2001 Genoa Compliance Report
Bridging the Digital Divide – Dot Force

Commitment:

Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) hold tremendous potential for helping developing countries accelerate growth, raise standards of living and meet other development priorities. We endorse the report of the Digital Opportunity Task Force (DOT Force) and its Genoa Plan of Action that successfully fulfilled the Okinawa mandate. The direct participation of representatives from public, private and non-profit sectors, as well as that of developing countries' governments, presents a unique formula for ensuring that digital technologies meet development needs.

1. We will continue to support the process and encourage all stakeholders to demonstrate ownership, to mobilize expertise and resources and to build on this successful cooperation.
2. We will review the implementation of the Genoa Plan of Action at our next Summit on the basis of a report by the G8 Presidency.
3. We also encourage development of an Action Plan on how e-government can strengthen democracy and the rule of law by empowering citizens and making the provision of essential government services more efficient.

Assessment:

Score	Lack of Compliance -1	Work in Progress 0	Full Compliance +1
Country			
Britain			+1
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Russia	-1		
United States			+1
Overall			**+0.75**

For purposes of this commitment area, the extent of compliance for each G8 member country was assessed based on their respective participation in the DOT Force. As a result, it is important to measure compliance based on both the progress made by the DOT Force itself and the contributions of each G8 country toward bridging the digital divide. This caveat notwithstanding, this issue also requires that each country's domestic information technology (IT) initiatives and international contributions outside of the DOT Force be taken into account. This is due to the sizable digital divide between the G8 countries themselves – the US 'owns' approximately 83% of G8 web hosts, for example - which requires extensive infrastructural & economic initiatives to be undertaken domestically.[5] This, in turn, enables G8 countries to lead by example and improve their ability to help the primary intended recipients of DOT Force initiatives - Less-Developed Countries (LDCs).

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[5] Caslon Analytics Profile: the Digital Divides. See http://www.caslon.com.au/dividesprofile.htm

Given the cautious nature of the DOT-force commitment, geared mostly toward continuing to "support" the process, it would be unreasonable to hold the G8 to a promise to secure the fulfilment of the various proposed DOT-force initiatives. Instead, compliance with the commitment would be attained by demonstrating that the G8 member countries have made progress in this issue area since the last summit – as evidenced by information-sharing, direction-setting or mobilization of resources (financial or diplomatic). In other words, while the DOT force framework does not need to be implemented as of yet, there must be tangible indications that the process is being advanced in a significant way by the G8 member countries in order for positive compliance to be effected. In other words, the promise to "bridge the digital divide" does not yet have to be fulfilled to demonstrate compliance; there must merely be evidence that it is *being* fulfilled.

On October 9-10, 2001, all G8 members attended the Organizational Meeting of the DOT Force Implementation Teams in Montreal, Canada. The meeting launched an implementation team for each of the nine priority areas identified in the Genoa Plan of Action. Each team was constituted with chairs, included active participation from developing countries in order to ensure relevance of the implementation process, and were constructed to operate in an open fashion, inviting participation from non-members of the DOT Force.[6] The creation of the implementation teams moved the G8's DOT Force initiatives beyond the deliberate stage and into the process setting of concrete directions and the establishment of operational frameworks through which the member countries can, as they move forward, generate concrete decisions concerning distribution of resources.

Since the format of the working groups introduced a division of labour among the DOT Force members, G8 member countries were each allocated specific responsibilities. As a result, the co-operative effort renders each member country accountable primarily for moving the DOT Force process forward within its specific sub-issue domain; all member countries should accordingly not be expected to be active on all fronts of the Genoa Plan for Action, because they were relying on their colleagues to make advances in their own issue assignments.

On February 25, 2002, the DOT Force Presidency and the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the Implementation Teams reviewed each Team's progress during a conference call.[7] Finally, the DOT Force members attended a meeting chaired by Canada in Calgary on May 5-7 to finalize their report on the implementation of their Action Plan.[8] These meetings demonstrate active involvement, co-operation and the mobilization of diplomatic resources as committed to at Genoa. In addition, given the content of the February conference call described below – it showed clear progress in the priority areas within the Genoa Action Plan – it is unlikely that the G8 will shirk its responsibility to implement the Genoa commitment to "review the implementation of the Genoa Plan of Action at our next Summit on the basis of a report by the G8 Presidency". Thus, while it is impossible to review compliance with this commitment until the Kananaskis Summit actually takes place, the concerted effort by the G8 members in their DOT Force membership capacity to review implementation of the Genoa Plan of Action indicates that the G8 will achieve success in this regard at the Summit.

