

## **Announcement**

### ***ITU and OLPC collaborate to bring laptops to school children in the Pacific Islands***

On the occasion of the *Pacific ICT Ministerial Forum: Connecting the Unconnected* held from 17-20 February 2009 in Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga, Mr Sami Al-Basheer, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau and Mr Michael Hutak, Regional Director, Oceania, One Laptop Per Child (OLPC), announced a new joint effort to bring laptops to school children in least developed countries in the Asia-Pacific region, in particular the Pacific Island countries.

As part of a shared ITU-OLPC effort in Asia-Pacific, **ITU** will identify potential partner countries and coordinate with Governments and relevant agencies to identify requirements and will handle administrative requirements, including facilitating shipping of equipment.

**OLPC** will supply laptops to participating countries, with the support of donors, and will work with all partners to realize sustainable programs through cohesive deployment in schools, sufficient capacity-building and effective technical support.