



# SPU Flash

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The mission of the ITU Strategy and Policy Unit (SPU), with the collaboration of the Sectors, is to assist the ITU and its membership to anticipate and analyze the strategic implications and challenges of an evolving telecommunications environment. It does this through a multidisciplinary approach to telecommunication policy issues that cuts across the Sectors, involving research, analysis, publications and the organization of forums and workshops. The SPU shall not duplicate those activities that fall within the mandate assigned to one of the Sectors. The overall objective of the SPU is to adapt ITU's work programme to fast-emerging technology, policy and market trends.

## ITU New Initiatives Workshop: The Regulatory Environment for Future Mobile Multimedia Services



An ITU New Initiatives Workshop was held in Mainz (Germany) on "The Regulatory Environment for Future Mobile Multimedia Services" from 21-23 June 2006. The workshop was hosted by Germany's Federal Network Agency. A number of background documents (thematic papers and case studies) were prepared in advance of the meeting, together with a resources website on the topic: [www.itu.int/multimobile](http://www.itu.int/multimobile).

This international meeting, attended by key industry players, governmental agencies and academics, explored the main issues raised by the evolution towards an always-on mobile multimedia environment. It noted that mobile communications continues to grow rapidly, as more and more 3G/IMT-2000 networks are deployed: the number of mobile users was around 2.14 billion at the end of 2005, representing one third of the world's population. The increasingly intimate nature of the mobile phone and its use as a key platform for content delivery raises regulatory concerns such as, *inter alia*, intellectual property rights, service affordability and pricing transparency, systemic above-cost termination and roaming charges, protection of user privacy (including spam) and the distribution of illegal or harmful content. The convergence between the broadcasting and telecommunication industries was cited as one of the key challenges that both regulators and industry will have to face in the coming years. In this context, there was a call at the workshop for renewed international collaboration, notably in the case of mobile TV standards and frequency allocation, as well as the need for developing global schemes for data protection and digital identity management.

All workshop materials, including background documents and presentations, can be downloaded from the workshop website at [www.itu.int/multimobile](http://www.itu.int/multimobile). More information about the ITU New Initiatives Programme can be found at [www.itu.int/newinitiatives](http://www.itu.int/newinitiatives).

## IP-enabled NGNs

The SPU continues to track and facilitate the debate concerning the appropriate regulatory paradigm for some IP-enabled New Generation Networks (NGNs). Recently SPU team contributed to few international conferences dedicated to this subject. In a joint, ITU-T/ITU-D event, held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in May 2006, the SPU organized a panel on policy and regulation. The objective of this seminar was twofold. First, to discuss the current trends, status and future evolution of NGN

## In this edition:

The Regulatory Environment for Future Mobile Multimedia Services .....	1
IP-enabled NGNs .....	1
Cybersecurity Gateway .....	1
The Future of Voice .....	2
Digital Transformations in the Information Society .....	2
Digital Opportunity Platform.....	2
ITU Council Working Group on WSIS.....	2
Publications .....	3
Interacting with the young generation .....	3
Upcoming events .....	3
World Information Society Report 2006 .....	4

technology and standardization, as being addressed by the ITU-T and to share experiences of NGN design, development and deployment. Second, as NGNs are a major departure from the network today, and these developments will likely change the ways the telecommunication sector operates, the seminar aimed to examine NGN regulatory and policy issues for developing countries so as to exploit its full potential for development become a real challenge.

More information on the workshop are available under [www.itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/ngn/200605/index.html](http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/ngn/200605/index.html). The SPU team continues to contribute to the various international conferences and workshops, presenting the analysis of the policy and regulatory options for migration to the IP-enabled NGNs. The set of presentations related to the NGN debate is available at [www.itu.int/spu/presentations](http://www.itu.int/spu/presentations). Further information on ITU's activities on NGN is available at [www.itu.int/spu/ngn](http://www.itu.int/spu/ngn).

## ITU Launches Cybersecurity Gateway: An Online Resource for Cybersecurity Initiatives Worldwide



In order to work towards strengthening global cybersecurity, ITU is involved in a number of related spam and cybersecurity activities. One recent initiative is the launch of a global online reference source of national cybersecurity initiatives and websites worldwide.

The goal of Cybersecurity Gateway ([www.itu.int/cybersecurity](http://www.itu.int/cybersecurity)) is to make stakeholders more aware of the various actors and groups working on different aspects of cybersecurity on

## World Information Society Report 2006



The World Information Society Report 2006 is the first of a new ITU annual series of reports tracking the progress made in building the Information Society worldwide. This Report charts the growth in Digital Opportunity and the evolution of the digital divide. It focuses on the implementation of the results of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) including the stocktaking of activities. The report also contains the first full release of a the

Digital Opportunity Index, a composite index which measures each country's progress towards bridging the digital divide.

