# The Role of Informatics in Addressing the Big Global Challenges.

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# First, what are the Big Global Challenges?

**Global Warming** 

### Energy

### Water/Food

### Ageing Society

### **Public Health**

Security



# **Global Warming**

Global Warming



## Global Challenges and Policy Responses Global Challenges

"We have less than 10 years to halt the global rise in greenhouse gas emissions if we are to avoid catastrophic consequences for people and the planet. It is, simply, the greatest collective challenge we face as a human family."

(39th plenary assembly of the World Federation of United Nations Associations, 10th August 2009)



### **Policy Responses**

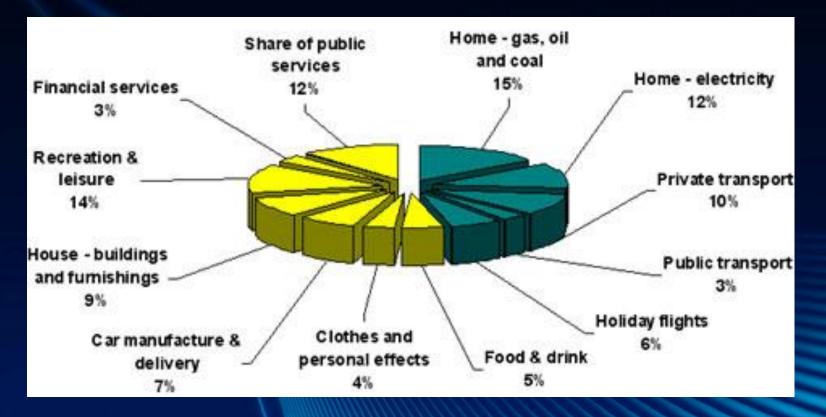
"Climate policy must be based on sound science. We know what the problem is. We know what we must do. Now is the time to do it. Now is our moment.

We need a deal in Copenhagen that will enable deep cuts in emissions, that promotes green growth, that that will provide the resources and structures needed for adaptation. We will pay a high price if we do not act and if we do not invest now. The cost of inaction today will be far greater than the cost of action tomorrow, not just [for] future generations, but for this generation too."

(World Climate Conference, Geneva, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009)

Ban Ki-moon

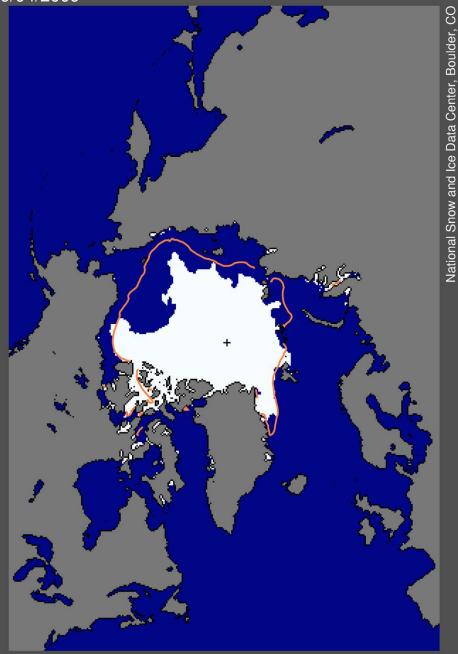
# What is our Global CO2 Footprint ?



