THE TOKYO RESOLUTION
on
Strategic Alliance on International Non Governmental Organizations
· in Information to serve better the World Community

Signed on 12 January 1995

Preamble

We, the undersigned, international non governmental organizations representing the Information Sector in the broadest sense of the word ie. production, acquisition, dissemination, management, preservation and use of information (hereinafter referred to as management and use of information), solemnly agree to create a Strategic Alliance based on the following rationale and objectives:

1. *All countries - large and small, rich and poor - share a deep concern about many global problems, ranging from the exhaustion of the planet's environmental resources to new global threats to health; the spread of poverty and famine; political and social tensions; demographic explosions; an unstable world economy and the deterioration of the quality of life. We believe that the proper use of information for decision-making at all levels of society will help solve humanity's problems as the world enters an age of greater awareness of the importance of information. To this end, it is critical to ensure continuity in access by documenting and preserving high quality records of the actions of society, through time.*

2. *All persona must have open and unrestricted access to information, consistent with the protection of individual rights, appropriate economic incentives, and the concerns of nations and peoples as determined by their unique circumstances.*

3. *As stated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression and opinion; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers".*

4. *Societal improvements require a deeper and widespread understanding of how to find and use authentic information properly. Universal literacy, lifelong learning, education and training are essential to these improvements.*

5. *We who are involved in the management and use of information face several forces of change. ' These forces are economic, political and cultural and include dramatic technological developments and vastly expanded user expectations for information services. The forces also present many challenges concerning the protection of intellectual property, the provision of access, protection of privacy, security, integrity and preservation of information, and the increased need for common legal and technical standards.*

6. *A particularly serious problem is the increasing information gap between various countries and societies within them, which is exacerbated by the increasing cost of information. Developing countries have an essential need both for information produced outside their frontiers and for information they themselves produce which must be properly managed, disseminated and used.*

7. *Each of our non-governmental organizations has its own distinct identity and objectives which should be preserved. Allied, we represent a major force which can lead the way forward for the information professions. We realize that the societal problems are too great for any single organization to help solve alone and that we should avoid any unnecessary overlap of effort. Intense collaboration, consultation and strategic planning are the answers.*

We believe that a strategic alliance will contribute to advancing the goals of our organizations, contribute to the solution of the world's problems, better serve the world community and intensify our collaboration with Intergovernmental Organizations.

Our common goal is to serve society by:

a. Providing an international forum to address issues of common interest.

b. Identifying common issues in the management and use of information; clarifying diverging positions and agreeing on new cooperative solutions, especially concerning equitable access, balanced intellectual property protection, the protection of privacy, information systems security and common legal and technical standards.

c. Forecasting and assessing changes affecting the provision of information to meet the expected challenges.

d. Ensuring that the information professions take a pro-active stance in studies aimed at elucidating future aspects of human endeavour.

e. Ensuring that the development and application of information technologies effectively meet the needs of users of information.

f. Encouraging the use of new teaching and learning technologies and other telematics techniques in education and lifelong learning starting at the pre-school age.

g. Ensuring that the information professions, through education and training, maintain and further develop their knowledge and expertise in order to keep up with changes in the environment.

h. Encourage the development of communication training and education programmes that increase awareness of the importance of interactive communication between providers and users of information.

i. Advocating practices that guarantee the integrity and preservation of information irrespective of format and medium, and ensuring that the accuracy and quality of the information are maintained when it is passed along through its cycles of transformation and transfer.

j. Ensuring that the cost and value of information are recognized in the development of information policies, programmes, systems, and services. However, we need to try to influence policies to ensure that economic barriers do not prevent access to information.

k. Encouraging the discussion of ethical issues for the information society and the development of principles (e.g. codes of conduct for appropriate sectors) related to the responsibilities of the information professions.

l. Encouraging the need for the development of strong policies on information by suggesting directions for future policy and strategic planning.

m. Intensifying the collaboration between public and private sectors, in particular by infusing the values of each into the other.

n. Influencing the creation of new viable product and service clusters both within the information sectors and with external partners.

o. Encouraging the worldwide identification of information capabilities and mobilization of these for the solution of major global problems.

p. Devising international programmes to strengthen the awareness of the value of information in all areas of human endeavour such as education, science, industry culture and recreation.

q. Creating awareness and promoting the role of international non-governmental organizations in information.

r. Developing a coordinated, international approach to the research needs of the information field.

- - - -- - - - - - - -

The above set of circumscribing definitions of rationale and proper usage in the Information Technology sphere of the world and the consequent goals to guide practitioners and all others involved in ethical behaviour, have been produced by thirty three international federations. These federations have all signed the Resolution on behalf of their Members. They cover the scientific, engineering, educational and liberal professions.