Introduction to the work of ITU

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
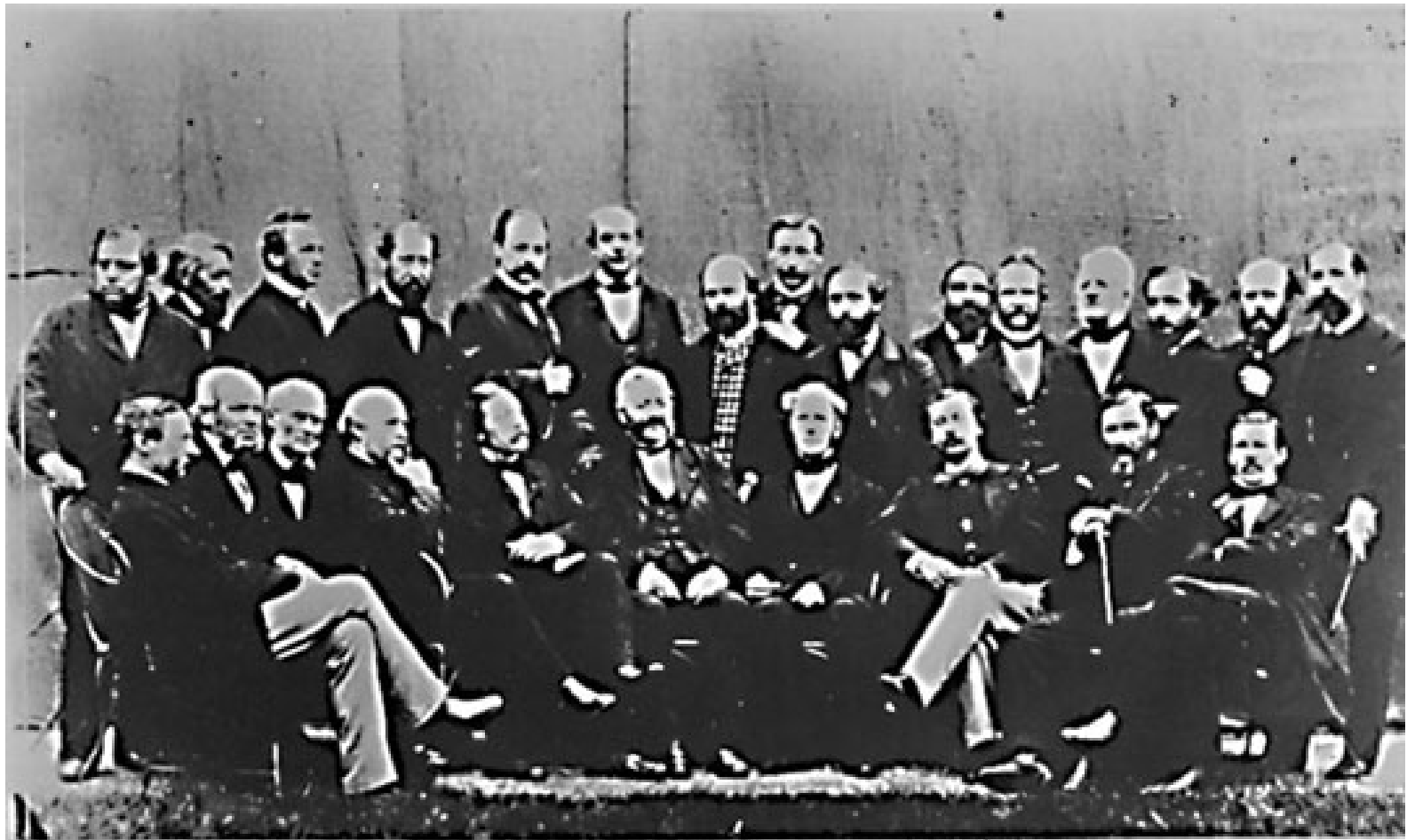
Joanna Goodrick

Editorial and Publications Officer, ITU Strategy and Policy Unit (SPU)

In 1865, the founders of ITU had already lived through the first cycle of boom and bust in telegraphy

Danemark Bavière Norvège Wurtemberg Belgique Portugal Secrétaire Suisse Bade Turquie Prusse Italie Grèce Secrétaire Espagne

Pays Bas Bavière Hanovre France Belgique France Suède Espagne Russie Autriche

ITU in brief

- **UN specialized agency, concerned with the development of telecommunication networks and services worldwide**
- **139 years old**
- **189 Member States; 650+ Sector Members**
- **Around 790 staff / 83 nationalities**
- **2004 budget = CHF164m (USD 132m)**
- **Secretary-General: Yoshio Utsumi (Japan)**
- **Deputy Sec-General: Roberto Blois (Brazil)**
- **Website: http://www.itu.int**

ITU structure

Plenipotentiary Conference

Council

World Conferences on Int'l Telecoms

Radiocommunication

World/Regional Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) Radiocommunication Assembly (RA)

Radio Regulations Board (RRB

Advisory Group

Study Groups

Telecom Standardization

World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA)

Advisory Group

Study Groups

Development

World/Regional Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC)

Advisory Group

Study Groups

Secretariat

Secretary-General Deputy Secretary-General

TELECOM

Director Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Director Telecom Standardization Bureau (TSB)

Director Telecom Development Bureau (BDT)

Who pays what?