www.carbonfootprint.com



### Sea Ice Extent 09/04/2009



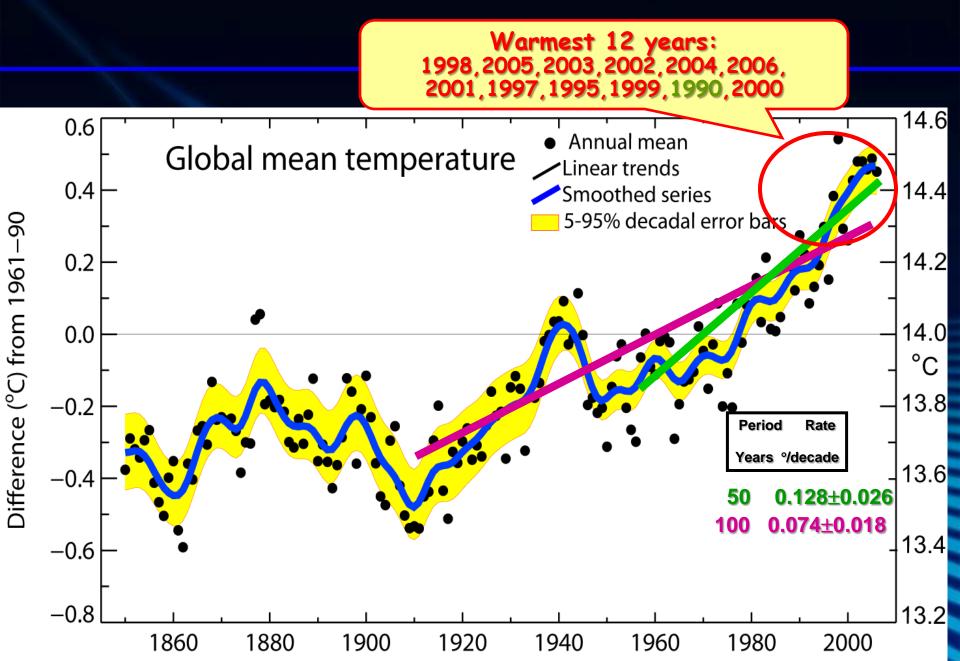
median 1979–2000

### September 2009 will probably see the 3<sup>rd</sup> least Arctic sea ice on record (after 2007)

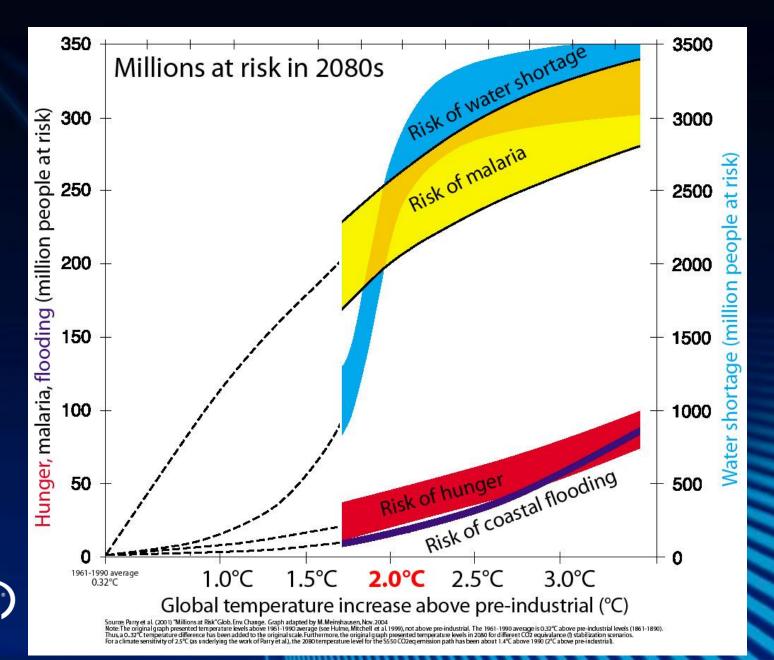




### **Global mean temperatures are rising faster with time**



## Millions at Risk (Parry et al., 2001)



# Energy



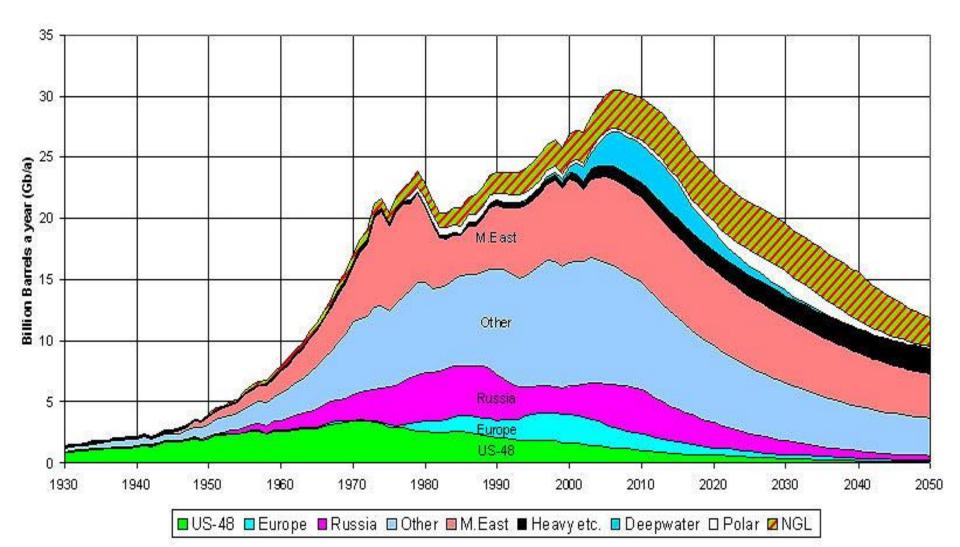


# Will the world have enough energy?



### Global oil production has peaked or is close to its peak

### OIL AND GAS LIQUIDS 2004 Scenario

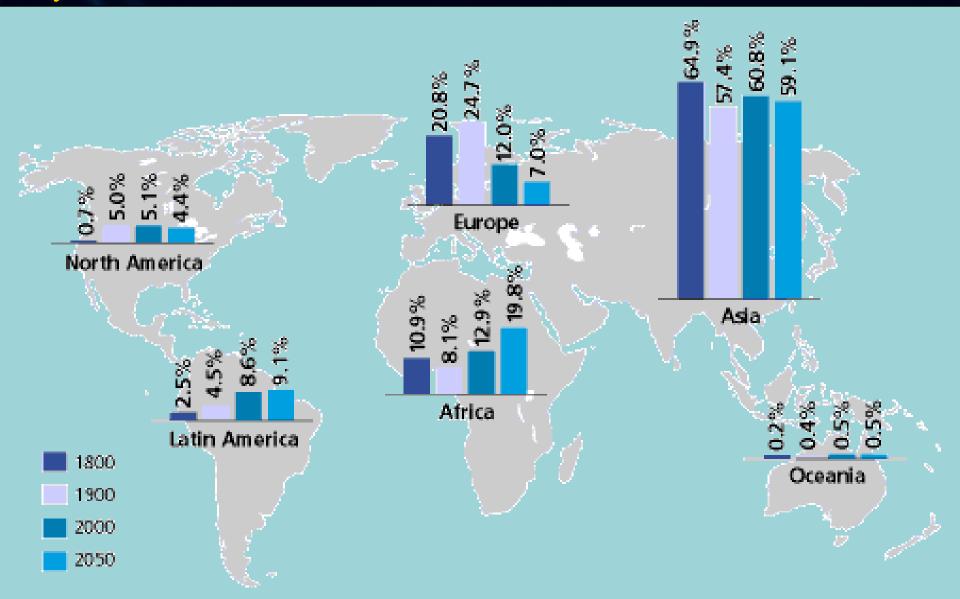


# Water / Food

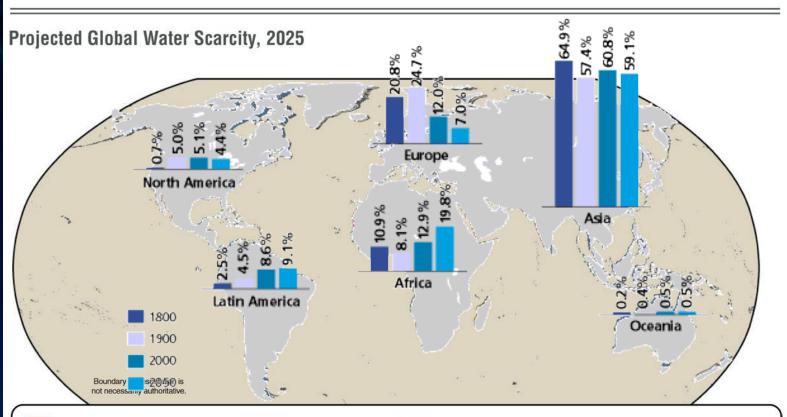
### Water/Food



# Changing Distribution of the World's Population



# Water Scarcity 2025



- **Physical water scarcity:** More than 75% of river flows are allocated to agriculture, industries, or domestic purposes. This definition of scarcity relating water availability to water demand implies that dry areas are not necessarily water-scarce.
