

Speech of the Vice President of Nicaragua
H. E. Mr. Enrique Bolaños Geyer,
on the occasion of the dinner offered by
H. E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China to the attendees
of the Seminar "Impact on Information Technology"
Taipei, June 12 de 2,000

His Excellency
Dr. Tien Hung-mao
Minister of Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of China,

Honorable Mr. James Wong and Mr. Richard
Yin, Co-Chairmen

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of all the attendees in this
Congress, and on behalf of the Nicaraguan
Delegation, let me express to you our sincere
gratitude for making this important event
possible. It is in our best interest to learn and
enjoy all and each of the presentations.

All of them deserve our undivided attention,
and all of them will give us insight to the
issues of our strategy for the development of
our countries. I speak as a politician
concerned on the development and
wellbeing of my people.

How can a poor country, like Nicaragua
jump from a natural resources controlled
economy to a knowledge based economy?

How can we move from a vertical and
centralized social and business organization
to a more horizontal and decentralized
model?

How could we reinvent our government
culture and behavior which is focussed on
control to instead foster innovation to
facilitate competitiveness?

We see this third industrial revolution as a
shortcut to reach these goals sooner and
faster.

This has to go together with a special
emphasis on education the development of
human resources.

This also has to go together with an
strengthening of the democratic process and
be accompanied by a huge acquisition of
computers probably worth the total GNP of
our poor country, a fact also true for the
great majority of the countries of the world.

In other words, how can we bridge the
digital divide, which is becoming greater
every day?

Why information technology should become
a commodity meant exclusively for a few
ones, if we assume that the world is moving
in the direction of globalization?

At the end of World War II, the international
community set out to design a new world
with the creation of the United Nations and
of the International Bank for Reconstruction
an Development for the purpose of meeting
the needs of the second revolution that came
about as a result of the end of WW II.

Now that these institutions are trying to address the issues of poverty alleviation in developing countries, funds should be allocated to them so that the great majority of the developing countries get computers for modernization purposes. This will allow us to eventually enter the global markets and to adjust to the ultimate developments on information technology.

Specifically for the case of Nicaragua, as of its geographic position, in an era of just in time, to be close enough to the market at reasonable costs is our strength, but to develop this potential, foreign private investment is paramount.

We encourage the Information Technology Industry of our diplomatic ally, Taiwan, and the worldwide IT industry present here to look into NICARAGUA as a manufacturing base to springboard into the American Market.