

MEDIA RELEASE



World Congress on IT 2002
PO Box 8096, Station Arcade Adelaide SA 5000 Australia

President Bill Clinton to be keynote speaker at World Congress on IT 2002

President Clinton to join host of leading international speakers at premier global forum in Australia

Adelaide, 12 June 2001: South Australian Premier, John Olsen, announced in London last night that President Bill Clinton will make the keynote address at the international forum, World Congress on IT, to be held in Adelaide from 26 February to 1 March 2002.

“President Clinton is the first in what we expect will be a leading line-up of prestigious international speakers for the Congress,” said John Gygar, CEO, World Congress on IT 2002. “Previous speakers have included names like Bill Gates, Carly Fiorina, Michael Dell, Margaret Thatcher and Mikhail Gorbachev.

“The Congress provides the opportunity for Australia to showcase its technology and innovation to an international audience. It lets Australian businesses and people gain exposure to an audience it may not otherwise have had the chance to be in front of,” said John Gygar.

“During his eight-year presidency, President Clinton used information technology to help create a record period of economic prosperity for the United States and his attendance at WCIT2002 will bring a global focus to the event.

“We are delighted President Clinton will be our keynote speaker as he has always been a strong advocate for information technology and benefits it brings to all aspects of society,” said John Gygar.

During President Clinton’s administration, policies were introduced to advance computing and communications programs and funding was increased into key areas of IT through a number of initiatives such as the IT² (Information Technology for the Twenty First Century).



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“In addition, a private sector committee was established, the Presidents Information Technology Advisory Committee (PITAC), that looked specifically at the long-term, fundamental IT research needed to sustain the Information Revolution,” he said.

“Today in the United States, more than 131 million Americans hold IT-related jobs and more than 700 households per hour are being connected to the Internet. Computer hardware, software and high-speed communication systems are more powerful and prevalent than ever. They are essential to people’s daily lives at both home and at work. We couldn’t have hoped for a better case study for Congress delegates than the United States rapid development in this area. President Clinton’s insight and experiences will, I expect, be a tempting drawcard,” said John Gygar.

Past World Congress success

Fairfax County in Virginia, USA, who hosted the Congress in 1998 is still reaping the rewards. 363 national and international companies have decided to relocate or initiate offices in the area. These companies are primarily in the industry areas of information technology, telecommunications, Internet, financial services and bioinformatics and between them, have created nearly 33,000 new jobs in the area.

“We hope to achieve similar, if not better results when the Congress is hosted here in Australia. We hope that relationships formed during the Congress will have not just immediate impact but that there will also be lasting relationships formed that will benefit all parties in the years to come,” said John Gygar.

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About World Congress on IT 2002

The World Congress on IT 2002 (WCIT2002) is a biennial event that will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 26 February to 1 March 2002. It is the first time in its 13-year history that the event will be held in the southern hemisphere.

WCIT2002 is an international forum for leadership in information technology that attracts the most prominent leaders in the IT, business and political arenas.

It is the flagship event of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) – the global peak body for the information industry. WITSA has the national IT associations of 41 countries as members, with the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) as Australia’s member organisation.

Past speakers at the Congress have included a mix of IT industry leaders, prominent commentators on the new economy and political leaders and statesmen. Names like Bill



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Gates, Michael Dell, Carly Fiorina, Larry Ellison, Don Tapscott, Lester Thurow, Bill Clinton, Maggie Thatcher, Mikhail Gorbachev and Al Gore.

The Congress is expected to attract approximately 1800 delegates to Adelaide.

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