

MEDIA RELEASE N 19



High level Tunisia delegation to visit Expo 2005 Aichi

The Tunisian Embassy will organize on May 17th, 2005 in the Nogoya Chamber Of Commerce and Industry a seminar the theme of which is the World Summit On Information Society. This seminar is called to promote this event in Japan and invite Japanese businessmen to take part to this UN Summit. The event will take place in presence of H.E. M. Montassar OUAILI, Tunisian Minister of Communication Technologies who will be coming to coming to Japan both to have contacts with Japanese ICT officials and to visit Expo AICHI 2005.

On the same day and in the afternoon in Tokyo, His Excellency Minister OUAILI will chair partnership meeting initiated by the Tunisia Embassy in Tokyo between 8 Tunisian companies operating in the filed of ICT that came to Japan to promote their engineering and software development services and an important number of Japanese companies seeking to outsource IT services in Tunisia.

ICT in Tunisia: An emerging sector

Information and Communications Technologies in Tunisia and more specifically the software industry and multimedia services are one of the main thrusts of the development strategy. According to the 10th Economic Development Plan (2002-2006), the sector is projected to achieve average production growth of 42.5% per year, increasing from 80 MTD (million Tunisian Dinars) to 655 MTD, compared to the average annual growth of 5.7% all sectors combined. Accordingly, the contribution of ICTs to GDP will increase from 0.27% in 2002 to a level of 1.5% in 2006. Tunisia's rapidly growing ICT sector is internationally recognized, attracting increasing numbers of international investors and is cornerstone to the country being conferred to organize and host the World Forum of Information Society, November 2005 in Tunisia. To this end, a special focus has been placed on the investment environment, infrastructure and legal framework. An all encompassing range of attractive incentives and encouragements has been established.

Towards the information society

A comprehensive and diversified telecom infrastructure

- A fully digital telephone network
- Telephone density: 17 lines per 100 inhabitants in 2002 set to pass to 25 lines per 100 inhabitants by 2006
- Data transmission: PSTN, Leased line, X25, Frame Relay, ISDN, ADSL, VSAT

An access to the Internet in full bloom

- Internet users: 500 000 in 2002, projected to be 3 000 000 by 2006
- 280 Internet public access centers (Publnet), throughout Tunisia
- A 100% Internet connection rate for all higher education and research institutions, as well as secondary schools
- Extension of Internet connection to all primary schools in completion process.

A planned and encouraged digital culture

- PC equipped households: 40.5%, in 2002, and 10%, by 2006
- Households connected to the Internet : 2.4%, in 2002, and 10%, by 2006
- The "Family Computer" Program, offering favourable conditions for households for the purchase of a personal computer.

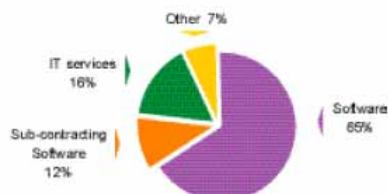
Production

Domestic and Export Turnover of Computer Services and Engineering Companies



Source : Ministry of Finance

Breakdown of Turnover of Tunisian Computer Services and Engineering Companies per activity



Source : World Bank / 2CW, 2001

- The Tunisian Computer Services and Engineering Companies Turnover amounted to 118 MTD in 2002, thus posting an annual growth of 42%
- The period from 1997 to 2001 posted a growth of 260%
- The 1999 peak is due to the transition to the Y2K, as well as to an anticipation of certain investments initially provided for 2000 and 2001.

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