It should be noted that the Genoa Plan of Action itself is intimately related to the more general commitment to "continue to support the process and encourage all stakeholders to demonstrate ownership, to mobilize expertise and resources and to build on this successful cooperation". The Genoa

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[6] http://www.dotforce.org/reports/montreal_report.doc; http://www.g8.gc.ca/aboutdivide-e.asp
[7] 2nd Update on the Implementation of the DOT Force Genoa Plan of Action February, 2002
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/Summary_ConfCall_Feb_2002.doc
[8] Canada Chairs Information and Communication Technologies
for Development Meeting:
http://www.ic.gc.ca/cmb/Welcomeic.nsf/261ce500dfcd7259852564820068dc6d/85256a220056c2a48525
6bb20068000d!OpenDocument)

Plan of Action identifies nine priority areas that tend toward these goals. These priorities, and the capacity in which G8 members serve in their implementation teams, are as follows:[9]

Team	Initiative	G8 Members
1.	Support Development of National e-Strategies	Canada (Chair – e-strategies), Italy (Chair - e-government), all other G8 members (Participants)
2.	Improve Connectivity, increase access, and lower costs	France (Chair), Canada (IDRC – Co-Chair), Japan (Participant), Britain (Participant)
3.	Enhance Human Capacity Development, Knowledge Creation and Sharing	Germany (Co-Chair), Canada (CIDA – Participant), Italy (Participant), United States (Participant), Japan (Participant)
4.	Foster Enterprise, jobs and entrepreneurship	(No G8 members or participants)
5.	Universal Participation in Global ICT Governance	Britain (DFID – Participant), Japan (Participant), Canada (Participant)
6.	Dedicated LDC Initiative	Canada (IDRC – Co-Chair)
7.	ICT for Health Care and Support Against Disease	Canada (CIDA – Chair), Canada (IDRC – Participant), Canada (Health Canada – Participant), United States (US Council for International Business *?!??!* – Participant)
8.	Support Local Content and Applications Development	Canada (IDRC – Participant), Britain (DFID – Participant), Canada (CIDA – Participant), Japan (Participant), France (Participant)
9.	Prioritize the Contribution of ICT's in ODA Programs and Enhance Coordination of Initiatives	G8 Presidency (Chair)

In terms of overall accomplishments by the G8 membership within the DOT Force, the following progress has been made since the Genoa G8 Summit in July 2001:

- Formal assignment of members from each G8 country to the DOT Force.
- Establishment of Implementation Teams to follow-up on each of the nine priority areas outlined in the Genoa Plan of Action and the Framework for Implementation.
- Two update meetings – in October 2001 (in Montreal, Canada) and February 2002 (via conference call) – to review the progress made by each of the Implementation Teams.
- Meeting in Calgary on May 5-7, chaired by Canada, at which the DOT Force members finalized their reports on the implementation of the Action Plan.[10]
- Development of specific models/frameworks and action plans by each of the Implementation Teams, with the intended goal of transferring implementation responsibilities to appropriate international & multilateral bodies, like the United Nations, after the G8 Summit at Kananaskis.[11]
- Linkages formed with other organizations devoted to bridging the Digital Divide, such as the UN Information & Communications Technologies (ICT) Task Force.[12]

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[9] From 2nd Update on the Implementation of the DOT Force Genoa Plan of Action February, 2002 http://www.dotforce.org/reports/Summary_ConfCall_Feb_2002.doc
[10] Industry Canada Information Bulletin, "Canada Chairs Information and Communication Technologies for Development Meeting" May 7, 2002http://www.ic.gc.ca/cmb/Welcomeic.nsf/261ce500dfcd7259852564820068dc6d/85256a220056c2a4 85256bb20068000d!OpenDocument)
[11] Industry Canada Information Bulletin, "Canada Chairs Information and Communication Technologies for Development Meeting" May 7, 2002 http://www.ic.gc.ca/cmb/Welcomeic.nsf/261ce500dfcd7259852564820068dc6d/85256a220056c2a48525 6bb20068000d!OpenDocument