- Approaching physical water scarcity: More than 60% of river flows are allocated. These basins will experience physical water scarcity in the near future.
- Economic water scarcity: Water resources are abundant relative to water use, with less than 25% of water from rivers withdrawn for human purposes, but malnutrition exists.
- Little or no water scarcity: Abundant water resources relative to use. Less than 25% of water from rivers is withdrawn for human purposes.
  - Not estimated

Source: International Water Management Institute.

## How will these changes affect Food Production?



25,000 die daily from starvation

815m suffer from malnutrition



# **Aging Society**



## Ageing Society



### Kofi Annan 2000

One of the greatest success stories of modern times is the increasing number of people living into old age

# However this triumph of humanity is also one of our greatest challenges



# Demographic Ageing is changing our world .....now

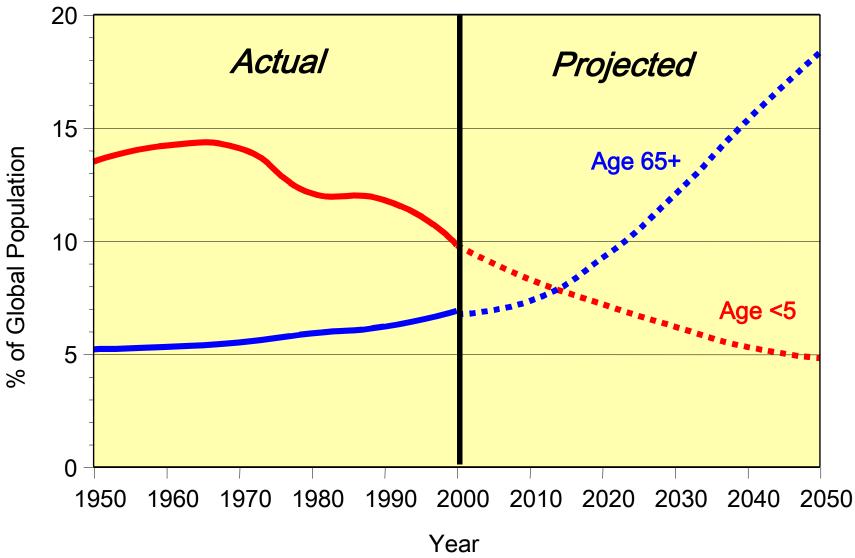
22

By 2050, 21 percent of the world population nearly 2 billion people—will be 60 and older

Source: United Nations "Population ageing 2002"

