



ITU TELECOM  
WORLD 2009  
Geneva  
5-9 October

# Youth Forum Programme

**Young voices, new visions**

# Young voices, new visions

Today's youth are tomorrow's future leaders. They will embrace the power of information and communication technologies (ICTs), be digitally fluent, shape digital futures, and live an ICT-enabled lifestyle. It is important that tomorrow's leaders are given a voice and a platform to share their visions of the world and to live their dreams. It is crucial that they are introduced to ICTs at an early stage in their career development. The Information Age is full of challenges and opportunities, which youth must be able to grasp in order to shape their own future.

According to United Nations statistics, more than a billion people are aged between 15 and 25, while almost another 2 billion are even younger, representing, in total, almost half the world's population. In many developing countries, young people comprise the majority of the population. Clearly, bringing ICT to the young has tremendous social, economic and cultural implications for the future. Young people will bring their talent, energy and innovative ideas and fresh thinking to the ICT sector.

Familiarity with ICT is already enabling young people to disseminate their own ideas, and it allows them to become socially and economically active on a global level. Young people are not only consumers of information, but also its creators. As avid users of new technology, whenever it is available, the youth of today are far more aware of their environment. Giving them the tools to share their visions will help make a better future for themselves and their communities.

Sunday, 4 October	<b>Youth Forum Opening</b>
11:00 – 12:00	
YF.1: Opening <b>Room C (PALEXPO)</b>	

**\*Chairman: Mr A. Reza JAFARI**, Chairman, ITU TELECOM Board, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Eaton International (United States)

**Opening Remarks**

ITU is proud to be leading the ICT revolution and recognizes that expectations for a bright future will only be met if society bridges the digital divide that exists within and between nations. True progress will be measured by ensuring all sectors of society have access to ICTs and the skills and knowledge necessary to harness their power. These objectives are enshrined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the targets set by world leaders at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). To this end, ITU is committed to moving youth to the centre of the global ICT agenda.

**\*Speaker: Dr. Hamadoun I. TOURÉ**, Secretary-General (ITU)

**Keynote Speakers:**

Today, there is no doubt that ICTs play an important role in the social and economic development of all countries. How can ICT be used to advance the contribution of youth to promote development?

**\*Speaker: Mr Robert HENSLER**, Chancellor of the Republic and Canton of Geneva (Switzerland)

Investing in youth is investing in the future. The return on investment is measured in opportunities and improved lives of young people, their communities and the ICT sector itself. BDT promotes youth-focused ICT development activities as a major component of its mission to connect the world in line with the WSIS targets. In an increasingly networked world, where youth are not only the beneficiaries but often the driving force behind the latest ICT innovations and practices, ICTs can improve our way of life, how we work, and where we work and live. It is our goal to help open doors for young people to the ever-changing opportunities offered by ICTs -- especially to those who remain unconnected or on the peripheries of the ongoing digital revolution.

**\*Speaker: Mr. Sami AL BASHEER AL MORSHID**, Director (ITU-BDT)

The telecommunications industry is continuously developing innovative technologies and products that change the way we work and live. Humankind's capacity to create and to innovate is limitless. And nowhere is this more apparent than in young people. From the classrooms of today will come chief executive officers and entrepreneurs of tomorrow's telecommunication companies or government leaders. Innovation and creativity are the natural resources on which future prosperity will depend. So it is important for young people to understand the link between human creativity and intellectual property in daily life. What must WIPO do to encourage young people to recognize their own ability to create, to increase understanding of how protecting intellectual property rights helps to foster creativity and innovation, and to raise awareness of the importance in daily life of patents, copyright and trademarks?

**Speaker: Mr Francis GURRY**, Director General, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

The first Youth Forum was held nine years ago. Hundreds of youth have had their lives changed by the event. One Youth Forum Alumni shares experiences on the impact of the event on her/his professional life.

