Stockholm, Athens and recently Warsaw. I feel the success of every event has been due to several reasons.

Firstly, the continuous and perfect organisation by the Hitachi Corporate Office Europe, and especially Mr. Norikiyo Koide, Mr. Ko Takahashi and Mr. Stephane Dupuis. In addition the diligence of the fellow members and, last but not least, Mr. Pierre Longin. I particularly enjoyed visits to the traffic regulation centre in Stockholm, the water regulation centre in Budapest, the excellent evening receptions in Stockholm, Brussels and Budapest, the nuclear centre of Delft, and magnificent towns like Athens and Budapest.

The second reason was the Forum by itself. Many themes have been discussed, like e-business, water supply, energy supply, transportation, security, telecommunication and urbanism. Of course, most of time, I was guite ignorant of theses subjects before the Forum, but due to the quality of the speakers the Forums were the occasion for me to acquire deeper knowledge and to share my views. Even if I did not directly relate to the subject, they were all quite fascinating for me. Beyond the raw information, the themes enable the Forum members to have a larger comprehension of the complex impact of theses technologies on our society, on European society and on our multi-cultural and complex society. This knowledge is a treasure to those who want to enhance our society. For example, during the Athens' Forum on urbanism, one expert explained the development of a IC centre in a rural zone, with a centralised point on where everybody can connect. My parents live in a small French village in the middle of nowhere and, of course, it is very difficult to have access to IC technologies in this area. After the Athens Forum I suggested to open a Web centre, with a satellite connection. That project is in the last phase of being accomplished, and I am sure the facility will improve the local economy and the quality of life.

Finally, the last reason, but one of the most important reasons for the success of EU Hitachi Science & Technology Forum is that we have the opportunity to meet each other. It is a





perfect environment to build up networks. Those networks are at many levels. I do not mean the opportunity for Hitachi itself to strengthen its network in Europe, I am sure the Forum helps that happen, I am more interested in the opportunity to meet European engineers, researchers, lawyers, and many others, in a very informal way. Chatting, working together during the working sessions, going out together in the city, having a beer or something more local, sharing our points of view (especially when this points of view are opposite) and making steps forwards to get a common position in order to produce a report. It is a very good opportunity to have a professional network all across Europe, but also to have friends in different countries. It is, in fact, a unique "forum" where European spirit can be practised, a spirit based on discovering each other, sharing our common point and culture and knowing and respecting the differences, in order to share common work.

For all those reasons, and due to the Hitachi spirit, the Forum will have its 10th anniversary, in France I guess. And I am looking forward to enjoying more Forum time!



Hats off to new opportunies!

Jesper Holmberg

Having just started my job as EU Affairs Manager with Hitachi corporate office in Brussels in April, the EU Hitachi Science and Technology Forum represented the first opportunity for me to meet with a number of new Hitachi colleagues as well as the Forum members, moderators and speakers. The first thing that struck me was the scale of the event and the enthusiasm of all participants for this annual event. The Forum is clearly not just an opportunity for Forum members to discuss and debate a topical issue but also a great opportunity to meet a network of friends and to catch up and re-establish bonds.

Having studied in Warsaw in the mid 90's this was also an ideal opportunity

for me to see the changes that have occurred in the city over the last 10 years or so. Honestly apart from the Hotel Intercontinental which was very nice and comfortable I must say, the city looked very similar to before. When I was there in 94/95 the city was undergoing a real building boom which seems to have slowed down over the past few years at least in central Warsaw as most of the skyscrapers were already there 10 years ago. I really hope most Forum participants had the time to visit the old town as it is really something special, while it was completely destroyed during the Second World War it has painstakingly been restored to its former glory and is a real jewel. I can think of nothing better than sitting on the old square on a hot day, sipping on a cold beer and watching the crowd go by. But I digress back to the Forum.

Apart from being in charge of the photography at the Forum, a skill which I master at best fleetingly, I was also asked to help with overall organisational aspects of the forum. What struck me the most during the Forum was the camaraderie and closeness of many of the Forum members. There was a real sense of belonging amongst the members. I had the good fortune to talk to a number of you during the Forum and feel that I have already made a few friends for next year.

As a final closing remark I would emphasise that I still feel that I should have won the hat dancing contest on the Saturday night and that I should have been the worthy winner of the bottle of red wine.

I very much look forward to seeing you all again at next year's Forum.



Dear Forum Members and Participants,

Due to the topic of this year's EU Hitachi Forum "ICT for safety, trust and security: its impact on European citizens" it was an honor to participate at your forum as an invitee from Siemens AG. Since I work as a security expert in the information and communications security field for Siemens and I have been doing research in security and privacy issues for many years, it was of interest

for me especially to attend this event. During my discussions with Forum members and other invitees I found confirmation of my own thoughts: this topic has such diversity and such a strong socioeconomic impact, which is often underestimated by companies producing technical solutions and by governments "pushing" the introduction of certain laws for global safety.

