

17 June 2004

PRESS BRIEFING BY UNCTAD ON ICT PARTNERSHIP

The UNCTAD Secretariat announced today the launch of an information and communication technologies (ICTs) partnership involving information technology companies, international organizations, universities and civil society, an agency official said at a press briefing this afternoon.

John Burley, UNCTAD's Director of Services Infrastructure for Development and Efficiency, said the partnership would help developing countries to use ICTs and maximize their benefits. The announcement of the launch followed the interactive thematic session on partnership for development.

Also present at the press conference was Hakim Ben Hammouda of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), who said that many African countries were currently developing and implementing e-commerce and e-business strategies. It was hoped that the new partnership would help those countries to implement and promote their emerging ICT strategies and policies.

Others present at the press conference were Richard Simpson, Director-General of the Electric Commerce Branch of the Canadian Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Esperanza Magpantay of the International Telecommunication Union; and Christina Qiang of the World Bank.

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