

## MINISTER'S VALUES LINE UP WITH DOTCYM AIM

**Baroness Shriti Vadera**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Competitiveness at Westminster, opened the UK – Internet Governance Forum 2008 with a plea to the British delegation to the Global Internet Governance Forum in Hyderabad in the autumn to “focus on what is important”.



She said that the first phase of the internet was complete. In 1997, the internet was just starting and broadband was not available to the ordinary public. “Now half of the homes in Britain have broadband and 70% of the public are users of the internet either at home or at work”, she claimed.

The UK, she said, “must and can take leadership for the next phase”. Demand was such that growth of the internet was exponential. “There are many directional changes now underway”, she asserted, including “people sense, the biggest restructuring of the global economy in history. We must redefine our attitudes to the internet. The next stage must feature openness and flexibility not protection and rigidity”.

Baroness Vadera is the Minister responsible for innovation as well as information management. She said that the Government policy paper on “Next generation broadband access” would be published in the autumn. “But there must also be investment in the internet infrastructure to support the UK economy. The internet is amongst the most important driver to the economy”, she stated, “The internet is the e-engine for economic growth and will contribute to innovation on an unknown scale. We need to develop the internet because we need our creative industries to thrive”.

UK – Internet Governance Forum selected 12 messages to take to Hyderabad, one of which was to seek a sympathetic response from the authorities to applications for new top level domains in the linguistic and cultural category. It was recognised that this was necessary if the internet was to give an effective service to linguistic and cultural minorities such as the Welsh.

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