

Appeal to the Governments of BRICs

In the current scenario of the Global Economic Crisis, the Information Technology (IT) sector appears as a great opportunity for the countries to leverage economic growth. This fact becomes evident when we analyze aspects directly related to the IT industry development, such as jobs generation, overall growth in productivity and increase in competitiveness and in GDP.

This opportunity created by IT has to be seen by the national authorities and decision makers as a priority and tools for both - recovery from the crisis and creation of New Economy based on Knowledge and Innovations. This is especially true for the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China), once the emerging economies need a broad support from their respective Governments in order to expand competitiveness in the global market.

For these reasons, RUSSOFT (Russian Software Developers Association) and BRASSCOM (Brazilian Association of Information Technology and Communication Companies) apply to IT-Communities and to the Governments of BRIC countries with an appeal to fasten development of IT sectors and to support international cooperation between BRIC countries in the field of IT.

We all need to realize that IT infrastructure plays nowadays the same strategic role for the development of the entire Civilization as it used to be the case with rail-roads and energy distribution infrastructure in the past. We can not limit ourselves by supporting development of “traditional” infrastructure alone within the economic crisis. That would have been a dramatic mistake to omit the opportunity to use the period of crisis for forging Infrastructure of New Economy - information and communication infrastructure.

That new infrastructure means Telecom infrastructure (such as broadband Internet access) which will diminish Digital Divide in the World and will allow millions of people to integrate into the Modern Society based on Knowledge.

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It also includes large integration of IT into activity of Governments executing their functions, massively based on Open Source technologies and all across the Globe. Extensive eGovernment programs will guarantee direct dialogue between population and States, between people of different countries in common space-flow of Data.

The modern IT infrastructure will also include development of new highly scalable, mobile and energy efficient platforms that will boost productivity and performance which will ramp the industry to a new level of TCO reduction. The programming languages of high integration will allow professionals to be much more productive in their technological activities and will allow population to be much more actively involved into the process of creating new Knowledge and new Tools for communication and data-exchange.

Second – the continuous growth of the IT sector and the realization of its potential will highly depend on the Education. It is equally true for both – professionals and population. Education will enable people to be creative and efficient in the professional activity and effective in their use of IT in business and in the everyday life.

We also need to make a particular stress on another important factor of the IT growth and development. IT sector is the far most people driven sector, where over 60% of costs are salaries. We can not expect significant growth of the sector unless Governments understand necessity of diminishing the tax burden on the sector instead of making that burden even higher.

IT business behaves very much like a liquid substance does. It will leave countries with high tax burden and come to those countries where conditions for IT business are better. Our goal is to generate IT activities as much as possible on all the territories of our countries in order to use potential of IT development in maximum. That is why we all need to have similar stimulating conditions for the IT business in order to facilitate mutually beneficial cooperation between BRIC countries.

We are sure that together and with the flourishing IT sector, we will be able to meet new challenges which arise from the crisis. We only need a well shared coherent vision on the problems and continuous cooperation between IT Associations and respective Governments in BRIC countries. We also invite all other IT-organizations in the World to join our efforts aimed at supporting development of the IT sector worldwide.

BRASSCOM, RUSSOFT