

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



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Page: 1/2

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To: Administrations of the Pacific Island Countries

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Subject: **Sub-regional Symposium on ICTs for Development in Pacific Islands Developing Countries
Suva, Fiji, 6-9 December 2004**

Sir,

I am pleased to invite your Administration/Organization to participate in the above-mentioned event organized jointly by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS). This Symposium will take place in Suva, Fiji, from 6 to 9 December 2004.

The objective of this event is to bring governments, private sector and other stakeholders together to discuss current Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) challenges confronting both the sub-region and the individual countries. Participants will collectively draw up a roadmap that will seek to provide practical solutions to the identified challenges and subsequently convert that roadmap into tangible but bankable projects that will be implemented jointly with the International Telecommunication Union in the near future.

The timing for this event is opportune in many respects. First, it comes after the successful conclusion of the first phase of the Summit on the Information Society. Second, it also rides on the success of our July 2004 first Global ICT Forum for the Least Developed Countries that was held in Mauritius. This event witnessed an unprecedented participation by the Pacific Island LDCs that were actively involved in the planning of this event.

You may be aware that the 60th session of the UNESCAP Commission held at Shanghai in April 2004 recommended that a Regional Action Plan be formulated to lead an information society in the region. In this regard, the event in Pacific is also aimed at reflecting the subregional perspectives, needs and priorities and will give the countries of the subregion stronger ownership of the Regional Plan of Action as well as deliberation on the outstanding issues pertaining to the Tunis Phase.

The agenda of the Symposium is attached as Annex 1. Applications for participation in the Symposium should be submitted **by 4th November 2004** by duly completing and returning the accompanying Registration Form (Annex 2).

Only one fellowship will be granted to a participant nominated by the Minister. This fellowship will cover air ticket, board and meal expenses. The nominee should therefore complete and return the attached Fellowship Form (Annex 3) and Registration Forms by the **4th of November 2004**.

Participants should inquire sufficiently in advance about visa requirements to enter Fiji or seek information through the local coordinator in Fiji.

Contact Persons:

In Fiji (for matters related to local organization)

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At ITU (for general information on the Conference)

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I am looking forward to your participation in this event and have no doubt that your presence will enrich what promises to be a very interesting and strategic Symposium.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

[Original signed by Mr. H.I. Touré]

Hamadoun I. Touré
Director