- **ITU has 189 Member States plus 650+ Sector Members and Associates**
  - ➢ **Each chooses to pay a certain number contributory units e.g. US = 30, Malawi 1/16**
  - ➢ **For Member States, 1 unit = CHF 315'000**
  - ➢ **For Sector Members, 1 unit = CHF 63'000**
  - ➢ **For Associates, 1 unit = CHF 10'500**
- **Main budget = CHF 163m in 2004, of which:**
  - ➢ **CHF 106m (64.6%) from Member States**
  - ➢ **CHF 21m (12.8%) from Sector Members & Associates**
  - ➢ **CHF 13.1m (8.0%) from sale of publications**
  - ➢ **CHF 28.3m (17.3%) from cost recovery, interest, etc**
  - ➢ **CHF 1.5m (0.9%) from funds-in-trust (for dev't)**

According to the International Telecommunication Constitution (Minneapolis, 1998), the role of ITU is:

- International cooperation in telecommunications
- Technical assistance to LDCs
- To promote technical development
- To extend the benefits of telecoms
- To promote telecoms for peaceful use
- To harmonize national policies
- To promote telecoms in cooperation with other national and regional bodies

But what does ITU actually do?

- **Spectrum allocation and registration**
- **Coordination of national spectrum planning**
- **International telecoms standardization**
- **Collaboration in international tariff-setting**
- **Cooperation in telecoms development assistance**
- **Measures for ensuring safety of life**
- **Policy reviews, information exchange**
- **Extension of universal access**

Little reminder…

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International Treaties

- **Constitution and Convention of ITU**
  - Two complementary treaties, containing mainly housekeeping details but also some longstanding international commitments (e.g. common carrier tradition)
  - Major update in 1992; minor updates in 1994 & 1998
- **International Telecommunication Regulations**
  - Thin (10 Articles) treaty concerning mainly accounting practices. Last update 1988 – under review
- **Radio Regulations**
  - Thick (>10'000 pages) treaty governing use of radio spectrum. Updated every WRC

Development

- **World Telecom Development Conference** (Doha, Qatar, 2006)
- **Study Groups**
- **Telecommunication Indicators reports and databases**
- **Regulatory assistance**
- **Technical cooperation**
- **Regional offices (11)**
- **Director: Hammadoun Touré (Mali)**

Radiocommunications

- **World Radio Conference**
  - ➤ **Geneva, June 2003**
- **ITU-R Recommendations**
- **Stewardship of radio frequency & satellite orbits**
  - ➤ **Radio Regulations**
  - ➤ **Master International Frequency Register**
- **Safety of life services (Maritime, Aeronautical, etc.)**
- **Director: Valery Timofeev (Russia)**

Standardization

- **World Telecom Standardization Assembly**
  - ➢ **Florianopolis, Brazil, October 2004**
- **ITU-T Recommendations**
- **Stewardship of international numbering plan**
  - ➢ **Country codes**
  - ➢ **Universal International Freephone**
  - ➢ **ENUM**
- **Collaboration with the Internet community (e.g.IETF, ICANN)**
- **Director: Houlin Zhao (China)**

Gen. Secretariat

- **Plenipotentiary Conferences**
  - ➢ **Marrakesh, 2002. Invitation to Istanbul, 2006**
- **World Telecom Policy Forum**
  - ➢ **March 2001, IP Telephony**
- **ITU Council**
- **ITU News: www.itu.int/itunews/**
- **Support services (e.g. IS, languages)**
- **ITU TELECOM (Africa, Asia in 2004)**
- **Policy, research and workshops (SPU)**

ITU New Initiatives Programme

- **Launched in 1999, under the Strategy and Policy Unit**
- **Workshops**
  - ➤ **Licensing of 3G Mobile**
  - ➤ **Internet diffusion in ASEAN**
  - ➤ **Multilingual Domain Names (ITU/WIPO)**
  - ➤ **IP connectivity in LDCs**
  - ➤ **Critical Network Infrastructures**
  - ➤ **Competition Policy in Telecoms**
  - ➤ **Promoting Broadband (April 2003)**
  - ➤ **Spectrum Management (Feb 2004)**
  - ➤ **Internet Governance (Feb 2004)**
  - ➤ **Future Mobile Information Society (Mar 04)**
  - ➤ **Spam (July 2004)**
  - ➤ **Digital Bridges project (Korea, Sept 2004)**
- **Country case studies**

".. New topics of a regulatory, policy or other nature of high-current interest …"
Council Decision 496

Website: www.itu.int/osg/spu/ni/

For more information: www.itu.int

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