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July 17, 2006

Houlin Zhao
Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau
International Telecommunication Union
Place des Nations
CH 1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Dear Houlin,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you and share my congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (ITU-T).

Information and communications technologies have transformed rapidly since the ITU-T's predecessor, the International Telephone and Telegraph Consultative Committee (CCITT) was established in 1956. The global impact of the standards work within the ITU-T has greatly influenced the spread of communications infrastructure and services during the last 50 years.

At ATIS, we view the relationship and synergies between both our organizations as absolutely vital to the success of telecommunications standards development. The member companies of ATIS have actively participated in the ITU-T since 1984, providing representatives and leaders whose expertise in telecommunications technologies and standardization efforts have produced critically important ATIS standards, as well as valuable technical contributions, in support of the creation of ITU-T Recommendations. I should further add that the collaborative activities between our organizations, to include the joint workshop on Next Generation Networks (NGN) in March 2006, and ongoing participation within the Global Standards Collaboration, is bringing great support to the creation of standards and technical outputs in a manner that is timely and responsive to our members' needs.

Houlin, I also wish to convey to you on this important occasion that it is an honor for ATIS to work with you and the dedicated staff of the ITU-T. We look forward to our continuing and supportive relationship, which will result in the creation of new standards and solutions that will further shape the future of telecommunications networks and services, as well as the business of our industry.

I sincerely wish I could be with you to celebrate in person on July 20, and it is with great regret that I am not personally present to share these thoughts. I offer my best wishes to you, Houlin, and to the entire ITU-T organization, on this most special occasion.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Miller
President & CEO

Standards that Drive the Business of Communications