



## The Secretary-General

Geneva, 16 June 2016

ITU Academia, Kaleidoscope invitees,  
other interested universities

**Subject:** Invitation to the ITU Secretary-General's Academia Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to invite your university to participate in the ITU Secretary-General's Academia Consultation to be held on Sunday, 13 November 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand.

My main objective in organizing this meeting is to consult you on how ITU can best meet your needs and expectations, and to strengthen collaboration between Academia and ITU, including our 193 Member States and more than 700 industry members, both top global companies as well as SMEs. More specifically, I would like to seek your feedback and ideas on several new activities, including creating: 1) an ITU Journal/Magazine; 2) an Advisory Board of Academia to the ITU Secretary-General; and 3) a platform or consultation mechanism to strengthen cooperation between ITU and Academia.

In preparation for the Consultation, I am pleased to invite you to send a written contribution on the above-mentioned topics by 30 September 2016 to [academia@itu.int](mailto:academia@itu.int). Written contributions will be presented and discussed during the meeting on 13 November 2016. For more information, please consult the attached documents: a Draft Agenda for the Consultation (Annex 1); a Background Document and Call for Written Contributions (Annex 2); and, an ITU Journal/Magazine Concept Paper (Annex 3).

As a participant in the Consultation, you will also be able to participate in various activities throughout the week of 13 to 17 November, including ITU's academic conference: [Kaleidoscope: "ICTs for a Sustainable World"](#) and [ITU TELECOM World 2016](#), which are both taking place at the same venue.

In closing, I wish to emphasize that ITU recognizes and values the important role played by Academia in the ICT ecosystem. I look forward to exchanging views with you in the coming months. With your input and support, I am committed to strengthening efforts to build a unique and valuable global platform for Academia within the ITU family.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Houlin Zhao' in Chinese characters.

Houlin Zhao

Annexes: 3

**Annex 1.**  
**Draft Agenda**  
**ITU Secretary-General's Academia Consultation**  
**13 November, Bangkok**  
**9.00 – 17.30**

9.00 – 12.00:

- Welcome remarks by Mr. Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General
- Short Overview of ITU activities
- Review of proposals submitted and discussion: How can we best develop a valuable ITU Journal/Magazine?

14.00 - 17.00:

- Review of proposals submitted and discussion:
  - Advisory Board of Academia to the Secretary-General
  - Platform/Mechanism for consultation to strengthen cooperation
  - Other proposals

17.00-17.30: Closing

## **Annex 2.**

### **Background Document and Call for Written Contributions**

#### **Introduction to ITU:**

As the United Nations' lead agency for telecommunication/ICT, ITU has three sectors of work, including radiocommunication, standardization and development. Within these sectors, ITU deals with a number of technical, policy/regulatory and market issues that have a wide impact on society. In doing so, ITU plays a key role in helping the global ICT community contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

With its 193 Member States and more than 700 members from industry, including top global companies as well as SMEs, and some 120 academia, ITU is a continuously evolving, multi-stakeholder organization, striving to meet the fast-changing needs of the telecommunication/ICT sector. ITU's open and diverse membership is unique in the UN system. From global technical standards to best practices and capacity-building for policy-makers and regulators, ITU members work together to forge common approaches in areas such as emergency telecommunications, satellite and spectrum management, broadband infrastructure development, 5<sup>th</sup> generation mobile services (5G), digital finance, smart cities, cybersecurity and trust, Internet of Things, climate change and more.

#### **Academia in ITU:**

Academia have participated in ITU for many years, either through their national government delegations or in some cases, as Sector Members. Recognizing the potential for greater involvement, ITU created a new category of participation for Academia in 2010. In January 2011, ITU started to receive Academia members. The membership fee is 3,975 Swiss Francs for institutions from developed countries, and 1,987.50 Swiss Francs for those from developing countries. The application form is available [here](#).

In order to increase awareness and better understand the unique interests of Academia and to determine the most important products and services and the challenges they face, ITU organized several consultations with Academia in 2015: an ITU-D Academia Network Meeting on 11 September (Geneva); an Online Consultation on ITU Academia-Collaboration in November; and a Consultation meeting on ITU-Academia collaboration on 8 December, just prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> Kaleidoscope Academic Conference (Barcelona, Spain). The outcome documents of those consultations are available [here](#).

#### **Call for Written Contributions: Towards the ITU Secretary-General's Academia Consultation 2016:**

As noted in the invitation letter, the ITU Secretary-General is calling for written contributions to provide feedback regarding three areas in particular, including creating: a new ITU Journal/Magazine (see Annex 3); an Advisory Board of Academia to the Secretary-General; and, a platform/consultation mechanism to strengthen cooperation between ITU and Academia. In addition, Academia are invited to provide feedback in areas such as:

- Your experiences with ITU: the areas you most appreciate and your advice to ITU on what to change/improve.
- Topics you would like to see ITU focus on.
- Your expectations of ITU for future activities.
- Any other feedback or suggestions to offer ITU.