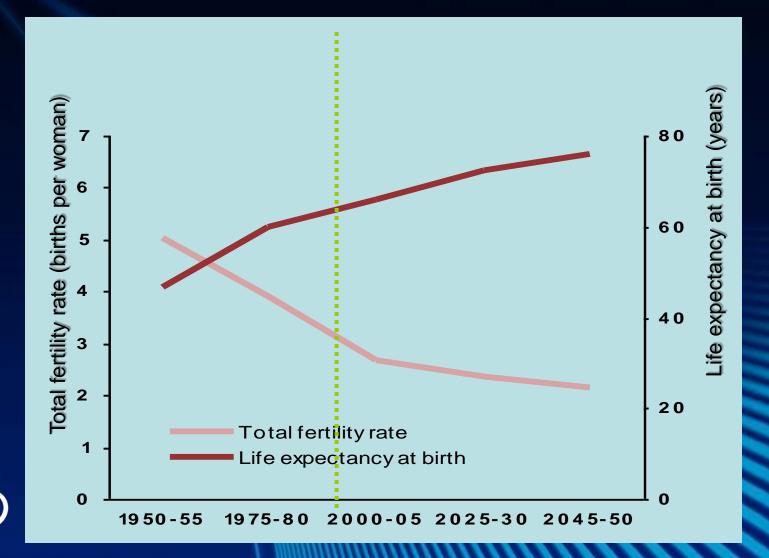
24

### United Nations Projected Percentages of Global Population

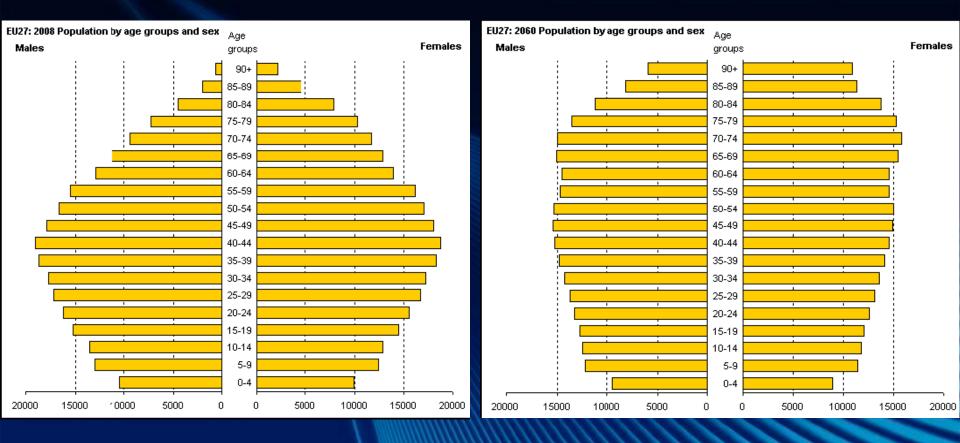


Source: World Population Prospects: The 1996 Revision, Annex 2 (low-variant projection). UN Population Division.

The demographic causes of global population ageing: Total fertility rate and life expectancy at birth: World, 1950-2050



### **Demography shifting**





# **Public Health**

### **Public Health**



### EXHIBIT 4

### 

OECD's1 historic rate: GDP +2%

### Two scenarios for future spending

Projected health care spending as % of GDP for member countries of OECD<sup>1</sup>

<10% 20.0-29.9% 270%</p>

 10-19.9% 30.0-89.9%

### Half of OECD's<sup>1</sup> historic rate: GDP +1%

	2005	2030	2050	2080	2100		2005	2030	2050	2080	2100
United States						United States					
Switzerland						Switzerland					
France						France					
Germany						Germany					
Belgium						Belgium					
Austria						Austria					
Portugal						Portugal					
Greece						Greece					
Canada						Canada					
Australia						Australia					
Iceland						Iceland					
Netherlands						Netherlands					
Denmark						Denmark					
Norway						Norway					
Sweden						Sweden					
New Zealand						New Zealand					
Italy						Italy					
Luxembourg						Luxembourg					
United Kingdom						United Kingdom					
Spain						Spain					
Hungary						Hungary					
Japan						Japan					
Turkey						Turkey					
Finland						Finland					
Ireland						Ireland					
Czech Republic						Czech Republic					
Slovak Republic						Slovak Republic					
Mexico						Mexico					
Poland						Poland					
South Korea						South Korea					

### Health care spending over the next 100 years?

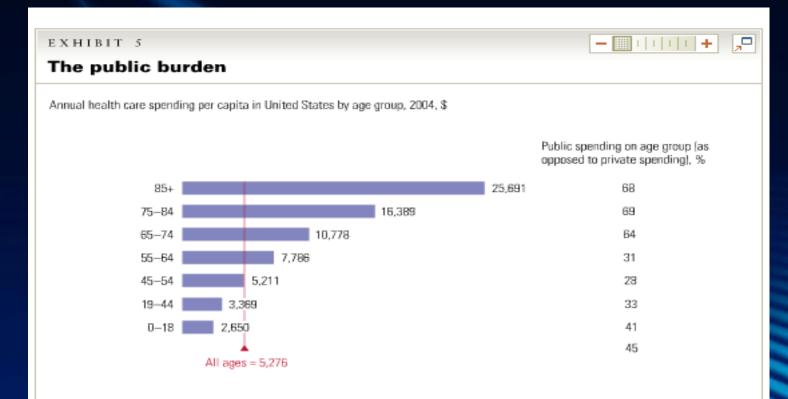
At the historic growth rate, health care will consume an ever-growing proportion of the developed nations' wealth, reaching 30 percent of GDP in the United States in 2040 and 30 percent of the median OECD GDP by 2070.

<sup>1</sup>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; forecasts assume real GDP growth of 2%, with health care spending growing at 1 or 2 percentage points above that.

Source: Global Insight; Ignazio Visco, "Policy implications of the new economy," speech delivered on May 16, 2001, at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Forum 2001, Sustainable Development and the New Economy, in Paris; McKinsey analysis

# The already acute economic pressures healthcare spending places on society will grow

A significant part of an average person's health care spending throughout life occurs in its second half, especially the last two years. In many countries, the tax-financed part of health care represents a massive transfer from young taxpayers to older health care users.



Source: US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services



# Security





# Security

•Using ICT to communicate we leave data all over the internet.

•At the moment the data is fragmented, but consolidation is more and more possible and happening. For data security the data needs to be validated and the owner needs to have control of the flow. Our medical records, driving records, sick leave, buying tendancies, our bank account data etc. could otherwise be bartered over the internet. Security raises many challenges caused by the ever increasing usage of ICT, but can also be solved through ICT together with the right EU/Global policies.



# **Additional Challenges for Informatics !**



# The Informatics (ICT) Dilemma

"Right now, three-quarters of the fastestgrowing occupations require more than a high school diploma. And yet, just over half of our citizens have that level of education. We have one of the highest high school dropout rates of any industrialized nation. And half of the students who begin college never finish."

