

# INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

General Secretariat



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SG/TSB

To:

- Administrations of Member States;
- ITU Sector Members;
- ITU Associates;
- Relevant international, regional and national organizations

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Copy:

- Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Advisory Groups and ITU Sectors Study Groups;

**ITU Symposia on ICTs and Climate Change**  
**- Kyoto, Japan, 15-16 April 2008**  
**- London, United Kingdom, 17-18 June 2008**

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 ITU is organizing a *Symposium on ICTs and Climate Change*, hosted by Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), to be held 15-16 April 2008 in Kyoto, Japan. To facilitate broader participation, a follow-up *Symposium* on the same topic will be hosted by BT, to be held 17-18 June 2008 in London, United Kingdom.

2 Participation is open to ITU Member States, Sector Members and Associates and to any individual and company from a Member State of ITU who wishes to contribute to the work. This includes individuals who are also members of international, regional and national organizations. Participation in both *Symposia* is free of charge but no fellowships will be granted. Discussions will be held in English only.

3 Climate change is a concern to all of humanity – requiring action by all segments of society – including the information and communication technology (ICT) sector. The adoption of the *Kyoto Protocol* in December 1997 represents a milestone in the international community's efforts to combat climate change as well as establishing limitations on greenhouse gas emissions which will start to come into effect in 2008.

4 In the 10 years since the adoption of the *Kyoto Protocol*, the number of users of ICTs worldwide has more than tripled. Kyoto is therefore the logical venue to launch a new ITU initiative investigating the role that ICTs play in increasing greenhouse gas emissions as well as their beneficial role in observing, monitoring and mitigation of climate change as well as adaptation.

5 These *Symposia* will bring together leading specialists in the field, from top policy-makers to engineers, designers, planners, government officials, regulators, standards experts and others. The main purpose is to raise awareness of the importance and opportunities of using ICTs to mitigate and address the effects of climate change and, in this light, to identify future requirements for ITU's related work – including standardization of ICT equipment and

networks as well as development activities. To this end, it is expected that the outputs of the two *Symposia* can serve as inputs to discussions shaping ITU future work – including at the 2008 World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-08)<sup>1</sup> as well as activities of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector<sup>2</sup>.

6 The Chairman's reports from the two *Symposia* will also be forwarded as inputs to other relevant meetings including the next G8 meeting in Japan (2008), the OECD Ministerial in the Republic of Korea (2008), APEC TELMIN 7 in Thailand (2008), the WEF Climate Change Initiative, and conferences of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is planned that each symposium will generate specific conclusions on the role of ICTs in combating climate change.

7 A call for papers to be presented at these two symposia, and for high-level speakers, may be found at: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/climatechange/call.html>, covering the following areas:

- Climate change, disaster management and the impact of ICTs
- Use of ICTs in monitoring, detecting and predicting the effects of climate change
- ICTs for mitigating the local effects of climate change
- ICTs and concerted action against global warming
- ICT standardization and spectrum management in the field of climate change

The deadline for the call for papers and speakers is **29 February 2008**. They should be sent by email to [tsbtechwatch@itu.int](mailto:tsbtechwatch@itu.int). Accepted papers/presentations should be submitted, in full, no later than **Friday, 28 March 2008** (for the Kyoto *Symposium*) and **Friday, 30 May 2008** (for the London *Symposium*).

8 More information on the two events is available on the ITU website at: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/climatechange/index.html>. Advanced programmes will be posted there, as well as practical information and registration details for the two *Symposia*. The event in Kyoto will start on 15 April at 1000 hours (local time). The website also contains a background paper on *ICTs and Climate Change*, published in December 2007 and reviewed by the ITU-T Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group, as well as a liaison statement sent to Study Groups on this topic (Annexed to report of TSAG WP/4, R26).

9 As part of ITU-T's ongoing work in this area, a series of tutorials on energy-saving were organized by ITU-T SG 15 from 13 to 15 February 2008. For more information, please refer to the SG15 website at: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/studygroups/com15/index.asp>.

10 Please recall that citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa in order to enter in Japan and the United Kingdom and participants should take appropriate steps, well ahead of the meeting dates.

11 In conclusion, I look forward to your participation in these *Symposia* and to your views on ITU's future strategy in responding to the global challenge of climate change.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré  
Secretary-General

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<sup>1</sup> WTSA-08 will be held 21-30 October 2008 in Johannesburg, South Africa. See <http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/wtsa-08/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/cyb/app/e-env.html>