It is always a tightrope walk to unify the interests of all; companies, governmental authorities, and those institutions acting for personal freedom, data protection, autonomy, and independency on behalf of the normal citizen. I am very pleased to see that the EU research program has taken this topic into account to give researchers, companies, and governmental institutions the possibility to work together on these issues.

The head of my department (the Information & Communications Security Department of the Corporate Technology Division within the Siemens AG), Dr. Stephan Lechner, presented his view on "Holistic Security in a European Environment". It became clear how much safety, trust, and security is influenced by the variety of cultures and languages of the 25 countries within the European Union. The presentation was part of the session on "Various Perspectives on ICT for Safety, Trust & Security", in which also other participants from industries such as HP, Philips, and Nokia expressed their views.

I would like to thank all the people who made the event so successful. Though I have been living and working in Japan, as well as other places around the world, I must emphasize how impressed I was that the event was so well-organized. It was a pleasure to be a guest of Hitachi and to get to know people from various background that are all connected with Hitachi and Japan in one way or another. I deeply honor the effort that Hitachi makes to keep in touch with their members whether they have worked for Hitachi for a long time or just participated in a short-term internship program.

Finally, I would like to say that I enjoyed the presentations and talks in between very much. The dinner was marvelous. And I also should not forget to mention my short exploration of Warsaw's old city parts with some Forum fellows, as well as traveling back in time and history when visiting the "The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising" museum. The museum documents the attempts of Jewish people to

organize resistance against the Germans, which, in particular as a German citizen, is one part of German history that always makes me very upset and lets me ask: Why?

I am writing this letter while visiting Japan, where I participated in an industrial convention about international standardization of mobile communication services that took place in Osaka. The few days I spent with you all at the Hitachi Forum gave me a little taste of Japan before coming back here after 5 years!

Many regards from Japan and thank you again!

Sincerely, **Anja Jerichow**





- Hitachi Finger Vein Security Systems
- During Parallel Working Sessions
- Saturday Dinner party



The Hitachi 2006 Warsaw Forum – a Student's perspective

Jennie Walls & Elizabeth Goulding

The conference room at Warsaw's InterContinental Hotel was filled-tocapacity with leading businessmen, technical experts, government representatives and recognized speakers from the ICT industry. Walking in, it was daunting. As students we had spent the entire year previously studying a Masters of Information Systems at the London School of Economics, and if nothing else, we had learned to spot an important crowd when we saw one. Luckily, two things eased our transition from being slightly intimidated to genuinely impressed. First, we were curious: eager to compare what the academics had taught us of the effects of the ICT industry on the greater society with the attitudes of those in the "real world" outside of the lecture theatre. The irony of this

sentiment became quickly apparent. The Hitachi forum members have their 'finger on the pulse' in particular, with regards to security, trust, and privacy issues. It was impressive to realize that whilst governments and commerce seek to ensure continuous technical innovation and economic competition - ICT specialists, policy makers and business leaders are aware of what is happening in society and what is of importance to the average European citizen.

The second part of our transition at the conference was simply due to the people around us. While treating their intellectual topic with the dignity, intensity and importance it deserved, forum members were congenial, collegial, and simply—nice. The attitude of all the attendees made it possible to openly discuss such charged issues as privacy and trust in a way

that allowed everyone's (even a students) opinions to be valued, considered, debated, and built upon. The potential consequences of technical failures (and even successes) are issues that we have focused upon in our studies. Often, the social and cultural consequences have stronger adverse effect than the technical malfunction. In a world whereby security, privacy and trust is being sought, more and more, this forum and hopefully the rest of the ICT industry are seeking to understand the needs and desires of their customers - not just from a functional perspective but from a social standpoint as well. The Hitachi Conference confirmed and expanded this knowledge and understanding.

Thank you for impressing us.



Mark Cantley retires

We would like to address a special thank you to Mr. Mark Cantley, who as Forum Fellow, has been a great supporter of the EU Hitachi Science and Technology Forum since 2001 and who will soon retire from the European Commission. Mr. Cantley has not only been a very active participant in the Forum's organization and discussions but he has also given our office a lot of advices regarding Forum invitees. His contact network within the European

Commission has been invaluable in helping us to identify and contact Commission speakers for our various forum themes We are sure all Forum members join us in wishing him a very pleasant and active retirement.

Mr. Mark Cantley with Dr. Michiharu Nakamura, Executive Vice President & Executive Officer, Hitachi, Ltd.



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 loose track of you!



Some of the speakers 'meet and areet' at the start of the 2006 Forum.

European Connextion

is published by Ko Takahashi and edited by Yukako Kinoshita.

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

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