Barack Obama, President of the United States of America

"A highly skilled and adaptable workforce is the foundation for Europe's competitiveness. ICT scientific and technology skill, digital literacy and lifelong learning are particularly important parts of this. But , and it is catastrophic, while demand for ICT skills is growing, supply is declining in Europe."

Vivane Reding, European Commissioner for Information Society and Media

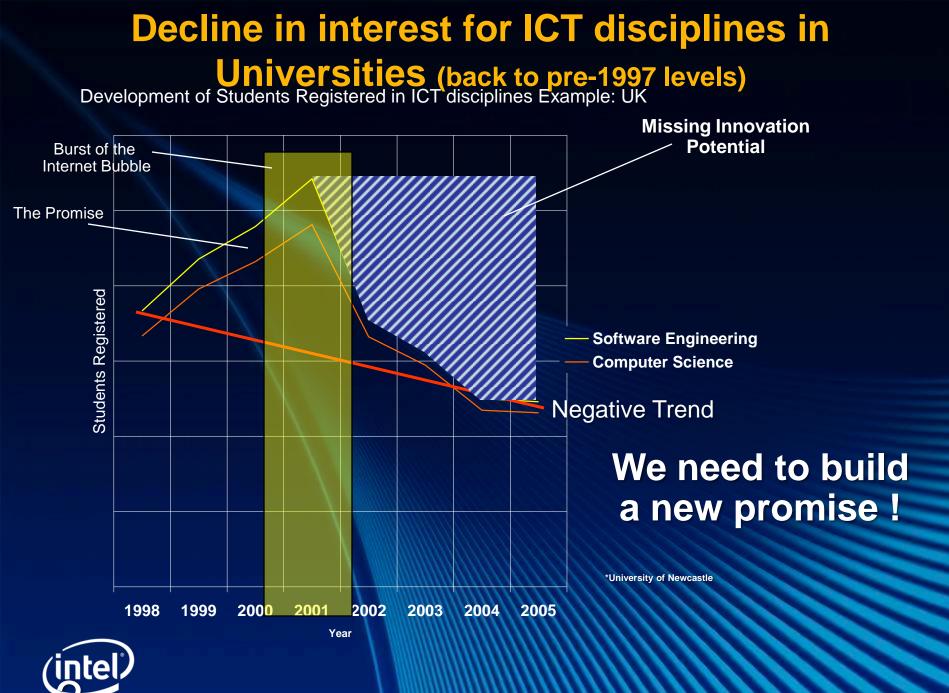


# **Decline in Interest for Informatics !**

Recent declines are particularly pronounced in computer science. The percentage of college freshmen planning to major in computer science dropped by 70% between 2000 and 2005. In an economy in which computing has become central to innovation in nearly every sector, this decline poses a serious threat to American competitiveness. Indeed, it would not be an exaggeration to say that every significant technological innovation of the 21st century will require new software to make it happen.



Bill Gates (2007)



# In addition we have Brain Drain !





# **Challenge of Change**

# Second Cycle Degree (MSc) Perest First Cycle Degree (BSc)

80%



# The shift to massive computing parallelism in commodity devices

• For decades Moore's law has defined the increase of Hardware component complexity as well as performance.

 Now with Multi-Core and Many-core technology, Moore's Law has been transported into the Software world, with massive implications.

 Current typical programming skills are not enough to take advantage of the resulting performance boosts now available to everyone.



# Annual number of Graduating Students Worldwide

	Mathmatics and Computer Sciences Engineering	ng Total By	Region/Geo
APAC	88,753	406,745	495,498
Asia			373,035
oceana	In the area of Parallel I	122,463	
PRC	have barely touched the	442,463	
			J 
ASMO	And what about	318,655	
North America	And what about	229,969	
South America	programmers in th	88,686	
EMEA	198,417	521,913	720,330
Europe	157,269	438,852	596,121
Africa	8,744	12,750	21,494
Middle East	32,404	70,311	102,715
Total by discipli	ne 422,284	1,554,662	1,852,737
Total students t WW in 2009	aught	4% of students are PP savvy	89,969

From NSF Science and Engineering indicators: http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/seind08/c2/c2s5.htm

# **Challenge of SKILLS**

Professional Career

Apprenticeship

Schools, Academies, University



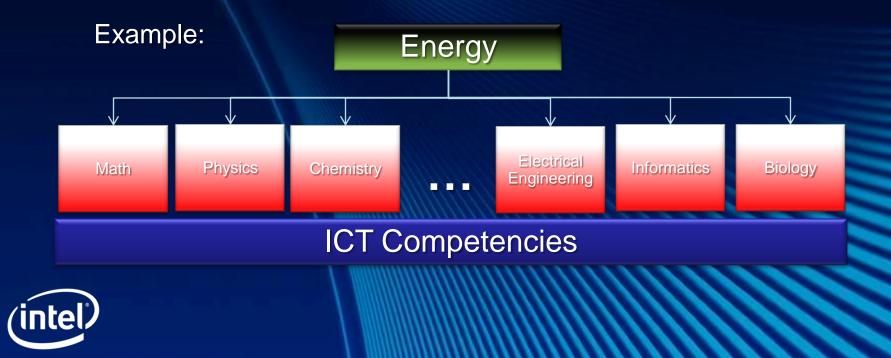
Lifelong Learning



### **Challenge of Orientation**

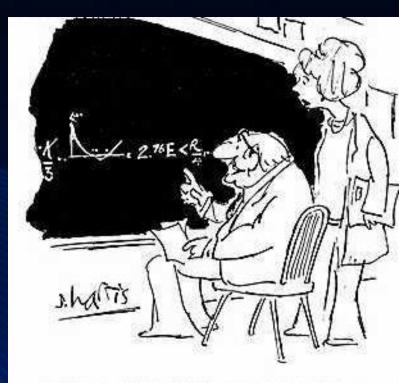
Today Students choose to become: Mathematicians, Physicists, Chemists, Computer Scientists, Biologists....