### **Annex 3.**

## **ITU Journal/Magazine Concept Paper**

ITU intends to develop an ITU scholarly, professional, peer-reviewed Journal, building on its expertise in running the Kaleidoscope Academic Conference (which includes: peer-review editorial process, use of a journal management platform, and publication of conference proceedings in collaboration with IEEE and IEEE Communications Society as technical co-sponsors). The Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) has been mandated to take the lead, and will coordinate across the three Sectors and General Secretariat.

It is proposed that the future ITU Journal adopts the following structure and features:

**Aim:** The ITU Journal would aim to publish research on telecommunications/ICT developments including their technical, policy, regulatory, economic, social and legal aspects.

**Content:** The ITU Journal would publish original articles to highlight and promote innovation, emerging trends, standardization, and development in telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, technologies, services, solutions, and applications worldwide. It would also feature ad-hoc supplements on standards and best practice implementation tutorials ("How to ..."), as well as review articles on ITU's work ("What is...?").

***Each of the possible topics below would cover technical as well as policy, regulatory and market considerations.***

Possible topics may include:

- 5G systems and future networks (e.g. fixed and mobile, enabling policy/regulatory environment to stimulate investment);
- Internet of Things (IoT) and smart sustainable cities;
- Security, privacy and trust (e.g. trusted information infrastructure plus policy/regulatory considerations);
- Open-source solutions;
- Transport, access, home;
- Video coding, e-everything (e.g. e-health);
- Digital financial services (e.g. standards, policy/regulatory frameworks);
- Global roaming (e.g. tariffs, regional/national regulatory models, harmonization);
- Over-The-Top (e.g. technical issues plus innovative regulatory approaches/new collaboration models);
- Big data, cloud services (including technical as well as privacy/regulatory issues);
- Bridging gaps (standards, technology, capacity-building);
- Mobile broadband communications (IMT for 2020 and beyond, policies to stimulate investment in infrastructure and services, including under-served areas);
- Spectrum for mobile broadband (C-band, Ka-band);
- Global flight-tracking for civil aviation, unmanned aircraft systems, protection of aeronautical VSATs;
- Road safety (79 GHz band);
- Intellectual property rights (e.g. stimulating innovation while encouraging the spread of new technologies);
- Market competition, market regulations and market sustainability, investment and healthy market environments
- Green ICT technologies/ICT and the environment;
- Social responsibility and social impact of ICT services
- Innovation...etc

**Audience:** The ITU Journal would target researchers, scholars, telecommunications/ICT practitioners, telecommunications/ICT standards organizations, policymakers, governments' officials and industry representatives.

**Governance structure:** The ITU Journal would be governed by an editorial board, which would be established and supported by the ITU Secretariat. The editorial board would be composed of renowned experts from top universities, R&D communities, industry and governments – ensuring geographical balance and broad expertise across technical and non-technical aspects.

**Peer review process:** The editorial board would be responsible for the overall content/editorial process. The ITU Journal would put in place a single-blind, peer review model, meaning that authors would not be given the reviewers' name. This practice would ensure neutrality and independence, and aim at high quality outputs. Each paper would be assigned to at least three reviewers, who would evaluate the paper according to the following criteria (which are also used for the Kaleidoscope series):

- Quality of the content
- Original research (not applicable for review articles, tutorials and case studies)
- Clarity of language
- Relevance to the ITU Journal's aim and scope, as well as to future ITU work
- Summary of evaluation
- Overall recommendation by the reviewers
- Reviewer familiarity

Strict deadlines would characterize the review process to ensure a fast publication pace.

**Access:** The ITU Journal would adopt an open access mandate, supporting the importance of free dissemination of scientific ideas and discoveries. The essential characteristics of open access literature are: digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions.

**Format:** The ITU Journal would be freely accessible online (downloadable free of charge).

**Frequency:** Articles will be *continuously* published. As soon as an article is accepted, it will be made accessible from the journal's dedicated website. Articles would then be bundled in a yearly volume.

**Business model:** The business model would be based on Article Processing Charges (APCs) to be paid by authors/their organizations or sponsors after acceptance of the paper. Special fees would be negotiated for the ITU membership.

**Publication:** An external publisher would hold responsibility for the entire publication process which includes the production, marketing/communications and distribution work.

**Competition:** The unique strength of the ITU Journal would derive from ITU's comprehensive mandate, encompassing technical, policy, regulatory, economic, social and legal aspects of the ICT standardization. The ITU Journal would aim at positioning itself in prestigious journals rankings (e.g. Scopus and Web of Science).