

Civil Society Side Events at the World Summit of Information Society at Geneva 2003

More than 120 Summit Events

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) taking place in Geneva in December 2003, consists of a core political event, involving the 191 United Nations member states, and side events proposed by governments, international organizations, the civil society, the private sector and the host country, Switzerland.

The summit events are scheduled between the 8th und 13th December 2003, at Palexpo and in various locations in and around Geneva. They will include conferences, workshops, exhibitions, presentations, panel discussions, forums and cultural happenings.

The Summit Events, during the Geneva Phase of WSIS, will offer an additional platform of communication for the various stakeholders and provide a unique opportunity for networking amongst the participants.

If you don't want the world to listen to one voice only, that of the masters, make yourself understood at the World Summit on the Information Society 10.-12. December 2003 at Geneva

Comunica-ch, the Swiss platform of Civil Society, in cooperation with

- AMARC (World Association of Community Radios)
- Amnesty International, Switzerland
- APC (Association for Progressive Communication)
- Bread for all / Pain pour le prochain
- comedia, the Swiss media union
- CPSP (Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility)
- CRIS (Communication Rights in the Information Society)
- Heinrich Böll Foundation
- IUED (Institut universitaire d'études du développement, Genève)
- Organisation Mondial contre la Torture
- Swiss/International Federation of Journalists
- WEMF (World Electronic Media Forum)
- Yinternet.org, Switzerland

date 6.-14.12.2003, continuously

titel «WSIS? We Seize!»

themes A platform for interventions around, outside of, and as an alternative to the agendas and organisation of the WSIS. A framework for a critique of Intellectual Property, inforwar and exploitation of informationalized labour; for supporting our global commons of ideas, participatory communication, and freedom of communication/movement; and for developing a grassroots vision of communication societies. A space for divers media experiments, actions and debates, including.

Conference 1:
MakeWorlds – a strategic conference/convention

Conference 2:
Polimedia Lab – a laboratory of horizontal communication and knowledge sharing

Conference 3:
High Noon – a Web-TV netcast, connecting independent media activism in Geneva and around the globe

place Geneva city centre

time all days

languages all

organized by Geneva03 – a loose association of media activists, artists and grassroots campaigners

more www.geneva03.org

date 11.12.2003

titel World Forum on Communication Rights

themes In four lively sessions with video and media presentations, communication rights will be explored in practice in different domains, through panel of activists, academics, and others, and through open discussion.

Session 1:
Communication and Poverty

Session 2:
Communication, Conflict and Peace

Session 3:
Communication, Copyright and Trade

Session 4:
Communication and Human Right

The «Charter on Communication Rights» will also be launched.

place Geneva, Palexpo, Conference centre, Salle Mont-Blanc

time 9.30 – 17.30

languages English, French, Spanish

organized by CRIS Campaign

sponsored by CRIS Campaign, WACC, APC, GIG, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Panos UK, PCC, WACC and the Human Rights Caucus

more www.crisinfo.org
www.communicationrights.org

date 11.12.2003

titre Les défenseurs des droits de l'homme et l'accès à l'information

sujet Organiser un panel autour de défenseurs des droits de l'homme, qui feront part des difficultés qu'ils rencontrent dans leur pays dans le domaine de l'accès à l'information. A cet égard, l'OMCT est préoccupée par les stratégies développées par les gouvernements les plus répressifs afin de contrôler l'information les concernant; stratégies qui contrastent avec leur position sur la scène internationale concernant la mondialisation et la liberté de communication. Alors que l'on assiste au développement d'un système de communication global de plus en plus sophistiqué, les gouvernements déploient de gros efforts afin de contrôler les moyens de communication et d'information, que ce soit par:
- la restriction de l'accès à Internet,
- le blocage de sites Internet,
- l'arrestation de cyber-dissidents.
Le panel s'articulera autour de représentants d'ONG et d'experts de l'ONU.

lieu Genève, Palexpo, Salle P

heure 9h30 – 16h30

langue Français

organisé par L'Organisation Mondiale contre la Torture

plus www.omct.org

meeting

date 9.-12.12.2003

titel Press Corner

themes A space where impressum (the Swiss Federation of Journalists) and the IFJ (International Federation of Journalists) will provide journalists and the public the opportunity to meet special guests (members of delegations, experts, others) on a scheduled and improvised basis. It will work as an interface between press and summit.

place Geneva, Palexpo

organized by impressum (Swiss Federation of Journalists) IFJ (International Federation of Journalists)

more www.journalistes.ch
www.journalisten.ch
www.ifj.org

date 9.12.2003

titel Session on governance

themes Global governance of information and communication technology (ICT) is undergoing a profound transformation. Long-standing multi-lateral regulatory regimes for international telecommunications, radio frequency spectrum, and satellites have been reconfigured to facilitate private markets, while new international frameworks have been erected to promote trade in services and intellectual property, and to govern Internet infrastructure, communication and commerce. But there has not been a systematic and participatory global dialogue about the procedural and substantive aspects of ICT global governance that gives sustained attention to public interest considerations. To help fill the gap, this event will bring together experts from civil society and other sectors to carefully consider both the current global policy architecture and realistic, balanced alternatives.

