



Message from the President of the Republic of Finland
to the International Workshop on Ubiquitous ICT for Sustainable
Education and Cultural Literacy in Hämeenlinna, 6-7 October 2008

This international workshop is an excellent example of the way to bring a range of professionals to share knowledge and experience in order to promote ICT technologies for education and, more widely, for sustainable social development.

Globalisation means that information, new ideas and innovation are spreading faster than ever. ICTs can provide effective means for developing countries to accelerate their progress and enable better learning opportunities. For developed countries, the knowledge-based economy – if socially just and inclusive – allows further specialisation and improved skills.

In Finland, education and lifelong learning have been given special importance. Education and training boost one's capacity for self-determination and for making life choices. They also give people opportunities to use their expertise and their talents in the best possible way to benefit themselves, their families and society as a whole.

I wish the workshop the best of success and hope that you have fruitful and lively discussions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tarja Halonen".

Tarja Halonen
President of the Republic of Finland