

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



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Subject: **ITU Expert-Level Training for National Regulatory Authorities and Operators of the Arab States Region on Network Cost Modeling – Level II Damascus, Syria, 1-5 August, 2010**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am very pleased to inform you that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) is organizing a training workshop on "Telecom Network Cost Modeling for the Arab States Region".

This training, which follows the ITU Expert-Level Training for national regulatory authorities and operators on cost modeling held in Damascus (Syria) from 11 to 15 October 2009, will also be held in Damascus (Syria) from 1 to 5 August 2010.

Changing technologies are having a profound effect on the structure of the telecommunication and information and communication technology (ICT) sector. Pricing and cost modeling practices are central to a fair, competitive and healthy telecommunication and ICT sector. Striking the right balance requires the stakeholders to fully understand and analyze in detail the advantages and disadvantages of different cost models, including their implications for the calculation of cost-based tariffs for regulated retail and wholesale services and the challenges of data collection. These key costing issues are among a range of operational issues to be addressed during this five day Expert-Level Training for national regulatory authorities and operators on cost modeling Level II.

The Expert-Level Training will be conducted by well known experts in this area including Professor Heinrich Otruba and Mr. Jim Holmes. The focus of this training is to provide participants with necessary theoretical background, international experiences, practical cases, concrete exercises and hands-on practice using template cost training model so that they can have an in-depth understanding of cost models development and its use. Discussion sessions will also be conducted to promote dialogue and exchange of experiences among participants. Participation of experts from regulatory authorities and telecommunication operators in charge of costing issues is greatly encouraged. Please find enclosed the Provisional Agenda (Annex 1).

This Expert-Level training will be conducted in English. To register for this training, it is important to have a cost modeling background as the training is at advanced level. Participants are kindly requested to complete the attached registration form (Annex 2) and send it to the e-mail addresses indicated in the form no later than **16 July 2010**. Hotel reservations should be made directly with your chosen hotel using the hotel reservation form (Annex 3).

For practical reasons relating to logistics, the number of participants will need to be limited to 40. In case of more than two participants registering from the same organization, we would place them on the waiting list that would be cleared on a first come first served basis after the last date for registration, with the aim of including as many participating countries as possible.

Information concerning hotel reservations, visa requests, as well as practical information is attached (Annex 4), and is also available at: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/finance/>. Those participants requiring an entry visa to Syria are requested to contact their local Embassy for information well in advance.

Please note that there are no training fees applicable to this course. However, participants should cover their own travel and accommodation expenses and arrangements.

I look forward to active participation from your organization.

Yours faithfully,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED]

Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid
Director

Annex 1: – Provisional Programme
Annex 2: – Registration form
Annex 3: – Hotel reservation form
Annex 4: – Useful information for participants