Individual Country Compliance Breakdown:

Britain: +1

Britain has officially assigned three members from the Department for International Development (DFID) to the DOT Force.[13]

Britain is a participant on the DOT Force Implementation Team #1 (Support Development of National e-Strategies), Team #2 (Improve Connectivity, increase access, and lower costs) (through DFID), Team #5 (Universal Participation in Global ICT Governance) (through DFID), and Team #8 (Support Local Content and Applications Development) (through DFID).[14]

Canada: +1

Four members from two separate government ministries – Industry Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) – have been assigned by Canada to the DOT Force.[15]

Canada welcomed the launching of the DOT Force Implementation Teams in Montreal in October, 2001,[16] and, along with Italy, chairs Team #1, which was assigned the task of supporting the development of national e-strategies. The team has made substantial moves progress achieving this goal, focusing on three interrelated initiatives.[17]   First, it has begun work on creating an International e-Development Resource Network (IeDRN) of regulatory, policy and strategy expertise from both developed and developing countries. To date, a draft organization model and business plan have been circulated to all DOT Force members. The plan proposes services and products to be offered to developing countries in order to assist individuals to find, understand and apply the wealth of existing knowledge on ICTs and meet the needs for specialized information and knowledge. Second, as a follow-on to the implementation team, the Markle Foundation and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) launched the Global Digital Opportunities Initiative (GDOI) on February 2, 2002.   The GDOI is a public-private sector partnership that will build on existing efforts to develop technologies, policies and applications to assist countries in employing digital technology to improve healthcare and education.   Third, an action framework on e-government, together with the private sector and civil society, is being developed by the Italian Ministry of Innovation and Technology under the aegis of this implementation team.

Implementation Team #2, charged with the responsibility to improve connectivity, increase access and lower costs, is co-chaired by Canada.[18] This team is currently developing a business plan aimed at identifying an inventory of activities in the area of access and connectivity that would provide useful information to prospective donors concerning selected projects, funding priorities, and networking with other agencies. One agreed upon function of the business plan is to help G8 leaders as they undertake African development initiatives expressed in the New Economic Partnership for African Development

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[12] DOT Force Statement on Linkages with UN ICT:
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/statement_G8_DOTForce.html
[13] DOT Force list of members, alternates, contact persons.
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/DOTForce_membership.html
[14] 2nd Update on the Implementation of the DOT Force Genoa Plan of Action February, 2002
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/Summary_ConfCall_Feb_2002.doc
[15] DOT Force list of members, alternates, contact persons.
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/DOTForce_membership.html
[16] Remarks by V. Peter Harder, Deputy Minister of Industry Canada, at the launch of the UN ICT Task Force, New York City , Nov. 20,2001 http://www.dotforce.org/reports/DM_Remarks_Nov20_.html
[17] 2nd Update on the Implementation of the DOT Force Genoa Plan of Action February, 2002
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/Summary_ConfCall_Feb_2002.doc
[18] Ibid.

(NEPAD) forum. The activities centre on improving the sustainability of community access points and telecentres, supporting the planning of project development and working to improve information sharing between projects to solve collective problems.

Along with Italy and on behalf of all G8 DOT Force members, Canada officially welcomed and affirmed the launch of the UN ICT Task Force in a statement on October 10, 2001.[19] Canada has indicated elsewhere that collaboration of the DOT Force with the UN ICT will "maximize synergies and ensure efficient use of resources".[20]

Canada (through CIDA) also chairs Implementation Team #7, responsible for ICT for Health Care and Support Against Disease. Through the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Health Canada, Canada also works with this team in a "participant" capacity. This team met in conjunction with the UN ICT Task Force in New York on February 3, 2002, where it was agreed to form a joint working group to address the application of ICTs in Health Care and HIV/AIDS. The Team has developed a four-part Plan of Action, including a needs assessment for developing countries in the form of a survey to be distributed to a diverse audience, a stocktaking exercise, new initiatives and the creation of a coalition. The survey has been finalized and was slated to be issued in February, 2002.[21]

Within Team #6 (Dedicated LDC Initiative for ICT Inclusion), Canada is co-chair in its through its governmental organ IDRC. This team's mandate was outlined in the last Implementation Progress Report, where it was indicated that the team would be responsible to ensure that LDCs are given special attention within the work of the other teams.[22] One specific objective is to closely link with NEPAD.

