

IKED's Events 2005

World Summit on the Information Society

[November 14-19, 2005 – Tunis, Tunisia]

The Summit in Tunis represented a truly global gathering aimed at furthering and diffusing the information society for the benefit of mankind as a whole. The issues addressed included education, poverty reduction, and access to knowledge and resource mobilization. The event aimed to help bridge the gaps between those who have access to the digital world and those who do not. At the same time, the information society offers the best chance so far, ever, of setting off real processes of catching up in the poorest of countries and societies. There are, in fact, disproportionately large investments in such societies, especially in cellular technology, to exploit the opportunity. In the fall of 2006, discussions and plans have advanced on how to organize the follow-up process on the Information Society. UNCTAD will play a major role in keeping the various areas of work together and will continue to engage relevant stakeholders. IKED will follow the agenda closely and participate actively in the process. Further reports will follow.

The role of the information society as a facilitator of network building was highlighted at the conference. One of the most important ways to open doors to poverty reduction is to increase human interactions and to build on social capital with the new technologies, so as to enable security and trust in the digital world and, through that, in a broadening range of orderly transactions and relations as well. It was concluded that future society must strive for more homogenous standards of digital trust, in which each player has equal opportunities to acquire accurate information.

Further, for the information society to succeed there must be greater room for entrepreneurship, innovation and high quality education from a young age for the poor of this world. Disadvantaged groups are not of marginal significance. Their ranks include ethnic minorities as well as people living in suppressed regions. In large parts of the world, it also includes girls and young women, who stand little chance of acquiring access to reasonable conditions for education, for making sound choices as adult life approaches, for running a business...

IKED participated in various processes leading up to the Tunis Summit, and proceeds with these in its wake. Areas of ICT and sustainable development, where IKED is active, were brought up in various parts of the event, including by the Global Knowledge Partnership, a partner of IKED in a number of relevant activities. Further, in the resumed session of the third meeting of the preparatory committee (PrepCom-3), issues in respect to women's entrepreneurship and ICT were brought up, drawing on material from IKED work. To what extent progress is made on the endeavour of improving and broadening the understanding of such issues will matter for what can be achieved in future activities.

Global Forum / Shaping the Future 2005

[November 7- 8, 2005 - Brussels, Belgium]

IKED participated in the Global Forum 2005, with the theme: The Broad Convergence: Act II, Services and Applications for Businesses & Communities in a Global Knowledge-Based Society. The Global Forum on Shaping the Future, active since 1992, is an annual, independent international event, attracting up to 300 participants from 40 countries, dedicated to business and policy issues affecting the successful evolution of the Information & Knowledge Society. This year it was held in partnership with the Belgian Federal Government, with the participation of the European institutions.

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GAP Congress on Knowledge Capital

[November 3-4, 2005 – Melbourne, Australia]

IKED participated in the Global Access Partners (GAP) Congress on Knowledge Capital in Melbourne, the topic of the discussion at the congress was: The criteria for measuring, managing and reporting knowledge in the Knowledge Economy.

Read more - (http://www.globalaccesspartners.org/kc_flyer.pdf)

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Technology convergence and Corporate Sustainability Reporting in the Information Society

[October 4, 2005 – London, UK]

IKED participated in a workshop organised by the Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GESI) at the annual AccountAbility conference 2005 - “Reinventing Accountability for the 21 st Century”, together with leading experts within the ICT industry and civil society on the topic of “Technology convergence and Corporate Sustainability Reporting in the Information Society”. This stakeholder consultation session was one of three upcoming events, the latter two sessions are scheduled for 31 st October 2005 in Washington DC, USA and 1 st December in Tokyo, Japan.

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Stockholm School of Economics Business Day on Women and Entrepreneurship

[October 3, 2005 – Riga, Latvia]

IKED participated in the Business Day on Women and Entrepreneurship, held at the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga. The workshop focused on the fostering of Women’s Entrepreneurship and a special study on Women’s Entrepreneurship in Latvia was presented by Dr Friederike Welter from The TeliaSonera Institute at SSE Riga and University of Siegen Germany. Several international comparisons and case studies were discussed in particular lessons from New Zealand. IKED played an active role in the summarizing roundtable discussion in which policy issues and concrete recommendations were put forward.