This Report is featured in more detail on p.4

For more information, please visit [www.itu.int/wisr](http://www.itu.int/wisr).

## What rules for IP-enabled NGNs?



The SPU releases its latest ITU New Initiatives Publication summarizing the results of the workshop on **What rules for IP-enabled NGNs?** This brochure and CD-Rom package have been prepared under ITU New Initiatives Programme, with the kind assistance of a generous voluntary contribution from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication (MIC) of Japan. The

meeting was organized by ITU's Strategy and Policy Unit and held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 23 to 24 March 2006 at the invitation of the ITU Secretary-General, Mr. Yoshio Utsumi. This brochure consists of the Chairman's Report and executive summaries of the background papers. The full versions of the background papers are available on the CD-Rom, as an integral part of this publication. The CD-Rom contains all additional documents from the workshop, a selection of resources from around the world on the policy and regulatory implications of NGN, and more than 15 hours of video material from the event.

For more information see [www.itu.int/spu/ngn](http://www.itu.int/spu/ngn).

## Shaping Tomorrow Networks



As part of the Shaping Tomorrow's Networks Programme and to encourage the further development of Tomorrow's Networks, the Italian Ministry of Communications, the Ugo Bordoni Foundation, the Aosta Valley and SPU co-organized the workshop on "Tomorrow's Networks Today".

The workshop was held in Saint-Vincent (Aosta) in Italy from 7 to 8 October 2005 and discussed specific measures to overcome potential challenges, investigating how such a new paradigm could be realized. One session was dedicated to Next Generation Networks (NGN) as a framework to harmonize the worldwide and Italian technical and functional basis needed to extend the use of integrated ICTs to as many users as possible.

A brochure summarizing the results of the workshop was released in May 2006. It to highlight the most important issues and concerns raised during the presentations and open discussions. It intends also to provide a concise overview of the benefits and drawbacks of a possible migration towards tomorrow's networks. The enclosed CD-Rom contains the background materials and documents of the workshop as well as a wide range of background resources related to tomorrow's networks.

Information about Shaping Tomorrow's Networks is available at [www.itu.int/stn](http://www.itu.int/stn).

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date, Venue	Organizing Entity
<b>31 August-1 September 2006</b> <b>Seoul, Republic of Korea</b>	<b>ITU/ KADO/ MIC Korea</b>
<b>Digital Opportunity Forum</b> <a href="http://www.itu.int/dof">www.itu.int/dof</a>	
<b>12-13 September 2006</b> <b>Geneva, Switzerland</b>	<b>ITU</b>
<b>ITU Council Working Group on WSIS</b> <a href="http://www.itu.int/council/wsis/wsis_WG.html">www.itu.int/council/wsis/wsis_WG.html</a>	
<b>2-3 November 2006</b> <b>Geneva, Switzerland</b>	<b>ITU/ Ugo Bordoni Fondation</b>
<b>Market Mechanisms for Spectrum Management</b> <a href="http://www.itu.int/spu/stn/spectrum/index.html">www.itu.int/spu/stn/spectrum/index.html</a>	
<b>6-24 November 2006</b> <b>Antalya, Turkey</b>	<b>ITU</b>
<b>ITU Plenipotentiary Conference</b> <a href="http://www.itu.int/plenipotentiary/2006/index.html">www.itu.int/plenipotentiary/2006/index.html</a>	
<b>4-8 December 2006</b> <b>Hong Kong, China</b>	<b>ITU</b>
<b>ITU Telecom World 2006: Experience 'Living the Digital World'</b> <a href="http://www.itu.int/world2006/">www.itu.int/world2006/</a>	
<b>January 2007</b> <b>Geneva, Switzerland</b>	<b>SPU</b>
<b>The Future of Voice</b> <a href="http://www.itu.int/spu/ni/voice/meeting.phtml">www.itu.int/spu/ni/voice/meeting.phtml</a>	

## Interacting with the young generation



In May and June the SPU's team prepared interactive presentation sessions for the students from the IFM University, Lausanne Business School, INT and Michigan State University. The purpose of the meetings was to present the ITU activities and discuss the issues related

to the telecommunication sector dynamics. In the framework of collaboration with other international organizations SPU had contributed to the similar UNDP's activity focusing on economics.

