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March 5, 2006
IPRO 341: Sub-team research (Government)

Government:

- **National Nanotechnology Initiative**, it “is a federal R&D program established to coordinate the multiagency efforts in nanoscale science, engineering, and technology.”¹ The NNI uses government funding it is exploring nanotechnology and its implications. Most of its budget is dedicated to education of nanotechnology and further research and development. It seems to offer mostly positive information on nanotechnology, by segmenting their audience according to age and education when informing. Although the NNI discusses legal and ethical issues, it focuses on them in broad and simple terms. Having on one webpage that states what issues are in and offers links to proposed grants and programs set up to explore societal concerns. But if observed, most of the programs and research dedicated to legal and ethics issues have a smaller budget than areas where education and development of nanotechnology occurs. The NNI is sponsored by the US government and is the first federally funded program that calls attention to nanotechnology.
- **Asian Nano Forum** is “ANF’s Mission is to promote the research and development and industrialization in nanotechnology that educationally, socially, environmentally and economically benefit each economy by fostering the international network and collaboration The ANF Objectives are: 1) Promote

• ¹ National Nanotechnology Initiative
<http://www.nano.gov/index.html>

human resource development by exchanging students, researchers and experts 2) Promote sharing information, resources, and experiences, i.e., R&D projects, basic infrastructure, etc. of each economy through the ANF network 3) Enhance public awareness and education ANF network member agreed to Share Information & Infrastructures, and Collaborate Research & Activities in the field of a) Standardization of concepts and measurements b) Social, environmental and health issues c) Education and human resource development.”² The ANF is supported by 13 economies in the Asia Pacific region. They include Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Most of the organizations from the countries are a mixture of government and private organizations that consist of scientists, research and development engineers as well as policy makers. The ANF views nanotechnology as a positive change in the world and promotes all aspects of research. It efforts to develop nano products though, it also calls for strong attention to standardization of nanotechnology through the involvement of policy makers from different countries.

- **Overall**, it seems that United States is falling behind in taking the “initiative” on nanotechnology further than most countries have so far. For example, the United States has funded the research and development of nanotechnology but it has given little regard to developing policy parallel to R &D. The NNI’s focus on

• ² The Asian Nanotechnology Forum
<http://www.asia-nano.org/index.php>

education of the new technology gives evidence of the fact that Americans are ill prepared for such an innovative technology and our country is still in education phase. But as we see with the ANF, while developing and investing money in research, they are creating networks of governments and private organizations from many different countries in an effort to develop policy and regulation.

- **I feel** that the United States government can use the tactical approach of the countries involved in the Asian Nano Forum, by creating networks and joining forces with other countries devoted to nanotechnology we can assess the impacts and regulatory issues (as well as ethical) on a global scale. As we head towards globalization with full speed, the issues no longer can be discussed independently, but rather should be a cohesive effort made by several global stakeholders.