Meeting: Internet of Things (IoT)
Committee: Innovation and creativity of IoT
Country: France

Theoretically, we embedded things with sensors, software, actuators, and connectivity for them to "come to life" and communicate with each other (usually via internet to exchange and collect data) to transform our lives for the better. From driverless vehicles and smart kitchens (connected cooking) to the use of connected objects in manufacturing, education, recreation, elderly care, defence, space, energy and data mining industries, it improves our well-being by saving us time and physical exertion to, say, prepare a meal when the smart kitchen able to do the cooking for us. In practice, this does not seemed to be the case. In France, most Internet of Things (IoT) devices available seemed to be lacking in innovative functionality, causing French people to discontinue using it after purchase. For instance, we have the smart thermostat, Keecker, MyFox, BeSpoon, Motion Cookies, HAPIfork, Piq and so much more that were invented to ease our lives. Despite that, French arm of Deloitte reported that close to three-quarters of French people who own smart thermostat never use them.

Regardless of the aforementioned issue, the delegation of France is proud to say that more than half (69%) of French citizen are IoT savvy. This was mainly due to the increase of IoT devices' availability in French's market and the high curiosity percentage (49%) of IoT devices among French consumers. In recent years, France was often quoted as one of the spearheads of IoT. In the Global Stage for Innovation (CES) 2016 in Las Vegas, 200 French companies (mostly start-ups) exhibited was strongly represented in smart home devices, making it the third most represented country. This has proven that French government's effort in decreasing barriers to IoT market entry for start-ups paid off. With stronger centralized planning traditions, France also has funded an IoT centre in Angers, called Cité de l'Objet Connecté. France realizes that these efforts are imperative because technology investment and development will inevitably lag without innovative start-ups and an active mergers and acquisitions market. With France's urban reputation, smart cities and smart utilities was also emphasised by the French government and companies. Orange, a French telecommunication company, will deploy LoRa's the low-power wide-area wireless network (LPWAN) technology competing alongside LoRa's competitors (LTE-M and Sigfox) across French cities. In addition, the Tour de France has gone IoT by hiring Dimension Data and IBM to turn every race bike into a GPS-enabled data-collection point that provide real-time data for fans to stream. Finally, IBM is creating 1,800 IoT job opportunities in France that will add up to France's IoT advancement opportunities.

Taking France's IoT advancement opportunities and disfavour among French consumers into consideration, France realizes that increasing awareness and amount of IoT devices will increase and sustain interest among not just French but global consumers provided that it is equipped with innovative or creative usefulness and benefits to accommodate individuals, companies and the planet. Therefore, France is currently eyeing on more practical and beneficial IoT devices. France plans to put more emphasis in health-related connected objects that enable remote health monitoring and emergency notification systems such as the "smart beds" and bringing IoT devices integrated with Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to the next level, leaping beyond Tesla Motor's self-driving vehicles and iRobot Roomba. These life-saving and automated control devices will undoubtedly regain the confidence of France's nation and other countries alike towards IoT through witnessing a new shift in technological advancement, which therefore, improves and sustain mankind's well-being which is in-sync with the theme of this conference. France also wishes to adopt MyOmega's (German-based IoT company) smart vineyard (TracoVino) considering that France is one of the largest wine producers in the world.

With proper regulations to address IoT's usage ethical concerns, France believes that IoT is a promising life-changing technology that is not only expected to reach USD 933.62 billion by 2025 in the global industrial IoT market, but will bring goodness and lasting happiness to mankind. France hopes UN members will endorse IoT in various industries of each member's respective country. France look forward to offering its support involving IoT technology advancement to best benefit the global citizens.