

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



*Telecommunication
Development Bureau*

T E L E F A X

Place des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Telephone +41 22 730 51 11
Telefax Gr3: +41 22 733 72 56
Gr4: +41 22 730 65 00

Date: 15 October 2008 Time: Page 1/12 Ref: HCB/DM 198

To: Administrations of ITU Member States,
Regulators and ITU-D Sector Members of the
Asia-Pacific Region Fax:

Contact: Ms. Eun-ju Kim,
Head, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the
Pacific For your reply:
E-Mail: wisit.atipayakoon@itu.int
Fax: + 66 2 5749328 Tel: + 66 2 5748565

Copy: Mr. Robert Shaw,
Head, Human Capacity Building Division Email: tensin.tobgyl@itu.int
Fax: + 41 22 7305527 Tel: + 41 22 7306815

Subject: **ITU Asia-Pacific Centres of Excellence Training Workshop on "Effective Use of
Telecommunications/ICT in Response to Disasters: Saving Lives", 24–28 November 2008,
Sintok, Kedah, Malaysia**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), we would like to invite your organization to participate in a training workshop on "**Effective Use of Telecommunications/ICT in Response to Disasters: Saving Lives**", to be held in Sintok, Kedah, Malaysia, from 24-28 November 2008. This training workshop is organized jointly by the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the ITU, Universiti Utara Malaysia (ITU Centres of Excellence node in the Asia-Pacific region), the Government of Malaysia's Ministry of Energy, Water and Communications (MEWC), and is sponsored by the Government of Australia's Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE).

This training workshop focuses on concepts and hands-on experience with various technologies and applications which are intended for deployment and facilitating rescue and relief operations in the aftermath of disasters. The objectives of this training workshop are:

- To demonstrate telecommunication/ICT options applicable for use in response to disasters and/or in emergencies;
- To provide practical experience to participants in using telecommunication/ICT facilities and services for disaster relief operations;
- To strengthen partnerships in disaster relief among international organizations, NGOs, industry, and governments, as well as the encourage the roles of public sector and/or NGOs (e.g., radio amateurs, volunteers, etc);
- To identify issues and challenges in countries and consider the means to overcome them.

.../...

This training workshop has been developed as part of the ITU-D's *Sponsored Training Workshop Series* organized under the umbrella of the ITU Centres of Excellence Network for the Asia-Pacific Region. It targets heads and/or senior managers of disaster management organizations, policy makers, regulators, managers of NGOs or volunteer groups concerned with disaster rescue and relief operations in the Asia-Pacific region.

The draft agenda is attached (Annex 1) for your information. Country delegates are invited to submit country papers and/or presentations which will be presented and discussed during the workshop, by e-mail to Mr. Wisit Atipayakoon (wisit.atipayakoon@itu.int). The papers or presentations should address, but are not limited to, the following list of topics:

- (a) Nature of disasters and their socio-economic impact;
- (b) Issues and challenges in applying telecommunications/ICTs in all phases of disaster management;
- (c) Existence of relevant policy and regulation regarding communications during emergencies and disasters;
- (d) Recommendations for action plans and solutions.

To register for the above-mentioned training workshop, participants are kindly requested to complete the attached registration form (Annex 2) and send it to the above mentioned e-mail address **by 6 November 2008** at the latest. Please be informed that there are no training fees for this workshop. Travel arrangements and accommodation should be made and borne by participating Administration. However, we are pleased to inform you that, under the *ITU-D Sponsored Training Workshop Series*, thanks to the sponsorship of the Government of Australia's DBCDE, ITU is able to provide one full fellowship covering air ticket and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) to ITU Member Administrations or their authorized nominations. Kindly fill in the attached fellowship request form (Annex 3) with all complete details and send it with your registration form. Due to limited seats and budget availability, fellowships will be awarded in priority to Least Developed Countries and Low-Income Developing Countries, as well as to candidates submitting a country paper and/or presentation for the workshop. Useful information for participants is attached in Annex 4.

Those participants requiring an entry visa to Malaysia are requested to contact their local Embassy of Malaysia for information well in advance. Further information about the event can be found at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/asp/CMS/Events/2008/DisasterComm.asp>

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,



Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid
Director

Annexes:

1. Draft Agenda
2. Registration Form
3. Fellowship Request Form
4. Useful Information for Participants