

**Day 4 – Thursday, 29 November 2007**  
**Parallel Sessions – Session 4A 1.30pm-3.30pm**

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Position: Commissioner

Organisation: Federal Institute for Access to Information, Mexico

Presentation Title: Information and communication technologies as a tool to facilitate the right to information: the case of Federal Government in Mexico

The most relevant component for the implementation of the Federal Law for Transparency & Access to Information (**LAI**) in Mexico approved in 2002 and enacted in June 2003 has been the use of Internet technology. So far, nothing has proven to be more important.

The goal of the LAI is to guarantee citizens' right to access government information, and increase transparency and accountability in the Federal Government. The law also clearly establishes that *anyone* can request information from the Mexican government, whether or not you are a citizen of Mexico. Three major information tools were developed to facilitate the exercise of these new information rights; they are extremely user-friendly and efficient. All three web-based tools show the extent to which advanced electronic information technology can encourage, simplify and broaden access to government information.

The first tool developed is the **Information Request System** (*Sistema de Solicitudes de Información, SISI*, [www.sisi.org.mx](http://www.sisi.org.mx)), which allows any person to request information from the Federal Government (entirely through the Internet) follow-up on the request, retrieve the agency's response through the web, and eventually file an appeal if the response is unsatisfactory. The technology behind SISI's electronic request system has also been transferred to several local-level governments, through an advanced technology known as *Información Mexicana (Infomex)*, [www.info-mex.org.mx](http://www.info-mex.org.mx)). To facilitate access to previous information requests, an advanced web-based search engine was developed, known as **ZOOM** ([www.ifai.org.mx](http://www.ifai.org.mx)), which allows any interested party to consult all electronic information requests that have been submitted through SISI (more than 250,000 requests to date). The third electronic innovation developed is the Transparency Website (**Portal Transparencia**, [www.Portaltransparencia.gob.mx](http://www.Portaltransparencia.gob.mx)). The LAI mandates that each government agency publish certain basic information about its operations (such as directories, audits, budgets, rules of operation, etc.) through the Internet. The Por-Transparencia is a web system that organizes, systematizes and homogenizes the presentation of this information across agencies.