ICTD 2012
Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, United States

UNCTAD Session
15 March 2012
11.45-13.00

ICTs as an Enabler for Private Sector Development

This session will feature an interactive discussion among experts and practitioners on how to take advantage of the recent significant improvements in ICT connectivity and applications accelerate private sector development. Participants in the session will receive a free copy of the Information Economy Report 2011: ICTs as an Enabler for Private Sector Development.

To achieve sustained development, the creation of productive capacities and employment must be placed at the heart of policy making. This is all the more urgent in view of current economic turbulence. With UNCTAD’s Information Economy Report 2011 as a starting point, this session will highlight the possibilities for ICTs and ICT-enabled solutions to become a more powerful force for improving the competitiveness of enterprises. This potential is currently far from fully realized.

The session will focus specifically on how to bridge the two development communities dealing with private sector development (PSD) and ICT4D, respectively. The discussion will revolve around four facets of the ICT-PSD interface: 1) ICT infrastructure as a factor in the investment climate; 2) ICT use by the private sector; 3) the ICT sector as a part of the private sector; and 4) ICT use in interventions aimed at facilitating PSD. In the discussion, panellists and the audience will be engaged in a discussion about the most relevant and effective policy options.

The session will feature interventions by leading experts and policy practitioners. Participants will receive a copy of the IER 2011.

For more information on the IER 2011, please visit http://www.unctad.org/ier2011. For more information on the ICTD 2012, please visit http://ictd2012.org/

Panelists

- Torbjörn Fredriksson, UNCTAD
- Jonathan Donner, Microsoft Research
- Arafat Hossain, Katalyst
- Thao Nguyen, Newton Fellow and Star Anise Foods
- Jyrki Pulkkinen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland
- Heather Thorne, Grameen Foundation

For more information, please contact Mr. Torbjörn Fredriksson (torbjorn.fredriksson@unctad.org)