As the G8 Presidency, Canada is also Chair of Team #9, responsible for prioritising the Contribution of ICT's in ODA Programs and Enhancing Coordination of Initiatives.[23] The task of this team is to encourage discussion and collaboration among bilateral donor agencies. At the margins of the World Bank Infodev Symposium in Washington on December 6, 2001, an informal meeting of several bilateral donor agencies was held in order to exchange information on approaches and initiatives on ICT for development in Africa.[24]

In addition, Canada has been a participant in Implementation Team #3 (Enhance Human Capacity Development, Knowledge Creation and Sharing) (through CIDA), Team #5 (Universal Participation in Global ICT Governance) and Team #8 (Support Local Content and Applications Development) (through CIDA).[25]

Most recently, Canada chaired the May 5-7, 2002 meeting in Calgary attended by members of the DOT Force to finalize their report on the implementation of the Genoa Action Plan.[26]

Furthermore, Canada has also promoted the DOT Force agenda in other international fora. Canada attended the International Telecommunications Union "World Telecommunication Development

[19] DOT Force Statement on Linkages with the UN ICT Task Force , October 10, 2001: "On behalf of G8 DOT Force members, we welcome the launch of the United Nations ICT Task Force."
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/statement_G8_DOTForce.doc
[20] http://www.ecom.ic.gc.ca/english/inter/doc/harder/sld022.htm
[21] 2nd Update on the Implementation of the DOT Force Genoa Plan of Action February, 2002
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/Summary_ConfCall_Feb_2002.doc
[22] Ibid.
[23] Ibid.
[24] As cited in [24] 2nd Update on the Implementation of the DOT Force Genoa Plan of Action February, 2002
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/Summary_ConfCall_Feb_2002.doc
[25] Ibid.
[26] Canada Chairs Information and Communication Technologies for Development Meeting:
http://www.ic.gc.ca/cmb/Welcomeic.nsf/261ce500dfcd7259852564820068dc6d/85256a220056c2a48525
6bb20068000d!OpenDocument)

Conference" Conference in March 19, 2002. In a related Policy Statement issued by Mr. David Fransen, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Spectrum, Information Technologies & Telecommunication, Industry Canada issued on 19 March 2002, it was stated: "One of Canada's primary objectives in participating in this Development Conference is to promote the development of a coherent global strategy for bridging the Digital Divide. We believe that this must be done by building partnerships and increasing coordination among the various 'ICT-for-development' initiatives and by encouraging the participation of all segments of society — governments, private sector and civil society … As a member of both the G8 DOT Force and UN ICT Task Force, the ITU brings its technical expertise in the development of telecommunications to the table".[27]

Canada's Deputy Minister of Industry Canada released a document on January 22, 2002 entitled "The DOT Force Implementation Process 'Creating Digital Opportunities for All'" that explored the progress of DOT Force initiatives in both Canada and developing countries.[28] Canada specified three primary priorities within this document that it would seek resources for. In this respect, Canada has made independent progress in defining the directions and framework that the DOT Force agenda will be carried forward under. The first priority is a Canadian e-Development Resource Network. This will be the Canadian contribution to the International e-Development Resource Network (IeDRN) being developed by the DOT Force Implementation Team #1, and will provide a single point of contact for Canadian expertise, both public and private. Second, the document proposed the creation of the Africa Institute for Connectivity. This institution will integrate Canadian expertise and know-how through ACACIA[29] and other programs, and will involve a multilateral approach with partners such as the United Kingdom, France, the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO) and la Francophonie. Finally, Canada proposed seed funding for entrepreneurs and the instatement of a new not-for-profit organization to be led by the private sector with an established fund to provide seed capital. This organization's objective would be to support entrepreneurship in ICT through mentoring, funding and networking assistance in developing countries. The business plan for the organization was slated to be released in April, 2002.

