

The changing role of the DHL – bridging the information gap between developing and developed countries

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In the next five minutes, I have a huge task to accomplish- as huge as participating in putting forth a plan for pushing a gigantic mountain and dropping it in a deep chasm separating two worlds, one developed and the other- to use a decent expression- less developed.

I would like first to thank those who have called for commemorating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of this great Library, which bears the name of Dag Hammarskjold.

I would also like to stress that my presence among you inspires me with a warm feeling, assuring me that we are living in "one world" even if that one world is full of chasms, which need to be eradicated.

The chasms are many, and they are not restricted to the information field. It suffices to know that, according to the World Bank latest report, 7% of the world population possess 43% of production. This terrible deficiency parallels the domination of developed countries over information technology. Computer hardware worldwide is idene1gtnox4(devbM pu).4(worAppl-54(wor-4.9(ue o-6c7w.)-4.9(e.300

its relation to the third world, to make it based on the true exchange of information, hence on real knowledge and mutual respect and interests.

Third world leaders have also first to change the strategies of their relations to their peoples, in order to build them on true democracy, not on a façade, and on the freedom of expression and human rights. These bases alone are what will make their countries producers of information, not heresy.

We will keep repeating such demands even if our role in the less developed countries shrinks and becomes so marginalized that all we can do is applaud.