

Editorial note

At a time of huge economic and technological changes the business community must pay special care in answering societal needs and expectations. During the Dublin meeting all of you, members of the Hitachi Science and Technology Forum, contributed to a thorough review of many of the implications of the e-commerce on the EU society.

Let me stress again that this is the major contribution the Hitachi senior management is expecting from this forum.

The pilot test we carried out through the setting up of a working group in charge of selecting the topic(s) of the meeting, of suggesting speakers, has worked out extremely well and it is a pleasure to see Volker Braun taking over Michael Verhagen. Our many thanks to both of them and to their fellows members of the past and present working groups.

Our gratitude also to the distinguished speakers who managed to cover all topics within a time frame which was designed to meet some of your demands in terms of seminar time and personal/free time. I guess we have achieved a fair balance between working session and free time. This has been reflected by the many post seminar notes we got from many of you, for which our deep appreciation. We are on the right track. With your constant support we want to make these meetings a contribution to the EU debate on societal issues.

What will be the theme of the Brussels seminar? The working group will be meeting in Brussels in November and I should come back to you before the year-end.

Hiroaki Nakanishi, Managing Director of Hitachi Europe Ltd., will return to Japan at the end of the month. He has kindly accepted to give us his general impressions of Europe, through an interesting article.

Do not hesitate to communicate with us on any related issue directly, or not, to the forum. On our side we need your help to identify some HIVIPS alumni, Grégoire Poisson will contact you by e-mail. Thank you for giving us some of your time so that we can enlarge our Forum.

Again, it was a pleasure meeting all of you in Dublin.

Norikiyo Koide

General Manager

Hitachi Corporate Office, Europe



FORUM MEMBERS VOICE The Hitachi Forum is truly our forum

Michael Verhagen

*Chairman of the Working Group
"Electronic commerce"*

At the second Hitachi Science & Technology Forum in Krefeld, Germany, I volunteered to lead a working group that would help Hitachi define the agenda for the forum in Dublin. To emphasise that we, as HIVIPS alumni, have a significant role in defining the content and purpose of this forum, Hitachi asked us to define the theme for the next forum. The working group established in Krefeld explored the theme: "Electronic Commerce and its impact on society". Considering all the turmoil surrounding electronic commerce over the past year, it was a very interesting subject to engage in. Our most difficult task therefore, was not to find interesting topics related to E-Commerce, but to select the most exciting topics from the extensive list that the working group had composed. The brainstorming I had with the working group, and of course the forum itself, revealed to me the incredible pace at which Electronic Commerce is influencing various aspects of the society that we live in. At the forum we had very interesting speakers giving us insight into a few of these aspects. The four speaker sessions of the forum were organised around the main topics selected by the working group: "Employment and new busi-

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ness", "Protection of Privacy", "Education", and "Societal implications". After the opening statement by Dr. Nakamura, we kicked off with the session on "Employment and new business". So far, the new economy has created an unprecedented amount of outstanding vacancies. New innovative businesses come and go quickly to get a share of the Internet madness. From the second session on "Protection of privacy" it became clear that there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that data that we wish to keep private can not

Technologies of the Future

Progress Report by **Volker Braun**,
Chairman of the Working Group

"Technologies of the Future" was selected by the participants of the 3rd Hitachi Science & Technology Forum in Dublin as the focus of the 4th Forum in 2001. The previous Forums ("Information Society Technologies" and "e-commerce and its Impact on Society") dealt with technologies entering our daily lives and amongst the driving forces of stock markets for 2-3 years. The 4th Forum aims to look further into the future by focusing on technologies with market windows opening in 3-5 years time. The economical relevance of such "Future Technologies" has become visible in, for example, the sharp rise of environmental or biotechnology stocks in the beginning of this year. In my view the decision for "Technologies of the Future" evolved as a compromise, the topics receiving strong interest from the HIVIPS participants. On the other hand, a large number of the Forum participants have a background related to Information Technologies (IT) and therefore they were concerned to support a non-IT topic.

Eight HIVIPS participants volunteered to form a working group to assist Hitachi in preparing the 4th Forum. I was elected chairman of the working group partly because of my experi-

ence in preparing the 3rd Forum and partly for proposing the selected topic. Our initial e-mail brainstorming soon revealed that there are a vast number of topics related with Future Technologies, so we will have to narrow the scope to one or two main topics. The final topic should be related to Hitachi's R&D activities and should take into account the interests of the audience. It is too early to predict the final topic, but the working group made significant progress and we hope to be able to complete the selection by the beginning of September 2000. The working group meeting is, from my experience, the most relevant event to guarantee the success of the next Forum. During this meeting, the key issues will be worked out and speakers proposed. Before the meeting on November 17-18, 2000 in Brussels, it is essential to have agreed on a carefully chosen topic and to have developed a rough idea of possible key issues. As there is six months between this year's working group meeting and the actual Forum, I am confident that the working group will have a significant impact on the selection of speakers.



ous dinner at the forum hotel Saturday evening.

