

Press release

24 May 2010

World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC)
of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Hyderabad, India, 24 May to 4 June 2010

Announcement of the participation of France to the ITU initiative
« Connect a School, Connect a Community »

On the occasion of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in Hyderabad (India) from 24 May to 4 June 2010, and in response to an open call for partners by Mr Sami Al-Basheer, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the French Ambassador in India, Mr. Jérôme Bonnafont, announced the support of France for ITU's flagship initiative « Connect a school, connect a community ».

The participation of France will consist of a voluntary contribution to ITU of 500,000 Euros to be effective in 2011. The purpose for France, within the framework of this ITU action plan, is to offer a broadband connectivity and equipment to about ten pilot schools in sub-Saharan Africa. These schools are also intended to become genuine access centres to online services for the benefit of all involved communities, notably vulnerable groups.

This action, in partnership with ITU, is one of the concrete commitments taken by France to bridge the digital divide.