Release of World Investment Report 2005

[September 28, 2005 - Copenhagen, Denmark]

On September 28, IKED, in cooperation with UNCTAD and the Danish think tank of news Monday Morning (Mandag Morgen), held a press conference in Copenhagen on the World Investment Report 2005: Transnational Corporations and the Internationalization of R&D. (See Overview issued by UNCTAD - <http://www.iked.org/pdf/WIR05overview%20full.pdf>). Following a brief introduction by Monday Morning Directing Editor Mr. Mikael Lindholm, the report was presented by Mr. Thomas Andersson, Professor and President of IKED.

The report shows that the share of global inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) going to developing countries increased by 40 % in 2004, whereas FDI to developed countries dropped by 14 %. This meant the highest share of FDI (36%) going to the developing part of the world since 1997. Although in some respects worrisome for developed countries, this trend should, on the whole, be seen as positive from a global perspective. It is indicative of developing countries in both Asia, Africa and Latin America catching up and becoming more attractive locations for various kinds of production, and not only for standardized low-value added activities.

The Transnational Corporations (TNCs), the driving forces behind FDI, are also the prime actors pursuing globalisation of R&D. They are now responsible for at least half of all the expenditure on R&D conducted in the world, and two thirds of all business R&D. The primary industries for R&D include IT hardware, the automotive industry, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, all of which are increasingly internationalising their R&D units. As discussed in Copenhagen, part of this undoubtedly reflects efforts to keep up with the latest developments and source technology from other companies, or to join industrial clusters located in different regions around the world. But the Report also highlights that R&D expenditures are particularly on the rise in the developing world. For example, the share of foreign affiliates in the business R&D conducted in developing economies increased from 2% in 1996 to 18% in 2002. This trend is particularly noticeable in developing Asia, whose share of all overseas R&D by US TNCs rose from 3% to 10% between 1994 and 2002. The largest R&D spenders in the world also see China and India as two of the three most important future locations for R&D expansion.

The Nordic countries experienced very small inflows of FDI over the last year, applying notably to Sweden and Denmark. The weak development in Sweden forms part of a pattern seen over the last years - Sweden has now firmly established itself as a major exporter of capital, technologies and founder of industries around the world. The poor development of FDI into Denmark has resonated heavily in the Danish media reporting from the launch. Disinvestments and loan repayments represent the main culprits, placing Denmark as the second worst off country in the world after Surinam, wrote the Danish newspaper "Jyllands-Posten". "Politiken" explained that the picture of Denmark as an attractive country for science activities has got a proper blow. Other newspapers included "Børsen", which emphasized that Europe is the big loser and Asia the winner. The future for countries like Denmark, Sweden and Norway, said Mr. Andersson at the press conference, is to connect growth capabilities with better playing rules for investments in areas such as education, research and innovation, which is where these countries' strengths should lie and which are also areas in which they are well positioned internationally.

European Commission workshop in Brussels on Assessing Opportunities for ICT & Sustainable Development

[September 20, 2005 – Brussels, Belgium]

IKED participated in a workshop organised by the European Commission involving the Commission and leading experts within industry and civil society on the topic of “Assessing Opportunities for ICT to Contribute to Sustainable Development”

XXII IASP World Conference on Science & Technology Parks

[September 19-21, 2005 - Beijing, China]

XXII IASP World Conference on Science & Technology Parks addressed the theme “Global Innovation: The Role of Science and Technology Parks”. Special attention was given to developments in China.

OECD Workshop in Istanbul

[July 11-12, 2005 - Istanbul, Turkey]

IKED was engaged in the preparations and implementation of the OECD Workshop on “Building Awareness of Women's Entrepreneurship in the MENA Countries” which took place July 2005 in Istanbul, Turkey. The workshop brought together a range of stakeholders from the MENA region and from OECD member and non-member economies to discuss challenges and strategies for building awareness of the potential of women's entrepreneurship as a driver for economic growth and social inclusion in the MENA region. The recommendations will lay the basis for continued projects.

Evaluation of European Innovation Policies

[July 5, 2005 - Brussels, Belgium]

A new Handbook for evaluation of innovation policy in European countries is also to be developed under the aegis of the Directorate General Enterprise of the European Commission. IKED participated in an international workshop July 5 on the theme "Making monitoring and evaluation of innovation programmes a competitiveness tool".