The interest Hitachi has with this forum was expressed by the presence of Dr. Nakamura, Executive Vice President of R&D Group, Hitachi, Ltd. Dr. Nakamura opened the second day with a very interesting insight in the "i.e. Hitachi plan". He was followed by the final session of the day on societal implications of E-Commerce.

Hitachi puts a lot of effort into ensuring this forum is truly our forum. After the final session a new working group, under the guidance of Volker Braun, was formed. I am sure the working group together with Hitachi will do an excellent job in preparing the next forum for you in Brussels next year. I thoroughly enjoyed the forum in Dublin, and I hope to see many of you next year in Brussels.

European Connexion Special edition "Electronic Commerce and its impact on Society" available on request.

My positive experience of the working group during the preparation of the 3rd Forum motivated me to volunteer for a second time. I am really enjoying the mind-broadening discussions in an international team with participants with backgrounds in various fields. Learning about modern technologies different from my professional expertise is another positive side effect. Hitachi made all the meetings a real pleasure by choosing enjoyable surroundings, organising afternoon city tours and, last but not least, by offering us the mouth-watering opportunities to enjoy the local haute cuisine.

Due to the high motivation of the working group, the proper scheduling of the working group meeting and the careful guidance by Hitachi I am convinced that the 4th Forum will be as successful as its predecessors.

Let's work ...

**Working Group meeting:
November 17-18, 2000,
Brussels**

The meeting in Brussels will be supported by the Hitachi Corporate Office, Europe. The Group will present a progress report on their findings, and give recommendations for next year's Hitachi Science & Technology Forum in Brussels May 18, 19, 20, 2000.

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“Feedback from Dublin”

“Thank you once again for hosting the Science & Technology Forum and for allowing me to participate in the meeting. I found it enlightening and enjoyable. I look forward very much to helping to plan next years meeting!”

Dr. Jim Greer

Forum Member, Ireland / Member of the working group 2001

“Thank you for inviting us at the Hitachi Forum in Dublin. I found the subject this year very interesting, very complete. Every year it is much more interesting. I hope next year would be also an interesting subject (the title seems to be). I hope I could participate another year at the working group. By the way, it is a very good opportunity to join our friends from Japan, and to remember all the good souvenirs we had. “

Cécile CAPPEAU

Forum Member, France

“I attended the Hitachi forum in Ireland and I just would like to let you know that the forum was very interesting and very well organised. A real success! I would like to attend next year as well. Best regards,

Jelmen Meijerink

Forum Member, The Netherlands

“I congratulate Hitachi for the excellent, very comfortable and friendly organisation. I met many interesting people and had an interesting time. I hope you can repeat this again. If you need any help or information for the coming forum or on other topics, I would be very honoured if you contact me. Best regards and looking forward to meeting you again.”

Prof. Dr. Guenter Mueller

Forum Member, Germany Speaker during the Dublin meeting

My impressions of Europe by Hiroaki Nakanishi

After a two-year term as Managing Director of Hitachi Europe Ltd., Hiroaki Nakanishi will return to Japan at the end of August as Managing Officer and General Manager of Information and Telecommunication Group, Hitachi, Ltd. He has contributed a great deal to Hitachi's business development in Europe.

"During my term as Managing Director of Hitachi Europe Ltd., I have had the opportunity to learn a lot not only about European countries and their business practices but also about the European Society, from which I have found two main features. The most striking one is the great diversity of its peoples, cultures and languages. This multi-cultural aspect leads to several distinct approaches in business practices as well as in political decision-making. When I visited Nordic European countries upon my arrival, I realised how their view on Europe was so different from the one in countries I had previously visited such as France or Germany. Mainly due to their recent history, Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs) are also completely different. It seems therefore difficult to group these individual nations under the single term "Europe," and even more difficult to draw a conclusion on which countries should be legitimately included in the European Union. I would say that there is a lasting diversity in the national states and cultures, which persists within the European society as a whole. The second main feature is its ability to manage transnational cooperation. Historical experience of European nations has progressively raised their awareness about the necessity to cooperate in case of collective interest. European nations have learned how to work together and can therefore combine their strengths very efficiently.

