

INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM OF MARCH 27, 2008 IN LISBON

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Ralph Gakenheimer III/26/08 --- Summary of Intervention

I have been following this initiative for a long time with Dr. Pedro Ferraz de Abreu, who has been evolving the subject of e-planning for a number of years. Parallel with other efforts to link MIT to appropriate institutions of higher learning in Portugal, this is an opportunity to generate a new frontier of studies, cooperation and results. I am willing to commit myself to any support I am able to provide to this initiative.

For my own part I am currently working on a series of problems that could profit from e-planning extensions. They include collaboration with a team devoted to the design and industrialization of new electric vehicles for use in cities, in which the far flung consequences depend on a great deal of information and interaction among users and impactees.

A second includes removing functions from the overcrowded port of Buenaventura in Colombia, the nation's only Pacific port. These functions would be recentralized in a city in the middle of the country as a distributive hub to the major cities of Colombia. The dry port for this purpose would require a wide multi institutional collaboration to determine the demand for use and many public-private interinstitutional associations, which constitute another opportunity for e-planning.

The current quest for attaining the capability of doing transport origin-destination studies through detection of travelers' cell phones.

I wish the best to this e-Planning initiative in exploring collaborations on the many planning problems that can benefit from e-planning applications and the possibilities for distinguished contributions from all concerned .

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