G15 focuses on role of SMEs in Development

[June 19-20. 2005 – Cairo, Egypt]

The 12th Annual meeting of the G15 Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Services, opened by the Egyptian Prime Minister, focused on the role of SMEs in the enhancement of Development. IKED contributed with a presentation of the global trends and provided input to the detailed policy recommendations (<http://www.iked.org/pdf/recommendations.pdf>) issued.

Trust in the Digital World

[May 18, 2005 – Brussels, Belgium]

The international steering group for the project “Ensuring Trust in the Digital World” met in Brussels May 18 2005, following which final input for completion of the feasibility study on the GTC (Global Trust Center) has been received. The full report will be available at the end of the year.

NORVISION agenda review

[May 9, 2005 - Brussels, Belgium]

IKED contributed to a meeting organised by NORVISION in Brussels, Belgium, to brainstorm on a new agenda for facilitating innovation under the working theme “Towards a New Spatial Agenda for the North Sea Region – Updating Norvision”. The NORVISION project is carried out within the framework of the EU Programmes promoting transnational cooperation in spatial planning.

Global Innovation Policy Dialogue

[April 14-15, 2005 – Videoconference]

IKED has contributed to the planning and implementation of telesessions between international organisations and institutions in selected countries for the purpose of fostering grassroots innovation initiatives. In the last event, IKED participated in the fourth telesession in support of policy developments in India and China.

IKEDs presentation (<http://www.iked.org/pdf/ANDERSSONpresentation.pdf>) focused on the international dimension of technology transfers. The participants included mainly representatives from ministries, universities and other key institutions in the two countries, as well as representatives from a number of international organisations. This series of videoconferences is co-ordinated out of the World Bank Paris office.

Read more - <http://www.iked.org/pdf/Global%20Innovation%20Policy%20Dialogue.pdf>

Second Annual Gathering of INSME Members

[April 13-15, 2005, Barcelona, Spain]

IKED participated in the second Annual Meeting, arranged in Barcelona, by the International Network for SMEs (<http://www.insme.org/page.asp>) (INSME) with the theme: "International Cooperation to Seize Innovation Opportunities for SMEs". This was the first formal gathering organised for all INSME Members since the official establishment of the association in mid February 2004. Read more about the Meeting here – (<http://www.annualmeeting2005.insme.org/barcelona.asp>)

The Impact of FDI on Development Expert Meeting

[January 24-26, 2005, Geneva, Switzerland]

Experts and government representatives examined the globalization of research and development (R&D), the role of transnational corporations (TNCs) in this phenomenon and its implications for developing countries. They discussed how the globalization of R&D affects the transfer of technology, and how policies can influence its development impact.

Read more – (<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Meeting.asp?intItemID=3312&lang=1>)

The list of speakers included:

Mr. Thomas Andersson, Jönköping University and IKED, Sweden

Ms. Ionara Costa, UNU-INTECH, The Netherlands

Mr. Dieter Ernst, East-West Center, United States

Mr. Efa Fouda, Ministère de la recherche scientifique et technique, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Mr. Mwananyanda M. Lewanika, National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research, Lusaka, Zambia

Mr. John Mugabe, NEPAD, South Africa

Mr. Rajneesh Narula, University of Reading, United Kingdom

Mr. Prasada Reddy, Lund University, Sweden

Mr. Yuan Zhou, National Research Center for S&T for Development, China

Full programme and presentations –

(<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/meeting.asp?intItemID=3312&lang=1&m=9123&info=schedule>)

Launch of initiative to develop cooperation on Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region

[January 11, 2005, Copenhagen, Denmark]

The project ‘Tourism Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region – a Win-Win Scenario’ is an initiative launched by Baltic Development Forum in cooperation with IKED with the aim of creating an impartial platform for developing a bottom-up, stakeholder-driven action agenda for regional tourism cooperation in the Baltic Sea region.

Baltic Development Forum and IKED hosted the first Roundtable Meeting for representatives from airline companies, passenger shipping companies, national tourist boards, official tourist organisations from the Metropolises, regional organisations, ports and airports from the Baltic Sea region on 11 January 2005 in Copenhagen with the purpose of coordinating existing initiatives, defining objectives for regional cooperation and formulating a strategy for tourism cooperation in the region.
