



VIS 2005

Visions of the Information Society Conference

November 3 - 4, 2005

Empa, Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research, St. Gallen, Switzerland

www.empa.ch/vis2005

Aims

The VIS 2005 conference aims to stimulate the discussion of visions of the information society with regard to sustainable development: What constitutes an information society that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs? Which are the social and environmental opportunities and risks of an ICT-based society? Outstanding international experts will present their views of the future information society in plenary sessions. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss specific topics (such as electronic waste, pervasive computing, ICT-based CO₂ reduction, methodological issues) in smaller workshops.

Background

Sustainable development can be defined simply as a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have a great potential to support sustainable development. However, most of the ICT-related technical and political trends, such as the trend towards pervasive computing or policies for 'the information society', are not exploiting this potential. On the contrary, there is some risk that ICT will become counterproductive with regard to environmental and social sustainability. Systematic approaches to develop ICTs and their applications in view of the goal of sustainable development are therefore essential.

Empa's four-year research program 'Sustainability in the Information Society' (SIS), co-funded by the ETH Board, was devoted to this topic and has initiated and coordinated a series of projects at [Empa's Technology and Society Lab](#). The VIS 2005 conference serves as the final conference of the SIS program, presenting its main results to a broader audience. At the same time, the conference will give speakers from related initiatives and projects various opportunities to contribute their views and insights.

Relationship to corresponding initiatives and strategies

In the Fall of 2005, the review of the European Sustainable Development Strategy is entering its final phase. The European Commission has already proposed a stronger focus on research, technology development and innovation. Peter Johnston, Directorate General Information Society and Media, will speak on the transition to an information society and sustainable development at VIS 2005.

The International Federation for Information Processing, [IFIP](#), is going to establish a Working Group (WG) on ICT and Sustainable Development, subject to the approval by the IFIP Technical Assembly. This new WG will be a part of [IFIP TC9](#) and have its constitutional meeting at VIS 2005.

The global initiative 'Solving the E-Waste Problem' started by the United Nations University ([StEP](#)), will have a meeting at the VIS 2005 conference in connection with the workshop 'The Future of Electronic Waste Recycling'.

The World Summit on the Information Society, [WSIS](#), will enter its second phase shortly after the VIS conference. The VIS 2005 organizers are accredited for the WSIS second phase, where outcomes of the VIS 2005 conference can be made known to a broader audience (our representative at WSIS scientific side-event: Thomas Ruddy, thomas.ruddy@empa.ch).

Audience

The VIS 2005 conference is open to researchers working on technical, economic, ecological or cultural aspects of the information society, both from natural/technical science disciplines and from social science disciplines. Participants should be interested in debating and networking across the boundaries of disciplines. The number of participants will be limited to ensure intensive discussions and efficient networking.

The organizers are planning the publication of a special issue of an international journal which will include results of this conference, i.e. selected contributions from invited speakers or active workshop participants.

VIS 2005 is also addressing the general public via the media (contact for media professionals: Nicolas Böhmer, nicolas.boehmer@empa.ch).

Conference Program

Thursday, November 3

08:30-09:30	Registration and Coffee
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Invited lectures

09:30-09:45	Welcome Address
09:45-10:15	ICT Future Visions – Past and Present Prof. Dr. Friedemann Mattern, ETH Zurich
10:15-11:00	Nanotechnology and the Future of Information Technology Dr. Paul Seidler, IBM Research GmbH, Rüschlikon
11:00-11:30	A European Perspective on the Transition to an Information Society and Sustainable Development Dr. Peter Johnston, Head of Unit, Evaluation and Monitoring, Lisbon Strategy and Policies for the Information Society, European Commission
11:30-12:00	Social Informatics – Humans in the Network Society Prof. Dr. Gunilla Bradley, Namur Award Laureate, Royal Institute of Technology, Kista
12:00-12:30	Workshop Announcements

12:30-13:30	Lunch Break
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13:30-16:30 Workshops

Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3
Projecting ICT into the Future: A Challenge for Technology Assessment? Dr. Martina Merz, University of Lausanne and Empa, St. Gallen	Pervasive Computing in the Public Debate Katrin Meier, Stiftung Risiko-Dialog, St. Gallen	Life Cycle Assessment of ICT Products, Infrastructure and Services Yves Loerincik and Prof. Dr. Olivier Jolliet, EPFL, Lausanne

16:30-17:00	Coffee Break
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17:00-17:15	Greeting Address Prof. Dr. Ernst Buschor, Vice-President of the Board of the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology
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17:15-17:45	Short Presentation of Workshop Results
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20:00	Conference Dinner
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Friday, November 4

Invited lectures

08:30-09:00	Findings of the Sustainability in the Information Society Program Prof. Dr. Lorenz Hilty, Empa
09:00-09:30	Sustainability with Natural Energy & ICT Takashi 'Tachi' Kiuchi, Chairman of The Future 500 & E-Square.Inc.
09:30-10:00	The Information Society and Dematerialization Dr. Jyrki Luukkanen, Finland Futures Research Center
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break

