High Level Dialogue on ICT Innovation and Standards

15 May 2013, ROOM C
14:00 – 16:00
(ITU, Geneva, Switzerland)

The objective of this session will be to discuss some of the ICT innovations happening in the developing world and whether such innovations could give rise to new ICT standards and fuel socioeconomic development and improve quality of life in emerging economies.

Essentially, two types of innovation emerge in developing countries: Frugal and Reverse innovation. Frugal innovation involves designing solutions specifically for low-income market segments. Reverse innovation involves new products developed in emerging markets, which are then modified for sale in developed countries. Frugal innovation reduces the complexity and cost of products and enhances affordable solutions and services. Frugal innovation approach is becoming increasingly popular in emerging markets such as Brazil, Russia, India, Indonesia, and China. Emerging markets have become new centres of gravity for technology because of their large market size, growing demands and plentiful source of R&D talent.

This panel will bring together different stakeholders from the ICT sector, governments and also innovators to tackle the following questions:

- What is innovation and why should emerging economies promote it?
- How does innovation take shape in emerging economies and how is it different, if at all from developed economies?
- What are the key ingredients for establishing a conducive climate to sustain ICT innovations?
- Is there a link between ICT standards, patents and innovations? How can emerging economies benefit from this link?
- What role can large multinational ICT companies play in sustaining ICT innovations in emerging economies?
- What are the specific challenges facing emerging economies in sustaining ICT innovations?
- What role can universities and research organizations play in ICT innovations?

Chairperson: Malcolm Johnson, Director, Telecommunication Standards Bureau, ITU

Panelists:
1. Francis Gurry, Director General, WIPO
2. Ms Mónica Aspe Bernal, Information and Knowledge Society Coordinator, Ministry of Communications and Transports, Mexico
3. Dr Robert Kahn, President and CEO, Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI)
4. Dr Patrick Ryan, Policy Counsel, International Relations, Google
5. Ajay Ranjan Mishra, Chairman ITU-T Focus Group Bridging the Gap: from innovation to standards
6. Daniel Beccera, Managing Director, BuffaloGrid
7. Prof. Giovanna Di Marzo, University of Geneva