

OPENING REMARKS

WORLD CONGRESS ON

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

George Newstrom, Chair of WITSA

Wednesday 27 February 2002

Koh-**NEE**-cheewah, Nee Ha**OW**, Buenos Dias,
Yah Su, Selamat-de-**TANG**, and Hello

I welcome all of you to the World Congress on
Information Technology 2002.

A special welcome to our international guests.

And a special thanks to Ross for that warm
introduction.

(PAUSE)

I'm here today as Chairman of WITSA, the World Information Technology and Services Alliance.

For those of you new to WITSA, we are the governing body that has oversight of each World IT Congress, just as the International Olympic Committee has oversight over every Olympic Games.

Our Board of Directors, which met here yesterday, has representation from 47 countries from around the world.

The World Congress is our flagship event, and this year's gathering in Adelaide is no exception.

The first world congress that I attended was in Bilbao, Spain in 1996 and I've been an ardent supporter ever since.

That congress was chaired by Pedro Guitierrez De Cos, who is in this room today

What makes these events so successful?

The first step is to choose a great location.

I congratulate the Australian Information Industry Association on making a successful bid to WITSA to hold the event in Australia in 2002, and in having the foresight to choose Adelaide as the venue.

Then there are the organizers who turned this Congress event from an exciting concept to the reality we see today.

In Adelaide's case, I want to give a **special thanks** to the Chairman of the 2002 Congress Executive Committee, Ross Adler, and the Chief Executive of the Congress, John Gygar (GUY-GER), and their teams.

I would also like to **pay tribute** to all the sponsors who have supported the 2002 congress.

I also want **to acknowledge** the World Bank for funding to bring IT association executives from 15 emerging economies to the WITSA General Assembly meeting and to this World Congress.

Actions like these will help us bridge the digital divide.

And, of course, **I must thank** all of **you** who have joined us here in Adelaide as Congress delegates.

(PAUSE)

This year marks the first time the Congress has been held in the Southern Hemisphere. What a **great event** to follow the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

And what a **great city** in which to hold the Congress!

Adelaide is a **centre of IT&T excellence** in Australia.

This city is the home to major IT&T businesses,
with **significant investments** made by Motorola,
British Aerospace and EDS.

Plus there are a growing number of IT pioneers,
developers and integrators who have based their
enterprises in Adelaide.

South Australia as a whole has a rapidly expanding
base of more than 700 IT companies, with 14
research centers of IT excellence.

You can see why it made sense to make Adelaide
home for the Congress in 2002.

(PAUSE)

The Chinese welcomed ‘The Year of the Horse’ on the Lunar New Year earlier this month.

To the Chinese, this year symbolises **strength, power and determination**. The information technology industry can easily be considered the ‘horse’ of the new global economy.

This week’s Congress in Adelaide is where you will find the ‘**thoroughbreds**’ of our industry.

(PAUSE)

Let me make this promise to you - choosing to come to this Congress is one decision you will never regret.

Over the next three days you'll be challenged to think in **new ways**; to look at the future through **new eyes**.

Thanks again for choosing to join us.

(ENDS)