To solve the big world problems, students need to have multiple competencies !



### **Today's and Tomorrow's role of Informatics**

- So we have many Big Challenges, both globally and in drawing interest to Informatics, we must also be agile and change as quickly as do the technologies to stay in-front.
- Our image is that of "geeks" and support functions, but mostly not as a strategic asset to corporations and society.



"THE BEAUTY OF THIS IS THAT IT IS OALY OF THEORETICAL IMPORTANCE, AND THERE IS NO WAY IT CAN BE OF ANY PRACTICAL USE WHATSOEVER."

## "Geek" image



### **Today's and Tomorrow's role of Informatics**

- We must move Informatics (ICT) into being a strategic asset for society in tackling these Big Global Challenges.
- The move from "geek" to "strategic" should also help turn around the interest in Informatics.
- A move from "white" and "blue" collar workers to the "green collar" worker, adding value to society.



### **But How ? And Where ?**

- In tackling these Challenges there are surely thousands of areas to discuss.
- In the following a number of leading technology areas that are likely to be integral to the solutions.

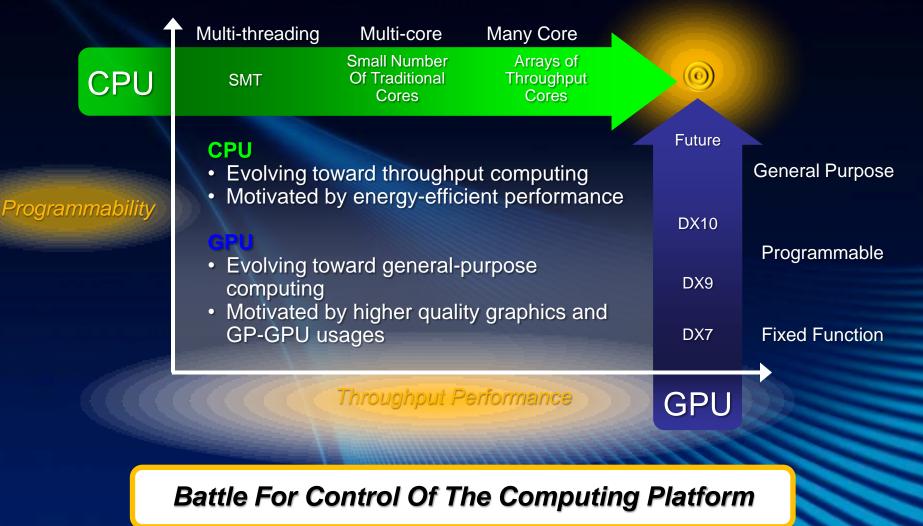


## **Visual Computing**



# **The next Frontier**

### **Computing Evolution: A Collision Course**









# Ron Fedkiw





### **Visual Computing:** Acquiring, Analyzing, Modeling and Synthesizing Visual Environments

Photorealistic 3D Rendering

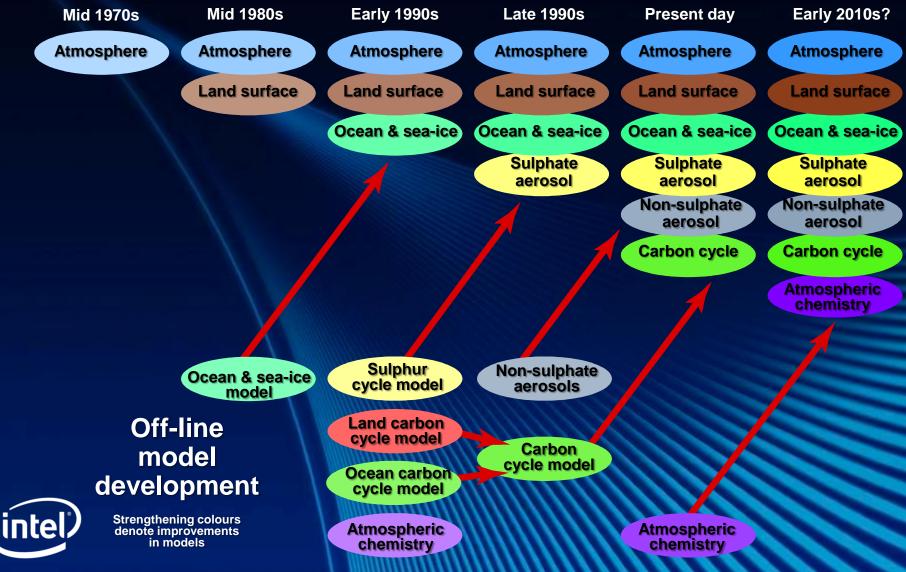
Immersive User Interface 3D Audio and Video Multi-Modal Computing



