

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: 26 February 2007

Time:

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Ref: DM-

To: Telecommunication Administrations, Regulators,
Regional Organizations and ITU-D Sector Members of
the Arab Region

Fax:

Contact: Riccardo Passerini, BDT/PSF-TND Unit

Ebrahim Al-Haddad, ITU Regional Office, Cairo

Susan Schorr, BDT/PSF-RRU Unit

Georges Sebek, ITU-T

For your reply:

E-Mail: riccardo.passerini@itu.int

Fax: +41 22 730 5484 Tel: +41 22 730 5720

E-Mail: ebrahim.al-haddad@itu.int

Fax: +202 262 2274 Tel: +202 262 6620

E-Mail: susan.schorr@itu.int

Fax: +41 22 730 5484 Tel: +41 22 7305638

E-Mail: sebek@itu.int

Fax: +41 22 730 5883 Tel: +41 22 730 5994

Subject: ITU-D/ITU-T Seminar on Standardization and Development of Next Generation Networks (29 April-2 May 2007) and Workshop on NGN Interconnection (2-3 May 2007), Manama (Bahrain)

Dear Sir/Madam,

At the kind invitation of the Bahrain Telecommunications Company (BATELCO), the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and the Standardization Bureau (TSB) of the International Telecommunication Union are jointly organizing a **Seminar on Standardization and Development of Next-Generation Networks for the Arab Region**, which will take place in Manama, Bahrain from 29 April to 2 May (morning) 2007. **The seminar will be followed by a Workshop on NGN Interconnection from 2 (afternoon) to 3 May 2007.**

The objectives of the seminar are twofold: first, to discuss the current trends, status and future evolution of Next-Generation Networks technology and standardization, as being addressed by the ITU-T and share the experiences of NGN design, development and deployment. Central to these are: what areas of technology innovation hold the greatest promise for NGNs and what are the most innovative applications and services possible with NGNs. To this effect, issues revolving around NGN architecture, NGN technology and quality of service requirements, as well as evolution will be explored. Second, as NGNs are a major departure from the network today – these developments will likely change the ways the telecommunication sector operates – NGN regulatory and policy issues for developing countries to exploit its full potential for development will also be discussed.

The objective of the interconnection workshop is to look at the challenges for regulatory and policy frameworks associated with the deployment of Next-Generation Networks (NGN) in the region. It will focus, in particular, on what kinds of interconnection arrangements make sense in an NGN world. It will provide a unique opportunity to develop a common understanding of the current issues, looking at whether NGN interconnection is likely to require regulatory intervention or if it can be achieved through commercial negotiations; what new competitive bottlenecks are likely to arise in the NGN environment and how to handle the migratory phase when multiple networks are in use.

The Call for Speakers and the Draft Program of the seminar and the workshop are attached herewith for your information and action.

Any presentations and contributions for the organization of the events will be highly appreciated and should be notified electronically to the ITU, **no later than 31 March 2007**, to the attention of Mr. Riccardo Passerini, e-mail: riccardo.passerini@itu.int.

The meetings will be conducted in English and Arabic with simultaneous interpretation.

Your Administration/Company/Organization is invited to participate in and to contribute to both events with one or more qualified experts.

In this respect, should your Administration require **a partial fellowship** limited to **one** participant from Least Developed Countries within the available budget, covering the cost of accommodation and miscellaneous expenses (the cost of travel should be covered by your administration), you are kindly requested to fill the attached Fellowship Nomination Form and return it to the ITU Fellowships Service by fax (+41 22 730 5778) **by 6 April 2007 at the latest**.

You are kindly requested to complete and fax, **by 6 April 2007 at the latest**, the attached Registration Form for all your representatives to Mr. Mohamed Ali Derazi, BATELCO (Fax: +973-17-914141), with copy to the ITU Regional Office in Cairo (Email: mail@ituarabic.org, Fax: +202 2622 274) and to Mr. Passerini (Fax: +41 22 730 5484) and the Hotel Reservation Form to Mrs. Masalek Alhaddad, BATELCO (Fax: +973-1791-4140).

Those participants requiring entry visa to Bahrain are requested to contact their local Embassy/Consulate of Bahrain for information well in advance. In case there is no Embassy or Consulate of Bahrain in your country, please contact urgently Mr. Derazi (BATELCO), Fax: +973-17-91-4141, e-mail: ad2@btc.com.bh for assistance.

All the related information on the events, which will be updated on regular basis, could be found on the following websites:

www.itu.int/ITU-D/tech/network-infrastructure/index.html and www.ituarabic.org.

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

Yours faithfully,

Original letter signed by:

Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid
Director of the Telecommunication
Development Bureau

Malcolm Johnson
Director of the Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau

Annexes: 6
Call for speakers
Draft programs
Registration form
Fellowship request form
Hotel reservation form