Beyond the DOT Force framework, Canadian foreign policy has supported a number of ICT and development-related initiatives for years through CIDA. At least two recent examples of CIDA ICT projects in Africa are germane to Canada's compliance with the DOT Force commitments. CIDA is working in the Côte d'Ivoire with the Centre Africain de formation aux TICs (CAFTIC) to provide training in ICTs.[30] In addition, CIDA is currently supporting the second phase of the African Virtual University, "a satellite- and Internet-based distance-education project focused on science and engineering, non-credit/continuing education, and remedial instruction in sub-Saharan Africa".[31]

In the area of specific resource distributions, Canada's Minister for International Cooperation announced on May 2, 2002 that Canada will be contributing $1.5 million to the New Brunswick Department of Education to implement new technology into the Jordanian education system. Through this funding, Jordanian education professionals will be able to develop gender-sensitive educational materials and curriculum, a network of Web sites that will enable schools to correspond with each other, and exchange ideas and educational materials.**[32]**

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[27] www.itu.int

[28] http://www.ecom.ic.gc.ca/english/inter/doc/harder/sld001.htm

[29] http://www.idrc.ca/acacia/

[30] CIDA, Africa & the G8. Education and Knowledge in Africa. http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cida_ind.nsf/vLUallDocByIDEn/8998BD5FEB1ECD9085256BAE0080C20E?OpenDocument

[31] Ibid.

[32] Canada/New Brunswick to boost E-learning in Jordan, CIDA News Release, May 2, 2002 http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cida_ind.nsf/vLUallDocByIDEn/9E1C2EE5E2244CB885256BAD004C1A05?OpenDocument

France: +1

France was charged with the task of chairing the DOT Force's Implementation Team #2, which focuses on improving connectivity, increasing access and lowering costs. Towards this end, the team is undertaking an inventory of existing initiatives. In addition, it will focus on the development of sustainable revenue models for access points and the establishment of Community Access Centres.[33] A business plan is being developed based on these goals.

In addition, France was a participant in both Teams #1 (Support Development of National e-Strategies) and #8 (Support Local Content and Applications Development). As of the latest DOT Force update, a draft organization model and business plan for Team #1 had been distributed to all DOT Force members. As for Team #8, progress has been made toward planning and design of three interrelated initiatives: 1) an International e-Development Resource Network of regulatory, policy and strategy expertise from both North and South; 2) the Global Digital Opportunities Initiative (GDOI) which will provide developing nations with pro bono expertise and resources to create e-strategies that advance development goals, and 3) the Italian initiative on "E-Government for Development". Moreover, it has launched a pilot study in the Pondicherry region of India in order to test the feasibility of recommendations surrounding the establishment of an Open Knowledge Network (OKN).[34]

Finally, France officially assigned members from two separate government ministries - Foreign Affairs and Economy, Finance & Industry ministries – to the DOT Force and has sustained its encouragement of involvement by French NGOs and the private sector.[35] This is being done in parallel with France's continuing efforts to improve the delivery and personalization of e-government services (to be accomplished by 2005) and increase overall French participation in the information society – in line with the eEurope 2002 goals shared with other EU jurisdictions.[36,37] Specifically, all EU member states have committed to having all their basic public services for citizens and businesses online by the end of 2002. In addition, essential public data is also be online at this point, including legal, administrative and cultural information as well as information on the environment and road traffic.[38]

Germany: +1

As with other G8 member countries, Germany assigned resources to the DOT Force, specifically personnel from the Ministries of Economics & Technology, and Economic Cooperation and Development. Germany also assumed co-chair responsibility for the Human Capacity Building, Knowledge Creation and Sharing Team (Team #3), alongside Siemens, representing the German Private Sector. The Team's goals include assessing the supply of activities/initiatives versus their demand in the area of capacity building and knowledge creation, and then determining which additional activities and programs should be developed in order to respond to the urgent needs of developing countries. By February 2002, the Team had completed an inventory of planned G8 country activities and approved new projects, and the Team was finalizing the need assessment of selected developing countries.[39]

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[33] DOT Force October update – The Way Forward: http://www.dotforce.org/reports/montreal_report.html
[34] 2nd Update on the Implementation of the DOT Force Genoa Plan of Action February, 2002
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/Summary_ConfCall_Feb_2002.doc
[35] DOT Force – Annex 1 – List of Members: see
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/DOTForce_membership.html
[36] France Moves Towards Open e-Government: see http://petition.eurolinux.org/pr/pr15.html?LANG=en
[37] How France Pols say Pork: Net. See http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,45280,00.html
[38] Important eEurope 2002 dates: see
http://www.google.ca/search?q=cache:ikn9NQb9Ht4C:www.government-
online.be/chronology/europe.htm+Europe+%22eEurope+2002%22&hl=en&ie=UTF8
[39] 2nd Update on the Implementation of the DOT Force Genoa Plan of Action February, 2002
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/Summary_ConfCall_Feb_2002.doc