With a Programmable, Ubiquitous, and Unified Architecture



## The Development of Climate models, Past, Present and Future

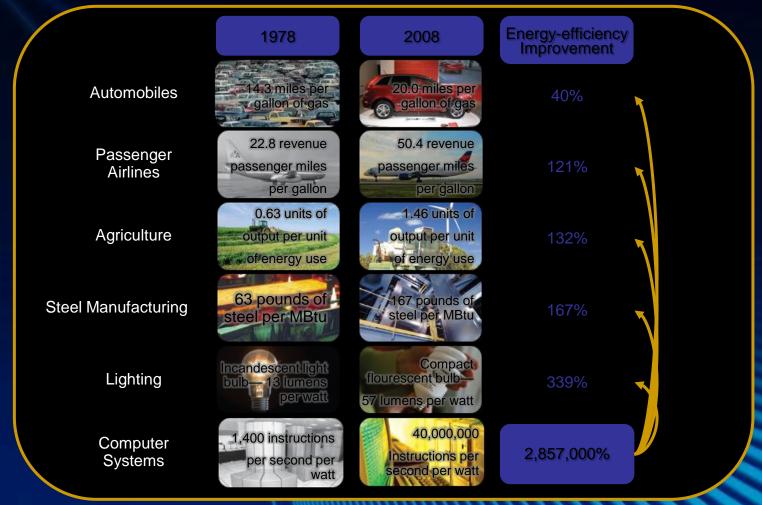


# Green (by) JCT

ENERGY EFFICIENT ICT STARTS WITH THE MICROPROCESSOR BUT DOESN'T END THERE

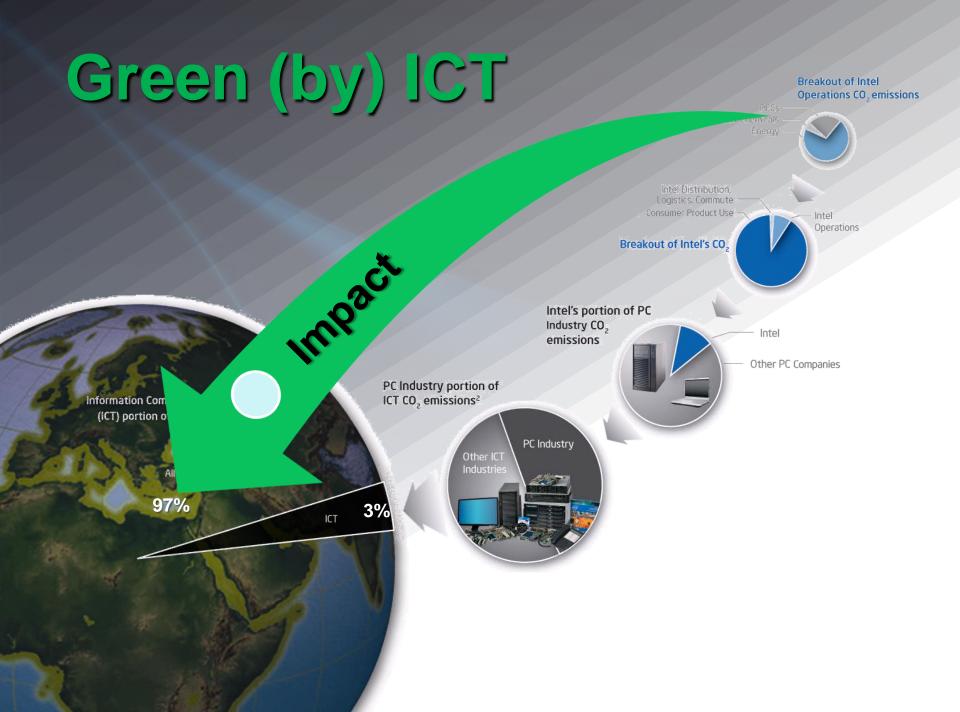
#### Increasing Energy Efficiency ICT leading sector in energy efficient improvements :

#### need to take advantage of this out-performance.





Source: "A Smarter Shade of Green," ACEEE Report for the Technology CEO Council, 2008.



### Moore's Law

# Moore's Law continues to enable: founder Gordon Moore predicted that the number of silicon would double even

Mobile devices with Higher functionality & complexity

While controlling

Power, cost, and size

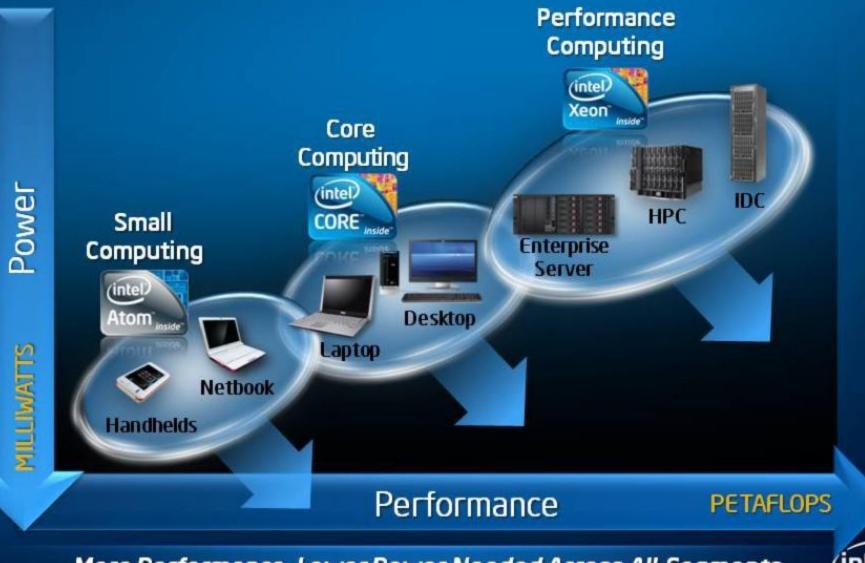


of transistors on a piece of silicon would double every couple of years-an insight later dubbed "Moore's Law." His prediction has held true, as ever-shrinking transistor sizes have allowed exponent growth in the number of transistors on a single chip.

