Ignore the small battles, focus on the bigger wars

■ This is not a battle between Hyderabad and Bangalore — that is only a little battle. IT Week and the Bangalore Declaration is about global strategic play. If Bangalore with all its weaknesses, potholes, power-cuts and in-fighting is already classified among top ten IT cities in the world, its massive potential to make strategic impact in this area is easy to gauge.

■ It is unfair to say people are doing coolie labour. After all, everyone does that kind of work back home. The question is more such work needs to be done here than abroad. Bangaloreans were the first to get interactive TV, much before Hong Kong, London or anywhere else. Bangalore should tap the huge population of elderly, retired and smart people who are waiting to be utilised and logged in.

■ If the West is complacent about the service sector, the four billion people in India, China and Africa are waiting to be benefited by the database in areas like passport, ra-

tion, tickets, et al. I am optimistic because it is the first Declaration to have practical propositions, backed by the IT community.

— Peter D. O'Neil, founder editor, Third World, EEC News Feature TV Radio and Research Agency, London.

■ It might appear that it's only a mood of self-congratulation but it actually represents the aspirations of the developing countries. The Declaration, while dealing with UN agencies or any other organsiation, will prove as a framework for adopting policies.

— John Clews, SESAME Computer Projects, UK

■ The Declaration and the Global Village will help us fight the bureaucracy. We have collected a number of case studies which will help us in overcoming bureaucratic hurdles.... Participation has not been uniform but the spirit of the Third World has been pervasive.

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■ Jaffna apart, the rest of Sri Lanka is quite safe. Colombo is quite pleasant as anyone who has

visited it knows. Actually, no city in the world is fully safe anyway.

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■ Some of our people's computer degrees are not worth the paper they are printed on.

— V.K. Samaranayake, director, Institute of Computer Technology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, plugging for his country as a possible IT destination.

■ Bangladesh's strength is the substantial number of educated, unemployed youth it has with ability to read/write English. They can be trained in data processing skills.

— Jamilur Reza Choudhury, professor of civil engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka.

■ The choice of lectures fell a little short of the desired ones. They could have chosen an Indian to deliver the lecture on 'IT and Social Services'. Even though many countries are not represented, I feel we can decide and participate on their behalf.

— N. Balakrishnan, SERC, IISc, Bangalore

— Compiled by The Times Team