Germany has also made progress on other fronts. In the long-term, it is working towards more intensive co-operation in ICT development policy with Tanzania, Uganda, Laos, Vietnam and Peru.[40] Furthermore, it is directly supporting a number of international organizations in the area of ICT that complement the work of the DOT Force. For instance, it has committed $5 million over three years to the Development Gateway Foundation, which funds projects that "bridge the digital divide".[41],[42]

Domestically, Germany has pursued implementation of eEurope 2002, in great part through its own "Innovation and Jobs" action plan, which calls for specific e-Business and e-government initiatives to be implemented by 2005. Actions will be taken in several areas, including ensuring broad access to the internet, providing an infrastructure that encourages the development of new applications, improving European and international co-operation, and modernizing governmental services through electronic delivery.[43],[44] As a testament to its success towards meeting its overall eCommerce goals thus far, Forrester Research projects Germany to represent a € 406 billion ($345 billion) eCommerce market by 2004 and account for more than 25% of all eCommerce turnover achieved in Europe, making it by far the eCommerce leader in that region.[45]

Italy: +1

Italy co-chaired the first DOT Force Implementation Teams meeting in Montreal, Canada, October 9-10 2002, where one Implementation Team was established to address each of the nine Priority Areas of the Genoa Plan of Action.[46] Four officials from three separate government ministries have been assigned by Italy to the DOT Force.[47] Italy is the Co-Chair (e-government) of Team #1 (Support Development of National e-Strategies) and has initiated the "E-Government for Development" project[48] that organized the International Conference on E-Government for Development in Palermo, Sicily, held on April 10-11, 2002.[49] Domestically, Italy is keeping pace with its international objectives, as it has the second fastest national research network, but the percentage of the population which uses the internet is below the EU average, as studied in a recent eEurope benchmarking report.[50]

[40] Information Society Germany – Progress Report on the Federal Government's Action Programme "Innovation and Jobs in the Information Society of the 21st Century:
http://www.iid.de/aktionen/aktionsprogramm/fortschritt/english/kapitel2_7.html
[41] New Foundation to Help Bridge Digital Divide and Reduce Poverty: see
http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/news/pressrelease.nsf/673fa6c5a2d50a67852565e200692a79/cd596dc1e23fddd085256a940074b73c?OpenDocument
[42] Development Gateway Foundation FAQ: see
http://www.developmentgateway.org/node/118859/faq/#123855
[43] Germany's Innovation and Jobs Action Plan: see
http://www.bmwi.de/textonly/Homepage/download/english/innovation_and_jobs.pdf
[44] "Methods Used by Various Countries with Regards to Increased Usage of eCommerce": see
http://www.geocities.com/ecuk_dec_2001/Chris.html
[45] "eBusiness 2004: Germany Far Ahead in Europe": see http://www.hamburg-newmedia.net/_en/new_text/new_media/ebusiness.html
[46] http://www.dotforce.org/reports/montreal_report.doc, page 1.
[47] DOT Force list of members, alternates, contact persons.
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/DOTForce_membership.html
[48] http://www.dotforce.org/reports/Summary_ConfCall_Feb_2002.doc , page 1;
http://www.palermoconference2002.org/en/egov2.htm
[49] http://www.dotforce.org/reports/Summary_ConfCall_Feb_2002.doc , page 2; Alan Friedman "Using IT to fight poverty" International Herald Tribune. 12 April 2002, http://www.iht.com/articles/54460.html
[50]http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/news_library/new_documents/benchmarking/benchmarking_en.pdf, pages 5-7.