**\*Speaker: Ms Lu ZHAO**, Programme Manager, Microsoft (USA) and ITU Youth Forum Alumnus, ASIA TELECOM 2002 (China, People's Rep. of)

\* = Confirmed

<b>Sunday, 4 October</b>	<b>Innovative Technologies and Services: New Vision</b>
<b>14:30 – 18:00</b>	
<b>YF.2: Interactive Session Room C (PALEXPO)</b>	

It's hard to imagine, but when most Youth Forum participants were born, very few people in developing countries had access to a telephone. Even in developed countries, phones at the time were largely fixed line terminals except for a few mobile devices that looked like big bricks. The Internet had not yet gone commercial and bulky personal computers (PCs) were just making their debut. Today, there are more than 4 billion mobile voice subscribers, the vast majority of them in developing countries. Innovative broadband technologies promise to put both voice and high-speed Internet services within reach of almost everyone, even in locations that were once thought to be beyond reach. Some of these technologies include FTTH (fibre to the home), largely for high-end markets, and fibre backbone networks coupled with a range of broadband wireless technologies, such as 3G, HSPA, WiMAX and LTE serving more markets. The development of low-cost laptops and smart phones means it's no longer necessary to have an expensive computer to join the Information Society. New applications and content tailored for nearly every user, including content generated by users themselves, continue to drive demand for ICT services from all segments of society, all regions of the world. Technological advances have changed the very way we communicate. For many young people, texting and online chat are the dominant forms of communication, whether on a mobile phone, smart phone, PC or gaming console, together with the self-generated photos and videos they upload on their favorite social networking sites.

These developments have been spurred by innovation in technologies, the creation of new products and services and access to information. Young people have been at the forefront in driving this process as users, researchers, developers and the entrepreneurs that have established many successful ICT-based businesses, demonstrating how the Internet and ICT-based solutions can be used as an enabler for business and social development activities around the globe.

What technological innovations are likely to evolve in the next five to ten years? Which ones will help to promote universal access and achievement of the MDGs and WSIS objectives-ICTs for all? What kinds of assistive technologies are being developed for persons with disabilities to allow them to use today's ICTs? Once connected, how can we ensure safe and responsible use of ICTs?

This session will introduce participants to today's promising technologies to prepare them for later sessions and discuss likely trends in future technologies and applications and how they will shape innovation, creativity, information sharing and collaboration among users.

**Questions to discuss could include:**

- What are the most exciting technological innovations to expect over the coming ten years?
- What types of technologies will help promote universal access? Fibre? Broadband Wireless Access systems? Satellite?
- Will the number of mobile broadband users overtake fixed-line broadband users in the next five years?
- What kinds of Internet access devices (laptops, smart phones, personal computers) will we use in the future and will this change if mobile broadband becomes dominant?
- What kinds of broadband-enabled content, applications or services do Youth Forum participants use or would they use if broadband services were widely available in their country?
- How do young people get a start in developing new technologies, applications and content?

<b>Sunday, 4 October</b>	<b>Innovative Technologies and Services: New Vision</b>
<b>14:30 – 18:00</b>	
<b>YF.2: Interactive Session Room C (PALEXPO)</b>	

**\*Moderator:** **Mr Tomas LAMANAUSKAS**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (British Virgin Islands)

**Experts:**

1. **\*Dr Tony SALVADOR**, Director Research and Definition, Emerging Market Platform Group Intel Corporation (United States)
2. **\*Mr. Hal GURNEY**, Managing Director, Service Provider Solutions, Internet Business Solutions Group, Cisco Systems (United States)
3. **\*Mr Johan MARICQ**, ITU Youth Forum Alumnus, WORLD TELECOM 2006 (Belgium)

**Break: 16:00 – 16:30**

4. **\*Mr Edwin San ROMÁN**, Consultant (Dominican Republic)
5. **\*Mr Wale AJISEBUTU**, Managing Director, 21st Century Technologies (Fiber-To-The-Home) (FTTH) (Nigeria)
6. **\*Ms Marzia SULTANA**, ITU Youth Forum Alumnus, ASIA TELECOM 2008 (Bangladesh)
7. **\*Mr Mars TOKTONALIEV**, ITU Youth Forum Alumnus WORLD TELECOM 2003 (Kyrgyzstan)

\* = Confirmed

<b>Monday, 5 October</b>	<b>Policy and Regulation: Connect School, Connect Community</b>
<b>10:30 – 13:00</b>	
<b>YF.3 Interactive Session Le Cervin/Mont Blanc) PALEXPO</b>	

Technological, market, policy and regulatory developments have expanded the boundaries of people and communities connected to basic voice services, largely due to the success of mobile networks. While new technologies promise widespread Internet access, connectivity is still a dream for many children, women, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, and others living in rural areas. How can we replicate the mobile miracle to achieve the goal of promoting widespread Internet access and make the right to communicate a reality for all?