The technological level of Europe is at a world class level. Fields such as mobile communication, telematics for transport application or smart cards systems constitute solid strengths. What is interesting is that every EU Member States has developed its own expertise and know-how in a specific sector. For instance, Germany has a traditional excellence in many manufacturing industries, UK has a renowned ability for financial services,



while France is reinforcing its position in agri-foodstuffs or aeronautics. I have also noticed the real capacity of European companies to cooperate together when it is necessary. I think that the Single Market experience added to the European technology cooperative policy have provided an excellent basis for European companies to learn how to work together. European consortia like Airbus or the achievement of common standards such GSM are a good illustration. Due to its multi-cultural society and its technological breakthroughs, I am convinced that Europe has an inner strength that definitely makes it a core player in tomorrow's world economy.

Over the years, Hitachi Europe Ltd. has been firmly established inside the European market. Our company is committed to constantly develop its activities in Europe, with a focus on Information Technologies. I would like to thank all of those who have supported Hitachi's activities in Europe through the recent years. As I return to Japan on a new assignment, it is my sincere wish that this gracious support continues in the years to come. Our ultimate goal is to become "The best solutions partner" for the European market while contributing to improve European citizens' quality of life.

I wish to all members of the Hitachi Science & Technology Forum a successful meeting in May 2001 in Brussels. Good work!

Hitachi International School Teachers Exchange Program (HISTEP)

Hitachi believes education is the key to improve mutual understanding between the peoples. The Hitachi International School Teachers Exchange Program (HISTEP) promotes cross-cultural understanding and exchanges of ideas to educate youth. Since 1987, 162 teachers from Europe, Japan and the US have been invited to learn about the education system of their host countries and engaging in round table discussions. In their home schools they are then able to share their experiences in the classroom.

In addition, the HISTEP Forum provides participating teachers with a platform to address global educational issues. The 2000 edition was held on July 6, in Tokyo. Benefiting from previous reciprocal visits, HISTEP 2000 participating teachers from Japan, Europe and the US exchanged ideas and opinions on the topic "School Education in the Future - How and to what extent Information and Communication Technology (ICT) should be utilised." The HISTEP website enables teachers to keep in touch while exchanging ideas continuously.

More information on:
<http://www12.big.or.jp/~htcpa/histep/index.html>



• *Ingrid Tjio, Dutch HISTEP 2000 participant, teaching Japanese pupils.*

HITACHI NEWS

World's fastest civilian computer officially starts work

Hitachi SR8000 welcomed by Bavarian Academy of Sciences

On June 28, 2000, the Bavarian Minister of Science, Hans Zehetmair and the Federal Secretary of State for Training and Research, Dr. Uwe Thomas, started the world's fastest computer for civilian use at the Leibniz Centre at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences in Munich.

The first Teraflops computer in Germany, the Hitachi SR8000-F1 will demonstrate a peak computing capacity in the first delivery stage of 1.34 Tflops/s. By way of comparison, the most powerful computing system in Europe up to now was a computer at the German Weather Service, rated at 0.98 Tflops/s.

The SR8000 is the latest in a long line of Hitachi super-computers and was introduced to the market in December 1998. While twelve SR8000s have already successfully been installed in Japan, the LRZ contract represents the largest in Europe.

More than a hundred guests attended the ceremony from the world of politics, economics and science. After addresses from the Bavarian Minister of Science, the Federal Secretary of State

for Training and Research and Professor Dr. Franz Durst of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg describing the significance of high-performance computing for science and the economy, the guest were able to gain an impression of some of the applications made possible by this leading edge technology.

The range of applications extends from astronomy, to biochemistry, electrical engineering, geophysics, informatics, engineering sciences, mathematics, medicine, meteorology and physics and on to fluid mechanics.

The new computer is at the disposal of science and the economy for the whole of Germany. Demand from the fields of science and economics for super-computing power is enormous, with the newly established Steering Committee which is responsible for the assessment and approval of projects for using the Hitachi computer, already in receipt of applications which would double the capacity of the system for over two years.

Note: 1 TFLOPS = 1 trillion floating point computer operations per second

Hitachi researchers at the eBusiness and eWork 2000 Conference & Exhibition

Three researchers from Hitachi will participate as speakers at the eBusiness and eWork 2000 Conference & Exhibition to be held 18-20 October 2000 in Madrid. Hiroshi Yoshiura will address "Authenticating Web-based Virtual Shops Using Verifiable Visuals Seals"(Session "Dealing in Confidence"); Masatoshi Hino will talk about "Standard Smart Card Integrated Settlement System (SMILE) Project in Japan"(Session "Smart Card based infrastructure"), and Masaru Takeuchi will give a speech on "Sign Language Translation Technology and its Applications"(Session "Human centred Internet issues").

The scope of the event is based on the new European initiative in New methods of Work and Electronic Commerce, which is part of the European Commission's Information Society

Technologies (IST) programme. The conference provides a forum for presentation and discussion of new highly innovative developments in e-work, e-business and e-commerce and issues related to individuals, organisations and markets in the emerging

More information at:
<http://www.ebew.net>

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