



**ITU-D**

STUDY GROUP 2

3rd STUDY PERIOD (2002-2006)

# *Potential benefits for rural telecommunications*

RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 18

## THE STUDY GROUPS OF ITU-D

The ITU-D Study Groups were set up in accordance with Resolutions 2 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1994. For the period 2002-2006, Study Group 1 is entrusted with the study of seven Questions in the field of telecommunication development strategies and policies. Study Group 2 is entrusted with the study of eleven Questions in the field of development and management of telecommunication services and networks. For this period, in order to respond as quickly as possible to the concerns of developing countries, instead of being approved during the WTDC, the output of each Question is published as and when it is ready.

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*QUESTION 10-1/2*

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*Communications for rural and  
remote areas*

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## RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 18

**Potential benefits for rural telecommunications***(March, 2006)***Question 10-1/2:** Communications for rural and remote areas

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Doha, 2006),

*considering*

- a) that it is widely accepted that the promotion of ICT services can act as a catalyser for the improvement of quality of life for people in the rural and remote areas;
- b) that the provision of guidance concerning the appropriate choice of technologies taking into account differing local conditions will be very important;
- c) that the availability of a range of standards-based technologies and solutions designed for long life and low maintenance, as well as low capital and operating cost that can facilitate local loop voice and data access will be critical;
- d) that the solutions referred to in c) will also be essential to facilitate community or shared access which can serve as a platform for delivery of education, healthcare, commerce, agriculture, etc., as well as an essential means of telecommunications in case of natural disasters;
- e) that experience already gained with the development of Multipurpose Community Telecentres (MCT), Public Call Offices (PCO) and Community Access Centres (CAC) can serve as a model for the further development of such concepts, incorporating new technological solutions,

*noting that*

- a) Recommendations 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, and 10-1 resulting from the ITU-D 1998-2002 study period already contain important information and guidance on various rural telecommunications issues and that these Recommendations are expected to be regularly updated;
- b) results of the work done by the ITU-D Study Group 2 during the study period 2002-2006 including analysis of the global surveys of rural telecommunication services and analysis of case studies collected from ITU Member States and Sector Members;
- c) that at the planning stage of telecommunication projects for rural and remote areas, it will be useful to take into account the successful practices provided in the analysis reports of the ITU-D SG-2;
- d) that the prioritization of ICT projects and the coordinated involvement of both Government and industry may encourage funding and so help to accelerate the development of telecommunications in rural communities;
- e) that the telecommunication infrastructure is critically dependant of the availability of ancillary services, including reliable electrical power supply,

*recommends*

- 1 that rural telecommunication infrastructure planners should take note of the potential benefits that can be derived from the liberalization of telecommunication markets whereby the participation of private entities can contribute to many aspects of the telecommunication infrastructure development, including funding;
  - 2 that partnership among government, international agencies and industry organizations should be encouraged for the planning and initial deployment, of rural telecommunication projects, even in cases where the intent is for them to be subsequently handed on to local administrations, local service operators or the communities themselves;
  - 3 that participation by concerned members of the community in all aspects of local telecommunication infrastructure development including definition of the required services and applications, should be promoted, in order to ensure that maximum sustained benefit can be derived from the infrastructure;
  - 4 that ICT training for all members of the local community should be promoted, regardless of age and gender, as the best means to ensure equal access to and benefit and additional opportunity from the local telecommunication infrastructure resources.
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