

Minister shares Malaysia's ICT experience

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By: Gervais J. Henrie

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Article blurb Minister highlights the important role of ICTs on economic growth and development.

"Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) is here to stay. Better embrace it so as to get the maximum benefits out of it.

That was the key message from the Malaysian Minister of Energy, Water and Communications, on Wednesday at the Stockholm Challenge and the African Information Society Initiative Media Awards 2007.

Dr. Lim Keng Yaik spoke of the many innovations that have transformed lives such as the discovery of fire and the industrial revolution, labeling them 'landmark' achievements.

But he said unlike these two, information revolution "leaves you no choice. It engulfs you and leaves you no option, but to embrace it."

ICTs are often credited as the catalysts which have transformed the global economy, by giving it a more dynamic edge through the sharing of information and knowledge.

Dr Yaik shared the Malaysian experience which he said is now benefiting from an ICT and knowledge based economy.

"The experience has turned us into a virtual being allowing us to do anything? The mobile phones gave us virtual offices; e-commerce brought the market place into our homes and e-government made the state more accountable and transparent," he explained.

Dr Yaik acknowledged that there are pitfalls still lurking ahead in making ICTs relevant namely, broadband access and local contents, two elements he said that are difficult to provide.

He told delegates that there is no need to re-invent the wheel, but rather share knowledge and explore all opportunities for co-operation and collaboration in taking the ICT4D agenda forward.

"Sharing and partnership will lead to a world of equal opportunities," remarked Dr Yaik.