Invited lectures

10:30-11:00	The Convergence of the Virtual and the Real World Prof. Dr. Elgar Fleisch, University of St. Gallen and ETH Zurich
11:00-11:30	The Role of Information in Assessing Cumulative Health Risks Dr. Margaret MacDonell, Argonne National Laboratory and Eco-Informa
11:30-12:00	Factor X as a Yardstick for Sustainable Lifestyles Taeko Aoe, Panasonic/Matshushita
12:00-12:30	Moving from Research to Action: an Actionplan for Europe to reduce CO₂ with ICT Katalin Szomolányi, ETNO, Magyar Telekom, and Dennis Pamlin, WWF Sweden
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break

13:30-15:00 Workshops

Workshop 4	Workshop 5	Workshop 6
The Future Environmental Impact of ICT: Debating the Results of a Simulation Study James Goodman, Forum for the Future, London, and Prof. Dr. Peter Arnfalk, IIIIEE, University of Lund	The Future of Electronic Waste Recycling Rolf Widmer, Empa, St. Gallen	Ideas for a European Actionplan to Reduce CO₂ with ICT by 2020 (follow-up discussion after the presentation on the same topic) Katalin Szomolányi, ETNO, Magyar Telekom, and Dennis Pamlin, WWF Sweden
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30-16:15	Panel Discussion	
16:15-16:30	Closing Remarks	
from 16:30	Farewell Party	



Social events

(Please make your choice by the buttons in the registration form)

- November 2 and November 4, 17.00 h: **Guided tour through the old town**, including the UNESCO world heritage Site "Convent of St. Gallen" with the world famous **Abbey Library**
- November 2: We meet for an **informal dinner**
- November 3, 08.00 h: **Guided tour through Empa-Laboratories**
- November 3: **Conference dinner**



Conference Fees

- € 400.- 2 conference days, proceedings, 2 lunches, refreshments incl.
- € 150.- Students; 2 conference days, proceedings, 2 lunches, refreshments incl.
- € 70.- Conference dinner on November 3

International Program Committee

- Peter Arnfalk, Prof. Dr., IIIIEE, University of Lund
- Chrisanthi Avgerou, Prof. Dr., London School of Economics
- Sergio Bellucci, Dr., Centre for Technology Assessment, Berne
- Gunilla Bradley, Prof. Dr., IMIT, Royal Institute of Technology, Kista
- Elgar Fleisch, Prof. Dr., University of St. Gallen and ETH Zurich
- Peter Fleissner, Prof. Dr., Technical University, Vienna
- André Golliez, itopia corporate information technology, Zurich
- James Goodman, Forum for the Future, London
- Lorenz M. Hilty, Prof. Dr., Empa, St. Gallen (chair)
- Friedrich Hinterberger, Dr., Sustainable Europe Research Institute, Vienna
- Jouni Korhonen, Dr., University of Tampere
- Rainer Kuhlen, Prof. Dr., University of Constance
- Michael Kuhnndt, Wuppertal Institute
- Friedemann Mattern, Prof. Dr., ETH Zurich
- Martina Merz, Dr., Empa/University of Lausanne
- Sadie Plant, writer, Birmingham
- Thomas Ruddy, Empa/Webster University, Geneva
- Britta Schinzel, University of Freiburg im Breisgau
- Barbara van Schewick, Dr., Technical University, Berlin
- Max Schnellmann, Dr., State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (seco), Berne
- Markku Wilenius, Prof. Dr., Finland Futures Research Center, Helsinki
- Eric Williams, Dr., United Nations University, Tokyo

Conference Registration and Hotel Reservation



Please register at: www.empa.ch/vis2005
and make your hotel reservation at:
www.st.gallen-congress.ch/congresses.shtml

How to Reach EMPA in St. Gallen

St. Gallen is located 80 kilometers east of Zurich, 16 kilometers from Lake Constance. Access from Zurich airport by train (trains leave every 30 minutes, time approx. 55 minutes) or by car (approx. 1 h).

Organization

The conference is organized by the Technology and Society Lab of Empa, the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research, in cooperation with

- Centre for Technology Assessment (TA-SWISS), Berne
- Finland Futures Research Centre (FFRC), Helsinki and Turku
- Swiss Informatics Society (SI)
- International Federation of Information Processing (IFIP), Technical Committee 'Computers and Society' (TC9)

Conference Chairman: Prof. Dr. Lorenz Hilty, lorenz.hilty@empa.ch

Conference Secretary: Therese Bracher, therese.bracher@empa.ch

Address

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CH-9014 St. Gallen, Switzerland



Links

- Empa, www.empa.ch
- Empa's Sustainability in the Information Society Program, www.empa.ch/sis
- Empa Technology and Society Lab, www.empa.ch/tsl
- VIS Conference 2005, www.empa.ch/vis2005
- International Center for Information Ethics, [ICIE](http://www.icie.org)

