

Recommendations of the *BDT/ITU Seminar “Readiness for emergency situations and liquidation of their consequences with the use of telemedicine and e-Health”,*
8-10 July 2009 Moscow, Russian Federation

At the invitation of the Russian Federation Communications Administration and in cooperation with the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications, the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) organized the seminar “Readiness for emergency situations and liquidation of their consequences with the use of telemedicine and e-Health”, from 8 to 10 July 2009 in Moscow, Russia. The Scientific and Production Association “National Telemedicine Agency” hosted the seminar.

Participants at the seminar included 61 representatives of seven CIS countries (Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), as well as representatives from Nigeria, Hungary, RCC Executive Committee and the ITU. The attendees represented CIS administrations and other national organizations, such as the Ministry for Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan and Russia, the Ministry of Public Health of Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Uzbekistan, the Foreign Ministry of Russia, the Russian Academy of Science, the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and the All-Russia Center for Emergency Medicine “Zashchita”. The seminar was also attended by ten academicians and more than ten Doctors of Science.

Seminar participants were welcomed by Mr. A.P. Pershov, Deputy Director of the State Policy Department of the Ministry of Telecommunications and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation, and Ms. N.E. Zorya, Deputy Director of the RCC Executive Committee. The representative from Azerbaijan read out the welcoming addresses of the Minister for Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan and the Minister of Communications and IT of Azerbaijan.

The Moscow seminar provided a forum to discuss issues related to the application of ICTs in emergency situations. The outcomes of this seminar are expected to promote increased usage of such technologies in CIS countries. The following subjects were discussed during the event:

1. Legislative base for the creation of telemedicine systems
2. Telemedicine systems as a way to bridge digital and social divides
3. Preparedness for emergency situations and elimination of their consequences
4. Telemedicine systems for the provision of medical aid to victims of emergency situations.

The seminar participants listened to twenty reports from invited speakers and took part on a round table discussion addressing the most vital issues related to the creation and introduction of telemedicine systems. To guide the discussions, participants used ITU and WSIS documents and Recommendations for the application of ICTs in emergency situations.

Based on the analysis of the delivered reports and results from the discussions, the seminar participants found it expedient to submit a joint RCC contribution to the CIS Regional Meeting in Preparation for WTDC-2010 (Minsk, Belarus, November 2009). The contribution refers to the integrated use of ICTs and telemedicine for forecasting and eliminating the consequences of emergency situations. The participants at the seminar noted the importance and topicality of issues considered during this event, as well as the high level of its organization and contents. They expressed their gratitude to the Russian Federation Administration, ITU BDT, the Area Office for CIS, and the National Telemedicine Agency.