

**USC ANNENBERG CENTER  
SPEAKER SERIES**

Thursday, February 22, 2007

**“Internet Protocol:  
Television Regulatory and International Trade Issues”**

DON ABELSON  
Sudbury International

Don Abelson provides an overview of his research into the domestic regulatory and international trade issues associated with Internet Television. Abelson distinguishes Internet Television from “Telco TV” (a cable-like service provided over DSL) and then reviews the current regimes used to regulate broadcasting, telecom and information services (the Internet), and asks which regime is best suited to handle Internet Television. Abelson outlines the provisions of the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), particularly those covering communications (based and enhanced telecom services, audiovisual services and computer-related services). He notes the absence of clear international market access commitments to Internet Television services. The presentation is concluded by comparing the treatment of Internet Television in the U.S., the E.U. and China.




**“New Paradigms in the Info-Communication Sectors”**

JAROSLAW PONDER  
International Telecommunication Union

Info-communication industry is one of the most dynamic of all economic sectors, especially in terms of innovation and the evolution of products and services. It is currently marked by a convergence that is operating at three distinct levels: voice/data, fixed/mobile and telecoms/broadcasting. The coexistence of diverse infrastructures with similar or substitutable technical capabilities (e.g. fixed telephone, broadband internet and cable TV networks; cellular and non-cellular wireless networks) - adds to the competitiveness of the sector and creates new paradigms in the info-communication industry, particularly regarding market, regulation, or investment. For the time being the IPTV has been broadly recognized as a service that might significantly influence the way the info-communication sector is going to perform in the future. Nevertheless it is still emerging market and the telecom operators’ experiences are very diverse. The differences are mostly related to the regulatory environment, state of existing communication infrastructures, and deployment of broadband infrastructure.



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**Introduced by**

Professor Jonathan Aronson  
Executive Director, USC Annenberg Center

**Biographies**

Donald Abelson is a non-resident fellow of the USC Annenberg Center. He is also president of his own consulting company, Sudbury International, based in Washington, D.C. and Vermont. Previously, he was Chief of the International Bureau at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). He has a Master's Degree in International Economics from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor's Degree from Sarah Lawrence College.

Jaroslaw Ponder is Policy analyst and manager of various projects at the Strategy and Policy Unit of the International Telecommunication Union (SPU/ITU). He obtained his M.A. degree in economics from Warsaw University (Poland). Presently, he is completing his Ph.D. thesis in economic sciences at the European Institute for International Economic Relations (EIIW) at the University of Wuppertal (Germany), focusing on the telecommunication sector.