place Geneva, Palexpo, Room P

time 13.30 – 16.30

language English

organized by CPSR (Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility)

more www.cpsr.org

WSIS registration required to enter Palexpo Hall/Zone 2

date 11.12.2003

titel Freedom in E-culture – experiences and models

themes Conference 1:
Free software, free society – GNU/Linux projects

Conference 2:
Micro-enterprises Internet Solidaire – HowTo?

speakers Richard Stallman
Founder of Free Software Foundation and of GNU Project

Théo Bondolfi
& Yinternet.org netizens, founder of the Cooperation.net programmes – a model for generating incomes within netizenship ecosystem

place Geneva, Palexpo, Conference centre, Salle Salève

time Round table: 10.00 – 12.00
Conference 1 + 2: 13.30 – 16.30

languages French, English

organized by Yinternet.org NGO

more www.fsf.org
www.gnu.org
www.cooperation.net
www.yinternet.org

date 12.12.2003

titel Community Media Forum

themes 1 Steve Buckley (AMARC): Community Media and the WSIS
2 Regina Festa (Brazil): Media, democracy and Cultural Diversity
3 The Practice Inspires: Lessons Learnt from 30 Creative Latin American Community Radios – with live presentations by Radios 'Favela' (Brazil) and 'Los Cumiches' (Nicaragua)
4 Community Media Legislation Roundtable
5 Community Communication in Southern Africa, Zimbabwe, DR Congo
6 Globalising Community Media: Experiences from Korea, Japan, USA and Europe

place Geneva, Palexpo, Conference centre, Salle Salève

time 9.00 – 18.00

languages English, Spanish, French

organized by ALER (Latin American Association of Radio Education) AMARC (World Association of Community Radios) Bread for all CAMECO (Catholic Media Council) Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund WSIS-Community Media Caucus

more www.aler.org.ec (Spanish)
www.bfa-ppp.ch (French)
www.cameco.org (English)

exhibition

date 9.-13.12.2003

titel The African village

themes - 15 life-size photographic figures of people who have recorded stories to tell about their information technology projects and their perspective on Africa's approach to the information society.
- 15 story boards that will be exhibited and tell additional stories through words (English), without recordings.
- A Telcentre with working computers housed in a shipping container. Emmanuel and the Open Source crew are going to design interactive software for the computers. People will be able to access email from the centre but may be subjected to some African experiences such as power failures.
- A community radio broadcast will be transmitted from the site through internet and possibly in co-operation with a local radio station, terrestrially to Geneva.
- Two flat screens for playing audio-visual material produced in Africa before the summit and by African media at the Summit ...

place Geneva, Palexpo, ICT for Development Platform

time continuously

language English

organized by APC AfricaRights

more www.apc.org
www.tinyurl.com/t4la

date 10.12.2003

titel Media Liberties in the Information Society

themes Debate on state oppression, persecution and other factors threatening media liberties such as privatisation, commercialisation and concentration of medias.

speakers Ignacio Ramonet
Chief-editor «Le monde diplomatique»

Abidi Tahar
Freelance journalist, member of the Liberty Council in Tunisia, refugee in Paris

Rita Freire
Brazilian journalist, vice-director of CIRANDA-Network

place Geneva, Palexpo, Conference centre, Salle Mont-Blanc

time 17.30

languages French, English

organized by comedia, the Swiss media union and Amnesty International, Switzerland

more www.comedia.ch
www.connexnet.ch
www.amnesty.ch

date 11.12.2003

titre Development.com – partenariats publics privés: le grand mirage?

sujet Le Plan d'Action du SMSI fixe dans ses objectifs généraux que «chaque pays devrait mettre en œuvre d'ici à 2005 au moins un partenariat public-privé (PPP) ... opérationnel qui servira d'exemple pour les actions futures». Quels sont les enjeux des PPP? Qu'espère-t-on de leur multiplication? Qu'apportent-ils dans la pratique? Les PPP remplacent-ils les engagements financiers des Etats et des bailleurs de fonds internationaux? A l'occasion du vernissage du livre et CD-Rom «Coopération internationale et société de l'information: development.com» (www.iued-wsis.org), l'IUED invite des auteurs, praticiens et spécialistes des questions de développement à porter un regard critique sur les solutions préconisées par le SMSI.

lieu Genève, Palexpo, Centre de conférence, Salle Jura

heure 17h30 – 19h30

langue Français

organisé par IUED (Institut universitaire d'études du développement, Genève)

plus www.iued.unige.ch

key-side event

date 9.-12.12.2003

titel World Electronic Media Forum (WEMF)

themes A forum in which global media leaders, both private and public broadcasters and key media actors, such as journalists, academics and civil society members meet, discuss and work together. WEMF will highlight the new enhanced role of radio, TV and related websites, taking into account the new technological opportunities and the new expectations of the audiences.

time all days

more www.wemfmedia.org

WEMF registration required

exhibition

date 5.-12.12.2003

titel e-life

themes learning, medicine, government in the age of information

place Geneva, Cornavin-Station

time continuously

organized by Science et Cité

more www.science-et-cite.ch