One answer may lie in connecting schools to the Internet. Connecting schools holds the promise of bringing the Internet within reach of all young people and ensuring the right to universal education, for girls and boys, rich and poor. Promoting the Internet in schools also opens the door to the expanding universe of digital libraries and other knowledge resources such as open universities, e-learning, training programmes for ICT-based careers, and training about responsible online behavior.

Connecting schools can connect entire communities. Women's groups can use school Internet facilities for career training, literacy development, education or e-commerce opportunities. Schools can be equipped with assistive technologies to open the Internet to persons with disabilities. Connecting schools in rural or under-served areas or in areas populated by indigenous people expands the boundaries of connected communities even further just as using low-cost laptops or smart phones can help make connecting schools more affordable. Once a school in a previously un-connected locale has an Internet connection, the network can be extended to local government offices, health care services and commercial use.

This session will explore innovative governmental policies designed to ensure that primary, secondary and tertiary schools are connected to the Internet in line with the goals set by world leaders at WSIS and with the MDGs on universal education and gender equality. It looks at regulatory measures such as universal service funds, education-rate initiatives and government funding for rural broadband networks to finance school connectivity and the role the private sector is playing. It will take a look at the latest trends in digital libraries, open universities and other online knowledge resources as well as low-cost laptops that schools can tap, as well as safety online initiatives to promote child online protection. The session will examine other public and private initiatives to connect communities or develop content and applications for social and economic development. The session also explores how Youth Forum participants could put school and community connectivity on the political agenda in their country.

**Questions to be discussed could include:**

1. What are the best policies to promote connecting schools? What policies act as barriers?
2. How can coordination between education and communications ministries, regulators, local authorities, the private sector and NGOs be fostered?
3. What role will mobile broadband technologies play in connecting schools?
4. Who decides which service providers can connect schools?
5. Where can funding for connecting schools be found?
6. What steps are necessary to enable schools to serve the wider community and build job skills for women, persons with disabilities and indigenous people, promote literacy, develop applications for communities, etc?
7. Is connecting schools on the agenda in your country? Why, why not?
8. Can publishers be convinced to share their content with schools for free?
9. How can your school acquire low cost technologies, e.g. laptops?
10. Which schools should be equipped with assistive technologies?
11. Do import taxes or other restrictions stand in the way of bringing low-cost equipment to your school?
12. What practices can ensure sustainability for equipment provided to schools? What role for equipment suppliers?

<b>Monday, 5 October</b> <b>10:30 – 13:00</b> YF.3 Interactive Session Le Cervin/Mont Blanc (PALEXPO)	<b>Policy and Regulation:</b> <b>Connect a School, Connect a Community</b>
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**1<sup>st</sup> Part: 10:30 – 11:30**

**Moderator:** \*Ms Susan SCHORR, Head, a.i. Special Initiatives Division (ITU-BDT)

**Special Guest Speaker:** UN Secretary-General and VVIPs meet WORLD TELECOM 2009 Youth

**Experts:**

1. \*Professor David MELLOR, Chairman, United Kingdom Telecommunication Academy (UKTA) (United Kingdom)
2. \*Dr Abdul Waheed KHAN, Assistant Director-General, For Communication and Information (UNESCO)
3. \*Mr Jean-Jacques SAHEL, Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs, Europe Skype (UK)
4. \*Mr Ali R. EBADI, Chairman, RRB and MEASAT Teleport and Transport Centre (Malaysia)
5. \*Mr Axel LEBLOIS, Executive Director, G3ict (United States)
6. \*Mr Ladislav HIBUSU, ITU Youth Forum Alumnus AFRICA TELECOM 2008 (Zambia)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Part: 11h30 – 13h00**

7. \*H.E. Senator Stephen CONROY, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (Australia)
8. \*H.E. Mr. Reza TAGHIPOUR, Minister, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) (Iran)
9. \*H.E. Mr Tuck Yew LUI, Acting Minister of Information, Communications and the Arts (Singapore)
10. S.E. Dra. María del Rosario GUERRA DE LA ESPRIELLA, Ministra Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones (Colombia)
11. \* Mr Aurimas MATULIS, Director, Information and EU issues Division, Information Society Development (Lithuania)
12. \*Mr Mario ALLEMAN, ITU Youth Forum Alumnus (WORLD TELECOM 2006) (Nicaragua)

\* = Confirmed

Tuesday, 6 October	<b>The Global Financial Crisis: New Opportunities and Challenges for Developing Countries</b>
<b>14:30 – 18:00</b>	
YF.4 Interactive Session <b>Room C (PALEXPO)</b>	

