



WTDC-10 side events

- *In conjunction with the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-10), ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau has organized a series of side events for Member States and Sector Members to address various ICT development themes, from the Connect a School, Connect a Community initiative, to ways of measuring the information society, the ITU Academy, trends in policy and regulatory reform, spectrum management and digital broadcasting, and e-health.*

Connect a School, Connect a Community

Seminar and ministerial round table

When *Connect a School, Connect a Community* was launched at ITU TELECOM 2009 at a session of the Youth Forum, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged world leaders to support the effort of connecting all schools by 2015. ITU has identified and compiled in an online Toolkit best practice on policies, regulation, low-cost computing devices and practical experiences in connecting schools, including establishing school-based community ICT centres (see www.connectaschool.org). Various innovative measures can be taken to connect schools and communities.

Thematic information sessions

Measuring the information society

Telecommunication/ICT policy-makers and regulators need to be well informed about ICT uptake in their countries. They also need to be able to compare their own countries with other countries to assess progress and see where they could be doing better.

ITU statistics, in particular the latest ICT Development Index and ICT Price Basket (released in February 2010) are two benchmarking tools to monitor information society developments worldwide. The Index ranks 159 economies. A complementary perspective is given by the *World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report 2010*, which reviews progress towards the achievement of the WSIS targets (see

article on pages 12–16). ITU's work on ICT measurement faces challenges related to data collection and dissemination, but members can help to improve the availability and quality of data in various ways. For more information, contact: Indicators@itu.int.

ITU Academy

The ITU Academy aims to strengthen the human, institutional and organizational capacity of developing countries by offering high-quality opportunities for ICT learning and development. Ultimately, the ITU Academy will provide a web-based platform constituting a single access point to all ITU training interventions, whether delivered face-to-face or through instructor-led or self-paced distance learning, in areas such as business and management, policy and regulation, and technologies and services.

The ITU Academy has a rapidly growing global network of partner institutions that provide training and education. The network includes more than 60 Internet Training Centres, which offer Internet and IP-related training programmes designed to develop "new economy" professionals. It also includes more than 50 centres of excellence, which share their expertise, resources and capacity-building know-how. For more information, visit the new ITU Academy portal at: <http://academy.itu.int>.

Trends in policy and regulatory reform

ITU's unique regulatory online tools allow users to keep up with the latest regulatory trends and innovative approaches in a converging ICT sector. Information on the regulatory issues discussed at the Global Symposium for Regulators, the focus of *Trends in Telecommunication Reform*, and new regulatory and economic studies is available through ITU, in particular the ITU's ICT EYE portal, the ITU-infoDev

ICT Regulation Toolkit, the ICT Regulatory Decisions Clearinghouse, as well as G-REX — ITU's online discussion forum for regulators and policy-makers.

Spectrum management and digital broadcasting

ITU provides assistance in the technical and regulatory procedures for managing the spectrum allocated to the land mobile, fixed and broadcasting services through its SMS4DC (spectrum management system for developing countries) computer program. The program is fully compliant with the relevant ITU recommendations.

ITU also provides guidance for countries on switching from analogue to digital broadcasting (see article on pages 17–21). The guidelines show how to make a national plan for a smooth transition, including technical, policy, legal, regulatory, social, economic and customer-related aspects. The guidelines also cover consultation to develop road maps and training on digital broadcasting technologies and policies, including spectrum aspects.

e-Health

Future e-health activities led by ITU aim at enhancing countries' capacity to develop or update national e-health strategic plans to help shape an effective regulatory, governance and policy context for e-health development and investment. ITU also offers guidance in planning appropriate ICT infrastructure for e-health to reach desirable outcomes or to introduce cost-effective and large scale e-health services with minimal resources. ■