

WT16 – IT systems in the age of the Internet

Session 1

The Chinese vision

- The Internet is unified on the level of technology but not on the human level .
- Due to language, policy, environment and value, human are still far away from real globalization
- How to promote globalization, perform innovation during globalization while keeping versatility, (It is a common concern of China and Europe).
- due to the lack of ordinary approach, of participation, Chinese network users are more willing to take part in political affairs via the Internet.
- Although every minority in China has its own language, Pu Tong Hua and Simplified Chinese Characters that are generally used, facilitates use of the internet
- The network that offers peoples' right to chose and vote, is making Chinese society more versatile. People are enabled to speak on their own.
- China meet a challenge with Internet effect on the promotion of democracy. Communication between people and government becomes faster, more frequent and more effective.

The European questions addressed to Chinese

- In Europe, the main differences of connection explain either by geographic reasons (rural / urban) but rather by the economic differences: 80 % of connected among slices to high educational level for 20 % for the discriminated public - low level. The difference of level of promotion in the appropriation of the ICT. Is that mean that different steps of emergence and mastery of the ICT?
- The new phenomena observed in China (Miss Lotus) show China which moves. What is the part of these changes which has to be linked with outside forces and the one who is linked with the inside forces of China?
- What relation is there between the emergence of internet and the change in the report between individual and society?
- How interpreter the impact of internet on the change of the place of the young people in the Chinese society?
- In Europe, the political participation is not a important dimension of the uses of Internet
- Chinese and european countries have different manners to manage control and democracy in the information society. These models are in evolution. Are we going toward convergence or co-existence of these models ? And who and how to manange the benefits and control ?
- Internet is low cost means of access to information and content. What do we deal with Internet ? What is a right gouvernance ? The first level of gouvernance seems to be self-gouvernance. It depends of : - Safe Identity and confidence,- literacy, - accountability and openness

WT16 – IT systems in the age of the Internet Session 2

The European vision

- Use Internet to build a sustainable society
- Take into account the different contexts where ICT is used to be able to imagine new forms of literacy for users.
- The implementation of universal Internet service access.
- Simultaneous organisation of diverse existing (regimes, codes, rights, norms and standards)
- Face up to the risk of regulation that is outside the law:
- The potential of new media-tools to allow both cost-effective services provision and greater citizen empowerment creates tension at the interface between government and people.
- The internet is an opportunity to renew popular education
- What are the consequences of the change in individual/society relationship for empowerment, intellectual property and sharing ideas.
- Integration of civil liberties into Internet governance
- Promote the free software

WT16 – IT systems in the age of the Internet Session 3

Similarities

- The Chinese and the Europeans confronted by the need to balance security and democracy on the Internet.
- Establishing suitable regulations to manage the information available to all.
- There is the need for a more complex representation of the world which incorporates three dimensions: State, Market, Society
- Both cultures strive for excellence (sports), a sense of humour, magic (the circus)
- Both produce similar information systems (online service, public debate)
- Internet use follows the same logic (rural/urban – educated/ less educated) The progress of each society is different.

Differences

- Accessible software, the balance between the individual and society,... are examples which show that identical arguments can conceal different views. These differences are to be discussed.
- Differences between European and Chinese politics concerning the access of children and young people to the Internet show a different approach to education.
- The expression “unity in diversity” has different meanings in Europe and in China.
- The management of Internet content is very different and corresponds to specific value systems.
- China prefers prevention while Europe favours control. This reflects the difference in the approach to children’s independence.
- The Chinese government’s approach aims to protect society while Europeans prioritise individual freedom.
- The Chinese value system is very solid and based on a powerful force that makes discussion difficult, while the European value system is disintegrating. Together, it could be possible to re-establish a more balanced, global value system.
- In the CIT workshop, we have realised the urgent need to address our approach to shaping society amidst global and local, social and individual tensions, which we believe is in sync with the objectives of this Forum.



- The Internet plays a more active role in Chinese political debate, but the use of the Internet by politicians is less frequent than in Europe.



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How to enhance the dialogue between China and Europe ?