The role of ICTs in fostering economic development, wealth creation, poverty reduction and job creation has been taken as an undisputed fact. Will the global economic crisis lead to a slow-down in ICT-enabled jobs and wealth or are there new opportunities waiting to be seized? How do recent graduates from secondary school and universities envision their futures in light of the current harsh economic reality? What role will ICTs play in economic growth and opportunity for young people in developing countries? Has consumer demand slowed in developing countries or are there still paying customers lining up to become one of the next billion members of the Information Society? Do developing countries, with lower-cost labor, offer a solution to cash-starved companies in the developed world? Could this be a boon to online back-office processing and other Internet-enabled jobs? How are Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) using ICTs in developing countries to build their businesses? How are micro-credit financed businesses such as village phone operators and mobile-banking faring in the face of the economic crisis? How will these businesses, based on basic mobile phones, evolve with the advent of mobile broadband networks in developing countries?

This session will examine the financial and business dynamics of building an ICT-enabled business in developing countries in light of global economic conditions. It will explore barriers faced by businesses, in particular youth entrepreneurs in developing countries, and highlight how ICTs could be deployed as a solution. How can young talented entrepreneurs ride the wave of global economic uncertainty and find ICT-enabled opportunities? What if you're sitting on the next Google or Skype business idea or an ICT application that can lead to poverty reduction in the developing world? What steps can you take to bring your ideas from brainstorm to the boardroom?

**Questions to discuss could include:**

1. How does the cost of credit affect the bottom line?
2. How can you identify viable business opportunities?
3. How do you develop your business plan without risking someone taking your ideas?
4. What kind of micro-credit ICT businesses would work in your country? Why?
5. What barriers exist to setting up a back office processing center in your country?
6. Necessity is called the mother of invention. Will the financial crisis act as a stimulus for creating cheap and affordable equipment such as the promised hundred dollar laptop?
7. Will increased access to ICTs lead to an increase in online crime, especially in light of the global financial crisis?
8. What would you do if someone offered you a free laptop or smart phone and broadband Internet access? Create a business? Start a charity organization? Use it for higher education? Play computer games and chat?

Tuesday, 6 October	<b>The Global Financial Crisis: New Opportunities and Challenges for Developing Countries</b>
<b>14:30 – 18:00</b>	
YF.4 Interactive Session <b>Room C (PALEXPO)</b>	

**Moderator:** \*[Mr Bosco Eduardo FERNANDES](#), Vice President, Nokia Siemens Networks GmbH & Co. KG (German)

**Experts:**

1. \*[Dr. Bruno LANVIN](#), Executive Director, Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires (INSEAD) (France)
2. \*[Mr Bill GRAHAM](#), Strategic Global Engagement, Office of the President, Internet Society (ISOC) (United States)
3. \*[Dr Tomaz JANOWSKI](#), Senior Research Fellow, United Nations University (China)
4. \*[Mr Angel Leonardo VALDIVESO](#), ITU Youth Forum Alumnus, WORLD TELECOM 2006 (Germany)
5. \*[Mr Zwelithini GININDZA](#), ITU Youth Forum Alumnus, AFRICA TELECOM 2004 (Swaziland)
6. \* [Mr Sukovic MILAN](#), ITU Youth Forum Alumnus, WORLD TELECOM 2006 (Montenegro)
7. \* [Mr Jad BAROUDI](#), ITU Youth Forum Alumnus ASIA TELECOM 2008 (Lebanon)

**Break: 16h00 – 16h30**

\* = Confirmed

<b>Wednesday, 7 October</b>	<b>Internet for Development: Using Web 2.0 and Cutting Connectivity Costs</b>
<b>14:30 – 18:00</b>	
<b>YF.5 - Workshop.1 Room C (PALEXPO)</b>	

Web 2.0, the term coined to refer to the evolution in the development of the World Wide Web, has given rise to social-networking sites, wikis, blogs and other hosted services and applications. How are youth defining the social and interactive Web? The Power of Web 2.0 is centered on three critical success factors: the use of open systems, small beginnings and easy-to-use interfaces. Knowledge and information are open to all. Shared knowledge leads to change and innovation where everybody can contribute to development and production. Essentially, it means that ordinary people, particularly youth, can lead change.