Japan: +1

Japan has officially assigned 7 members from 4 separate government ministries to the DOT Force, including representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications.[51]

Within the DOT Force Implementation Teams, Japan is an official participant in Team #1 (Support Development of National e-Strategies), Team #2 (Improve Connectivity, increase access, and lower costs), Team #3 (Enhance Human Capacity Development, Knowledge Creation and Sharing), Team #5 (Universal Participation in Global ICT Governance), and Team #8 (Support Local Content and Applications Development).[52] Japan also works in the UN ICT Task Force's High Level Advisory Board.[53]

Beyond the immediate DOT Force Grouping, Japan has also exhibited extensive involvement in promoting DOT Force initiatives. In particular, Japan has hosted and attended a number of relevant meetings. One such meeting was the Japanese-hosted East Asia ICT Cooperation Conference in Okayama on September 17, 2001.[54] A wide range of issues pertaining to ICT cooperation in East Asia were discussed here, and participation included international organizations as well as senior officials from ministries and agencies within ASEAN member countries, delegates from the ASEAN Secretariat, the chair of the e-ASEAN Working Group and members of the e-ASEAN Task Force, as well as businesspersons working in the ICT related industry from East Asia. At this meeting, Japan explained its "e-Japan Strategy" that aims to make Japan the most advanced nation in the domain of information and communication technologies within five years. Participants at the meeting discussed and pointed to the importance of promoting cooperation in a variety of ICT-related areas, including e-government, capacity building, e-society, standardization, content, ICT infrastructure, e-commerce, trade and investment, human resource development, policy and institution building and ICT for development (poverty alleviation, health, education and competitiveness). In this context, Japan outlined its "Comprehensive Cooperation Package to Address the Digital Divide" announced the previous year, including concrete efforts for the development of networks, infrastructure and information technology-related industries, the realization of e-government and the facilitation of e-commerce, as well as prospective areas for further-cooperation. In the area of e-commerce and trade promotion, Japan described the "Asia PKI (Public Key Infrastructure Forum" and TEDI (Trade Electric Data Interchange) Initiative. In addition, reports on the progress of cooperation for a common scheme of skill standards for information technology engineers and e-learning were also delivered.

The Minister for IT Policy of Japan chaired the People's Republic of China-hosted Asia IT Ministers' Conference held in Hong Kong on October 28, 2001. The conference was convened in order to bolster the potential of information technologies for the future growth of the Asian economy and to share views on the participants' information technology policies. This meeting was attended by ministers and their representatives from the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, and the Republic of Singapore.[55]

A number of DOT-Force related initiatives were outlined in a Japanese government statement issued in November, 2001, entitled "Japanese Government's Cooperation to Asia in the Field of Information and Communications Technology (IT)".[56] The statement noted that the Japanese Government considers

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[51] DOT Force list of members, alternates, contact persons.
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/DOTForce_membership.html
[52] 2nd Update on the Implementation of the DOT Force Genoa Plan of Action February, 2002
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/Summary_ConfCall_Feb_2002.doc
[53] DOT Force Statement on Linkages with the UN ICT Task Force, October 10, 2001:
"http://www.dotforce.org/reports/statement_G8_DOTForce.doc
[54] http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/it/asia/state0109-2.html
[55] http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/it/asia/press0110.html
[56] http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/asean/relation/it.html

information technology a crucial ingredient of economic development, and that it has already been extending more than US$1.2 billion assistance program in the area of information technologies. The Japanese Government committed to contributing about 1,270 million yen in the current fiscal year to the ADB, a program aimed at promoting information technologies in the developing countries of the Asia and Pacific region. In the area of technical co-operation, the statement noted that a joint program has been implemented for building the human resources of developing countries; the costs of the Japan-Singapore Partnership Program for the 21st Century (JSPP21) are borne on a 50-50 basis by Japan and Singapore. This program was set to open eight IT-related training courses in the 2001 Japanese fiscal year, where trainees would be accepted from neighbouring countries.

An additional related press release was delivered by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in August, 2001, entitled "Japan's International Cooperation on Information and Communications Technology (IT) – Primarily about the implementation situation of Japan's Comprehensive Cooperation Package to Address the International Digital Divide".[57] A number of Japan's initiatives to advance the DOT Force agenda outside the context of formal DOT Force meetings were outlined in the press release. Highlights included the following:

