

ITU TELECOM Asia 2004

Youth Forum Declaration and Action Plan

Our Vision

We, the youth of the ITU TELECOM Asia 2004, envisage a society of understanding and connectivity where everyone has equal opportunities in life and may realize their full potential through the use of ICTs. We believe in preserving our local cultures while creating this sustainable prosperous world through Asia's leadership to create new and innovative ICTs to benefit people globally.

Issues

The ICT industry faces seemingly insurmountable obstacles in the form of the digital divide both between and within countries around the globe, regulations and policies, convergence, cooperation and ethics.

To truly address this challenge, we declare the need for real accountability and cooperation amongst all stakeholders in the ICT industry, as well as extensive education with regard to these issues.

Action Plan

Education

We need to increase awareness of the digital divide by firstly arming ourselves with knowledge and then teaching others, especially the uninitiated. Specifically, we must:

- Raise computer literacy and awareness of the benefits of ICTs to consumers through educational campaigns
- Inspire and become involved in our local communities
- Continue to work together in youth forums to come to a consensus on what we need to do in the field of ICTs
- Use ICTs responsibly and promote these values in work and home life

Accountability

We challenge ourselves and all of you to increase the transparency and accountability of our actions:

- We recommend that governments must be accountable for the

declarations they have signed up to and should publicise progress against set goals – e.g. IT 839 in South Korea

- We, as youth, plan to implement this with regular follow ups between local and regional Youth Forum Alumni, supported and advised by organisations such as the ITU
- Underpinning this accountability is the need to develop benchmarks that measure real progress in the ICT industry. Universal access does not necessarily mean access within every household, but rather, a reasonable level of availability and the ability to use this technology

Cooperation

Cooperation among governments, companies, industries and civil society is essential to bridge the digital divide and to improve sustainable prosperity:

- Governments and industry of developed countries should provide financial and technical assistance to aid developing countries
- Conversely, governments of these developing countries should remove barriers to foreign investment
- International policies must be developed and abided by to ensure interoperability of ICTs and a truly connected society

We, the youth of this forum, accept this challenge, and invite you to take up this challenge with us.