How could Web 2.0 technologies and services facilitate the use of ICT for development (ICT4D) especially programmes focused on meeting the MDGs? What benefits and values can Web 2.0 provide to new Internet users in the developing world? Web 2.0 services and applications can also be used to access information, secure funding and business expertise and develop capacity building to create new business and employment opportunities. The workshop will also explore potential Web 2.0 business models and future trends expected beyond Web 2.0. What are the implications for young people in terms of policy, technology, funding, privacy and security?

Web 2.0 developments depend on a robust broadband platform, which increasingly means national fibre backbones. Although the cost of fibre itself has gone down, the cost of digging trenches and obtaining rights of way to lay fibre in cities and towns has put the cost of fibre backbones beyond the reach of many developing countries. This session will also look at innovative strategies that can be used to encourage fibre backbone deployment, such as coordinating with other major infrastructure projects to lay fibre as rail systems, highways and pipelines are deployed or giving local governments fibre strands in exchange for rights of way.

Attracting broadband users for Web 2.0 applications also depends on the cost of retail broadband services. This in turn is usually linked to the cost of international connectivity. Do you know how Internet users in your country connect to the international Internet backbone? Can all Internet Service Providers have their own international gateway or is the gateway controlled by only one player? This session will also look at how international gateway policies impact the cost of Internet service and what role Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) can play to reduce the cost of Internet access.

#### Questions

- How are social-networking applications changing the way we communicate and the way we work?
- Are we prepared for the responsibility of communicating online? How much information about our personal lives should we share with the global online community?
- Why do you think governments may limit access to the international gateway?
- Many new sub-marine cable networks serving developing countries have been announced or are being deployed. How will this development impact developing countries' connectivity goals?
- How can operators be encouraged to work together to create an IXP?

#### Workshop Leaders:

**\*Mr Michael BEST**, Assistant Professor, The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology (United States)

#### Experts:

1. **\*Mr Tad DERISO**, General Manager, Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative (MBC) (United States)
3. **\* Mr Samuel H. MORGAN**, ITU Youth Forum Alumnus, ITU Telecom World 2006 (Jamaica)

\* = Confirmed

Thursday, 8 October	<b>Online games: beyond entertainment</b>
14:30 – 16:00	
YF.6 - Workshop.2 Room C (PALEXPO)	

Many teenagers have become addicted to online games. While parents may seek to curb their use, this popular pastime can lead to more than just fun and games. Businesses are now using games to get feedback on new product lines, make major announcements, and build customer loyalty. Political activists have also gotten into the act. Games are used to mobilize voters and have succeeded in getting people to the voting booth, somehow breaking the magnetic attraction the computer seems to hold over many blurry-eyed users. Health activists have developed games to encourage good eating habits. How long will it be before companies selling harmful products like cigarettes or sugar-rich food will release games to attract new consumers? This mini-session explores the role of gaming for fun, business, health, politics and more. How can Youth Forum participants use gaming to advance their own agenda? How has gaming changed the way young people (and even some older ones) communicate?

**Workshop** \***Mr Michael BEST**, Assistant Professor, The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology (United States)

**Experts:**

- 1 \***Dr. Dennis FREZZO**, Senior Manager, Networking Academy Learning Systems Development Cisco Systems (United States)
2. \***Mr Michael FURDAYK**, Director of Technology, TakingITGlobal and ITU Youth Forum Alumnus WORLD TELECOM 2003 (Canada)
3. \***Mr Ahmed ASHOUR**, ITU Youth Forum Alumnus, WORLD TELECOM 2006 (Jordan)

\* = Confirmed

Thursday, 8 October	<b>Working Groups Meet to Develop Youth Forum Declaration</b>
16:30 – 18:00	
YF.7 – Plenary Room C (PALEXPO)	

**Bringing it all together. Youth organize their working groups to develop the YF Declaration. Working groups meet with expert resource people to develop the 2009 Youth Forum Declaration on**

- **Innovative Technologies and Services: New Vision**
- **Connect a School, Connect a Community.**
- **The Global Financial Crisis: New Opportunities and Challenges for Developing Countries**
- **Internet for Development: Using Web 2.0 and Cutting Connectivity Costs**
- **Online games: beyond entertainment**

**Discussion could focus on the above mentioned five subjects based on the points highlighted by the participants at the sessions.**

**Group Leaders: (to be Selected by Youth Forum participants)**

Friday, 9 October	<b>YF working groups report back from drafting team</b>
09:00 – 10:30	
YF.8 – Plenary Room C (PALEXPO)	

Friday, 9 October	<b>Joint Forum, TDS and YF Closing</b>
12:00 – 13:00	
Room (to be announced)	

**End**