

Brazil Serious on Delivering the Internet to Everyone

Contributed by Valtemir Rodrigues
Tuesday, 01 March 2005

Brazil's Minister of Communications, Eunício Oliveira, participated, yesterday, in the opening of the 1st Conference on Telecommunications in America and Europe, which ends today. The theme of the conference is the outlook for the sector.

In his address, Oliveira reaffirmed that President Lula's Administration is committed to putting an immediate end to digital exclusion, and he emphasized the steps made in this direction.

"In June, 2003, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva signed a decree approving the government policies by which the entire population will have access to the world computer network (Internet)," he said.

At the conference, experts from the Americas and Europe are discussing technical and practical questions affecting the sector, as well as the universalization of advanced wideband services.

The encounter enjoys the support of the National Telecommunications Agency (Anatel) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and is intended to encourage debate and analysis regarding the basic issues that challenge professionals in this area all over the world.

According to the executive secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Paulo Lustosa, one of the big challenges facing the government of president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is to achieve the strategic goal of digital inclusion.

That means giving low-income families and small businesses access to the Internet and computers. By expanding social inclusion, Brazil will create more work, production and distribution of goods and services that generate wealth with improved efficiency in the public and private sectors, said Lustosa recently.

Translation: David Silberstein
Agência Brasil