

UCSD to host panel discussion, symposium Jan. 27 & 28 on the future of information infrastructure in San Diego

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ON THE FUTURE OF INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN SAN DIEGO

A panel discussion on "The Future of Computer Networking and Telecommunications in San Diego" will take place Jan. 27, from 7-9 p.m. in the Robinson Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego. The panel discussion will be followed by a research symposium Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., highlighting recent computer networking research.

Both events will be held at the Robinson Auditorium at UCSD's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS). Members of the public are invited to attend these free events.

The panel discussion will focus on various communications and telecommunications issues raised in a report issued last year by Mayor Susan Golding's Advisory Committee on the City of the Future. The report makes a series of recommendations designed to transform San Diego into "a truly international information city."

The report concludes that telecommunications and information technology "are major factors in shaping and ensuring the success of San Diego as a 'City of the Future.'" It goes on to argue that "As the world moves swiftly toward global connectivity, economic and social rewards will go to the cities and regions that organize themselves to participate effectively in the information-led economy that is emerging. Those areas that do not choose to follow this path," the report cautions, "will be left behind."

The panel discussion, which is being sponsored by the UCSD Communication Department and the San Diego Chapter of Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, will be moderated by UCSD Communication Professor Robert Horwitz.

Speakers will include: John Eger, director of the International Center for Communications at San Diego State University and the chair of the Mayor's City of the Future Advisory Committee; Michael Shames, executive director of the Utility Consumers' Action Network (UCAN); Herbert Dordick, a visiting professor of communication at UCSD; and Howard Stapleton, telecommunications manager for the City of San Diego.

The research symposium, which is being sponsored by the UCSD Department of Communication, the San Diego Supercomputer Center, and the School of Communication at SDSU, will include presentations from San Diego telecommunications scholars and representatives of computer networking organizations. Topics will include virtual reality, the WorldWide Web, and the role of information infrastructure in local communities. For more information on the symposium, please contact UCSD Communication Professor Phil Agre at 534-6328 or by e-mail at pagre@ucsd.edu.

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