Abstract
The internet of today is a billion strong. Anytime anywhere access is a reality in many parts of the world, namely through xDSL and cable networks. But cyberspace is undergoing a radical transformation. From an academic network for a small elite, the internet is now being accessed through a growing number of different devices - not only PCs but also PDAs, mobiles, and smart phones. This, however, is only the beginning. In the future, this network of networks will evolve to become a fully pervasive, interactive and intelligent system.

Today's cyberspace, which connects people and data, is slowly expanding to include objects and things, heralding the dawn of an 'internet of things'. Using important enabling technologies such as radio-frequency identification and wireless sensor networks, real-time communications is becoming possible not only by human users but also by everyday objects. In this manner, human-to-human communications may become a minority in cyberspace, as object-to-object communications multiply global network connections at an exponential rate. The creation of this ubiquitous network environment holds many promises for enhanced quality of life, user convenience, and business processes - at the same time, it raises challenges and concerns that must be addressed at an early stage to ensure the development of a healthy and equitable cyber-society of the future.

Brief Bio
Lara Srivastava is ITU New Initiatives Programme Director with the Strategy and Policy Unit (SPU) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva (Switzerland). Ms. Srivastava has over 10 years of experience in the telecommunication industry. She is currently responsible for monitoring and analyzing trends in information and communication technology, policy, and market structure, with a particular focus on mobile and wireless communications. She organizes and advises on workshops and symposia programmes, covering topics of interest to policy-makers, regulators and industry. In this context, she acts as Programme Director for ITU's New Initiatives Programme (www.itu.int/ni), and contributes to programme development for the global ITU TELECOM Forum.