- Allocation of 1.5 billion yen in the FY2000 supplementary budget and the FY2001 budget for J-NET (IT Center), a network with core centers in Tokyo and Okinawa connected via satellite at human resource building bases in developing countries to offer policy advice, technical cooperation and distance training.
- 6.5 billion yen in grant aid for information technology projects (providing the financing, equipment and materials to the construct telecommunication infrastructure, facilities for remote education and telemedicine, and disaster prevention/management).
- Planned contribution of US $5 million (approximately 540 million yen) for the newly established United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) IT Fund.
- Establishment of the Japan Fund for Information and Communication Technology in July, 2001 within the Asian Development Bank (ADB) (Approximately 1.27 billion yen).
- Planned contribution of 856 million yen for the World Bank Information for Development Program (InfoDev).
- Hosting a number of conferences: a) IT and Development Cooperation (Co-hosted by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Japanese Ministry of Finance, UNDP and the World Bank), b) APT Asia-Pacific Summit on the Information Society, c) First Meeting of the Digital Opportunity Taskforce (DOT Force), d) Seminar on Information Technology for Development in the Pacific, e) Millennium Forum - Voice of Asia "21st Century Asia and the IT Revolution", f) Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Seminar on the Digital Opportunity, g) East Asia IT Cooperation Conference (Planned for Japan's fiscal year 2001), and h) Japan-India IT Summit, Japan-India IT Eminent Persons Meeting (Both planned for Japan's fiscal year 2001)
- Significant contributions for relevant projects, including the Pacific IT Promotion Project: US$1 million (contribution to UNDP) and IT-related assistance to CARICOM countries: Approximately US$1.4 million (contribution to UNDP and UNESCO), e-TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) Project: US$1.5 million (contribution to UNDP), DOT Force administrative costs: US$750,000 (contribution to UNDP).
- Undertaking the Asia-Pacific Region International Humanitarian Assistance Centre (e-Centre) Project: Approximately US$1.9 million (contribution to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security). This centre uses the Internet to train for emergency humanitarian assistance to UN staff, NGO members and government officials in the Asia-Pacific region in order to reinforce human resources for emergency preparedness.

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[57] http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/it/coop0108.html

Russia: -1

Russia has assigned one government official, the assistant to the Russian sherpa, to the DOT Force.[58] The only DOT Force implementation team involving Russian participation is in Team #3 (Enhance Human Capacity Development, Knowledge Creation and Sharing), where Microsoft Russia has participant status.[59]   However, given that this compliance study assesses first order compliance (i.e. national government action geared toward fulfilling the summit commitment), private sector participation in DOT Force initiatives alone does not entail compliance.   Given these operational parameters, Russia's participation within the DOT Force implementation teams has little to offer in the area of compliance with the Genoa commitment.

Moreover, the website for the Russian Digital Opportunities Task Force[60] has not been updated since June 1 2001. Russia's partnership with Global Knowledge Partnership to organize a consultative process appears to have ended,[61] and their discussion forum has not had any messages posted since 16 March 2001.[62] There are no records from a planned conference, "Global Knowledge Russia", scheduled to be held on 25-26 September 2001.[63] This could reflect the fact that Russia may be more on the receiving end of the digital divide rather than on the information technology providing side. Their compliance with the DOT Force plan, though, should take into account the lower expectations of the Russians from the beginning.

United States: +1

The United States is a participant in the DOT Force Implementation Team #3 (Enhance Human Capacity Development, Knowledge Creation and Sharing) and the US Council for International Business is a participant in Team #7 (Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) for Health Care and Support Against Disease).[64] The section of the US State Department which is responsible for the DOT Force is the Strategic Planning and Satellite Policy (CIP/SP) in the International Communication and Information Policy (CIP) group of the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs.[65] The United States government have left more of the DOT Force work to the private sector than the European participants. Nevertheless, the United States has assigned three officials from three government agencies to the DOT Force.[66]

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[58] DOT Force list of members, alternates, contact persons.
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/DOTForce_membership.html
[59] http://www.dotforce.org/reports/Summary_ConfCall_Feb_2002.doc
[60] http://www.iis.ru/dotforce/index.en.html
[61] http://www.globalknowledge.org/
[62] http://www.iis.ru/dotforce/forum/archive1/threads.ru.html
[63] http://www.iis.ru/dotforce/events/events.en.html
[64] http://www.dotforce.org/reports/Summary_ConfCall_Feb_2002.doc
[65] http://www.state.gov/e/eb/cip/c621.htm
[66] DOT Force list of members, alternates, contact persons.
http://www.dotforce.org/reports/DOTForce_membership.html