

ITU and ICT Accessibility



Side Event

ICT Accessibility

Andrea Saks, ITU-T JCA-AHF

The Beginning

Robert Weitbrecht
Andrew Saks
James C Marsters

with the first
successful deaf
telecommunications
system called
"Phonetype"



WTSA-08, Johannesburg, South Africa, 21-30 October 2008



Importance of Accessibility

- Development create new technologies
- New opportunities are created
- Barriers are created also
 - e.g. Alexander Graham Bell 's telephone, it is still in operation today
 - e.g. Text telephony was not standardized in time
- User's needs to communicate remain
- UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities



ITU-T Standardization Achievements

- **Telecommunication Accessibility Checklist** for standards writers (11/2006)
- **F.790 - Telecommunications accessibility guidelines** for older persons and persons with disabilities” (01/2007)
- **F.703 - Total Conversation:** real-time text, video and voice communication in one mainstream telecom service useful for all. Type, sign, show, talk - all in the same call
- **E.121** - Pictograms, symbols and icons to assist users of the telephone service



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ITU-T tools to achieve Accessibility

- **Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and Human Factors (JCA-AHF)** coordinates related standardization activities and act as a single point of contact within ITU on accessibility matters
 - **Question 26 of SG16 “Accessibility to Multimedia Systems and Services”** pioneered in the 1990s with Rec. V.18 on a multi-function text telephone
 - **Question 3 of SG2 “Human Factors issues on international telecommunication services”** aims at increasing usage and therefore revenues derived from international telecommunications services by improving ease of use and usability
- **Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD)** ITU Accessibility work in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)



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ITU-T Accessibility work

Ongoing

- Internet Protocol TV (IPTV)
- Next Generation Networks (NGN)

Future

- Interoperability and mobility
- Video and Text Relay Services
- Real time text in the Internet



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Conclusions

- **Interoperability, the most essential accessibility requirement behind communications for all**
- **We have to have standards to ensure accessibility**
- **Design for all from the beginning, Universal Design**
- **For the creation of Standards, use the ITU-T Accessibility checklist and Accessibility guidelines**
- **ITU-T supports the creation of Standards with mainstream Accessibility features, it is important that industry implement them.**



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Agenda of this event

- Speaker 1: "*ICT Accessibility: A South African Perspective*", **Hina Patel**, South Africa (ITU Member State)
- Speaker 2: "*The need of a resolution: The Australian proposal*", **Mick Owens**, Australia (ITU Member State)
- Live Demonstration: "*Connecting Persons with Disabilities*", Microsoft (ITU-T Sector Member)
 - Intro by **Yasmin Forbes**, National Technology Officer, Microsoft South Africa
 - Master of Ceremony by **Claudio Giugliemma**, CEO Qualilife
 - Special Guest: **Diamante Albergati**
- Question and Answers



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