Moore's Law is now a b applies its principles life people to play, lear the company has

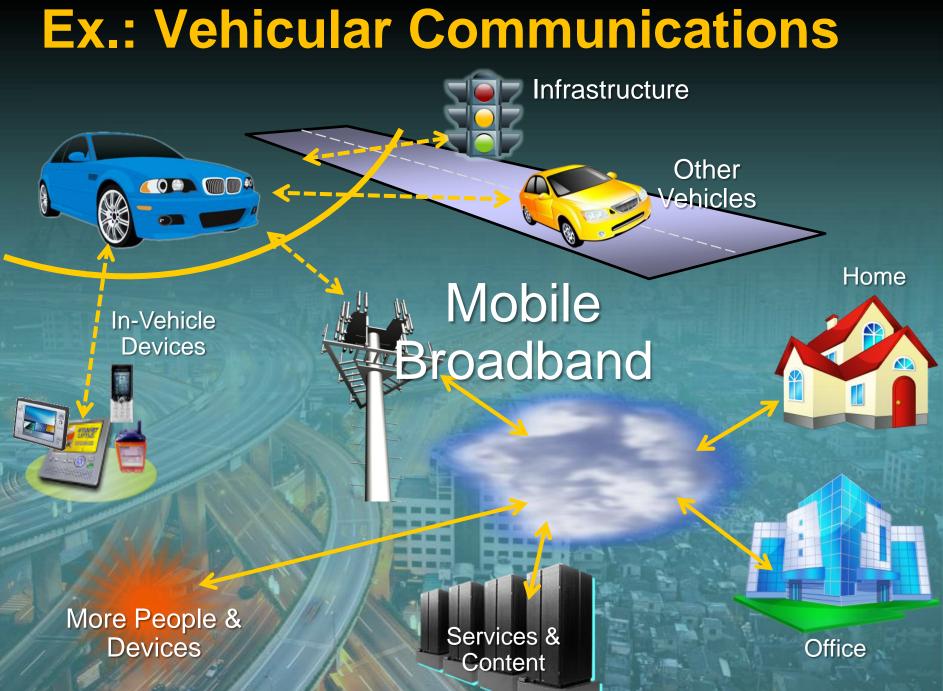
Whole new ways for e have come about as re's Law

### Intel Architecture: Optimized Products from Milliwatts to Petaflops



More Performance, Lower Power Needed Across All Segments







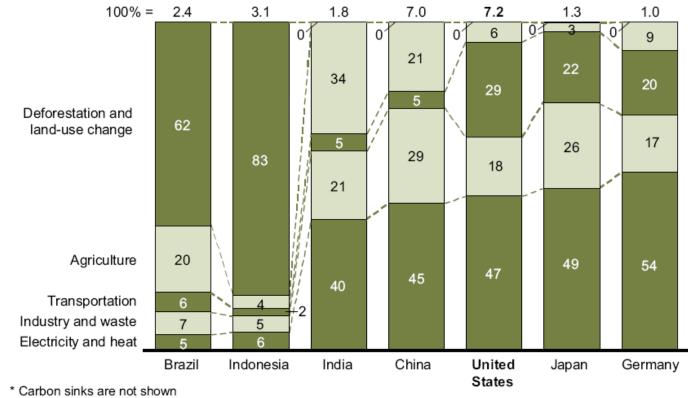




www.car-to-car.org

### **Ex.: Green House Gases (GHG) Emissions**

GHG EMISSIONS PROFILES FOR SELECT COUNTRIES – 2005\* Percent, Gigatons CO<sub>2</sub>e

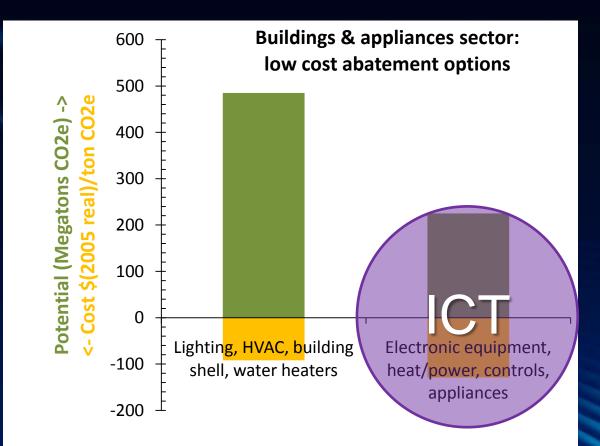


Source: UNFCCC, WRI, IEA, EPA, McKinsey analysis



McKinsey 2007: Reducing U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions: How much at what cost?

## **SMART** buildings



Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007:



The buildings sector offers the largest low-cost potential in all world regions by 2030.

Adapted, with changes, from McKinsey & Company, "Unlocking Energy Efficiency in the U.S. Economy", 2009

### **The SMART Grid**



Generation

Transmission

Consumption

SMART grid = SMART buildings + SMART power + SMART vehicles + ...



=> Energy storage, renewable sources, ... => Ubiquitous sensors, ICT, ...

## **Summary:**

- We have great global and internal challenges ahead of us.
- These challenges also represent enormous opportunities for Informatics.
- Informatics needs to revise its past role and take the leadership role it was meant to have all along.



# The Path to a Better World will be paved By Informatics !

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# **Questions**?



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  - Director ICARUS, NUI Maynooth



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