

NEC Argentina Presents at ITU TELECOM WORLD 2006 -(1)

ITU TELECOM WORLD 2006 closed its doors on December 8, following a busy week which saw some 62,000 people flocking to Hong Kong, China to be a part of the event. The industry's top names were in evidence throughout a packed show floor and forum, including participants such as Alcatel-Lucent Technologies, AT&T, China Mobile, China Netcom, China Telecommunications, China Unicom, Cisco Systems, Ericsson, Fujitsu, Hitachi, HP, Huawei, IBM, Intel, LG Electronics, Microsoft, Motorola, NEC, Nortel, OKI, Orange, Qualcomm, Samsung, Siemens, SK telecom, Toshiba, Verizon, ZTE and more.

Extending the information society and promoting access to ICTs has been a major underlying theme of the event as a whole. During the week, constructive discussions were held, policies were examined, best practice cases highlighted and technologies demonstrated that will help extend the reach of ICTs.

NEC Argentina's President and Member of the Board, Mr. Carlos Martinangeli (**Photo 1**), was one of the only two Latin Americans that participated in the Forum of ITU Telecom World. Mr. Martinangeli participated in the panel "Reinventing the government for the digital world," one of the most balanced panels in the forum. Mr. Martinangeli opened the talk stating that he would not talk about technologies but of the NEC's concept that NEC of e-government.

He underlined the fact that private companies as well as governments should be obliged to develop plans that help reduce the digital gap and he went on to comment that "e-government is also a way to improve the efficiency of the public sector, internal and external communications, and of government reputations, overall in Latin America, where officials and offices possess very low indexes of creditability and transparency." Mr. Martinangeli then highlighted NEC's understanding of e-government as a game of layers, whose first layer is the government and in a second layer, the government's telecommunications infrastructure. Moreover, to this layer, a stage of application appears, that should be understood as an integrated model: education, health, administration, communal accesses, businesses, with security standards, and integrated databases in data centers, all running through a private network that is the property of the state.

However, the most important point, or the third layer, is that of services. A project of e-government does not conclude at the moment it is implemented, it is necessary to train people who will use the application, carry out follow-ups of its use, and promote leadership and the change of paradigms. For the president of NEC Argentina, "If the infrastructure and applications are excellent but users are not trained; then we are losing ground even before we

start and as a result, nobody will use the applications of e-government."

A crucial point for Mr. Martinangeli is education, "If Latin America is where it is, in part it is due to the lack of education. Then, education, e-learning, technologies and computers become even more crucial." The president of NEC Argentina considered that governments should have technical experts that evaluate alternatives and present recommendations to governments. However, in Latin America those profiles rarely exists and that is why for NEC, the real implementation signifies the use of the solution and the training, the commitment of private companies with productive promotion and the professional development of the public sector. Mr. Martinangeli highlighted that the government and the private sector should work together to transform ideas in to realities, "The obligation of the telecommunications sector is not just to make this enormous exposition in Hong Kong, but also to think how we could use this technology to improve citizens' life standards."

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Photo 1 Mr. Carlos Martinangeli, NEC Argentina's President and Member of the Board.

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In addition to Mr. Martinangeli, Veena Rawat, president of the Communications Research Center (CRC) of Canada; Keng Thai Leong, General Director of Telecoms, Infocomm Development Authority (IDA), of Singapore; Amr Badawi, executive president of the National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA) of Egypt, and Howard Dickson, Government Chief Information Officer, HK-SARG, Hong Kong, China, were present on the panel.

The representative from Canada, Veena Rawat placed emphasis on the importance of generating broadband accesses to develop e-government. Keng Thai Leong, of Singapore, explained the importance of technology on behalf of his government, which has been embracing policies since the 1980s. During the last decade, the country has focused on developing broadband and today there are 30 governmental agencies with e-government. Furthermore, there were several initiatives for operators to promote free access to Internet in public areas as well as projects for service providers to allow them to understand that even free access could be seen as a good deal as well as a complement for other businesses.

On the other hand, the Egyptian, Amr Badawi explained that the first challenge of his country was to promote Internet access before e-government. This stage began with a model of revenue shares with the incumbent Telecom Egypt, which had to confront several challenges. Afterwards, he emphasized the areas that the government is currently analyzing to implement solutions to reinvent the administration. Likewise, Howard Dickson, of Hong Kong, highlighted that even today, processes of e-government end up on paper documents that are stored and he advised a rethink of this behavior which he has dubbed the “pre-cyber paradigm.” (Photo 2: Visit of ITU authorities to NEC’s stand: Mr. Hamadoun Touré, ITU Elected Secretary- General, Mr. Fernando Lagraña, ITU / Telecom Executive Manager and Mr. Roberto Blois, ITU Present Deputy Secretary-General.)

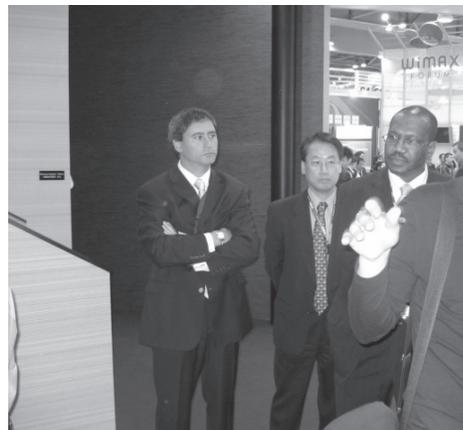


Photo 2 Visit of ITU authorities to NEC's stand.