The presentation materials from all these meetings are available at [www.itu.int/spu/presentations/](http://www.itu.int/spu/presentations/).



the national, regional, and international level. By providing a framework for sharing cybersecurity related information and resources, ITU hopes to take a first step towards concrete action on WSIS action line C5 (building trust and security in the use of ICTs) by increasing awareness. As our collective cybersecurity depends on the security practices of every connected country, business, and citizen, cooperation is necessary at national, regional and international levels among those who seek to promote, develop and implement a global culture of cybersecurity.

With the Cybersecurity Gateway, ITU aims to open the door to a more focused discussion on the roles and responsibilities of cybersecurity actors and what immediate collaborative actions could and should be taken to move forward on building and promoting a global culture of cybersecurity.

For further information on ITU's activities related to cybersecurity, access the Cybersecurity Gateway at [www.itu.int/cybersecurity](http://www.itu.int/cybersecurity) or view the presentations and proceedings from the recent ITU meeting dedicated to Partnerships for Global Cybersecurity at [www.itu.int/spu/cybersecurity/](http://www.itu.int/spu/cybersecurity/).

## The Future of Voice



Within the framework of the ITU New Initiatives Programme, the SPU has launched new project on the Future of Voice. The main purpose of the project is to investigate

the changing requirements for voice services in a ubiquitous network environment. For a long time, voice services have been the principal driver of telecommunication revenue and will probably continue to drive demand for some time. Nevertheless, it is becoming harder to sustain traditional models of per-minute pricing for voice as the service is increasingly carried over data channels that are priced on a flat-rate basis. The project comprises a number of components, including the preparation of background papers, regional studies, a collection of relevant resources freely available online as well as the workshop, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, in January 2007.

Further information on the project the Future of Voice may be found at [www.itu.int/spu/voice](http://www.itu.int/spu/voice). More information on the ITU New Initiatives Programme is available at [www.itu.int/newinitiatives](http://www.itu.int/newinitiatives).

## Digital Transformations in the Information Society

On 1-2 June 2006, the International Telecommunication Union in collaboration with London Business School (LBS) held a joint conference on the measurement of ICTs and the macro-, micro- and meso-impact of ICTs in the Information Society. The meeting brought together renowned researchers, high-profile academics and policy-makers with an interest in explaining the impact of ICTs on economic growth, productivity, industry and firms. Key questions included: how is the digital divide evolving? Does investment in ICTs explain the productivity gap? Are countries at a disadvantage through falling behind in the take-up of ICTs? Does email make workers more productive and efficient?

One particular session focused on the measurement of digital opportunity, and how a composite index should be constructed to be an efficient tool for policy-making. Dr. Cho, representing the Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion (KADO), presented the outline for a new policy toolkit to be created within the framework of the ITU/Korea Digital Opportunity Platform.

The presentations, web-cast, background material as well as press release are available at: [www.itu.int/spu/dtis/meeting.phtml](http://www.itu.int/spu/dtis/meeting.phtml).

## ITU/Korea Digital Opportunity Platform



The ITU Strategy and Policy Unit (SPU) in collaboration with the Korean Agency for Digital Opportunity & Promotion ([www.kado.or.kr/](http://www.kado.or.kr/)) and the Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC), Republic of Korea ([www.mic.go.kr/](http://www.mic.go.kr/)) will hold jointly the inaugural Digital Opportunity Forum,

31 August-1 September 2006. The conference aims to bring together practitioners, researchers and experts from academics and governments to commemorate the inauguration of the official Korea IT Learning program (KOIL) alumni network as "Digital Opportunity Forum" and to discuss the themes of International Cooperation in ICT development and the Digital Opportunity Index (DOI).

The conference organisers have opened call for papers dedicated issues on International Cooperation in ICT Development. The papers should focus on how International Cooperation affects nations' IT development will be presented and cover how international cooperation with Korea affects ICT development in the other countries. A separate call for papers on the Digital Opportunity Index has also been launched.

Further information on the project as well as related activities are available at [www.itu.int/spu/digitalbridges/forum.phtml](http://www.itu.int/spu/digitalbridges/forum.phtml).

## ITU Council Working Group on WSIS



The tenth meeting of WG-WSIS will be held from 12 to 13 September 2006 in room K (Montbrillant Building) at ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr Vladimir Minkin (Russian Federation).

The Council invited the WG-WSIS to continue its work in line with Resolution 113 (Marrakesh, 2002) and to monitor the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society Outcomes and ITU's adaptation to the Information Society in order to finalize preparation, based on inputs of the Member States and Sector Members, as well as those of the Secretary General and the elected officials and submit a final report to PP-06 to the final meeting of Council in November 2006 on:

- ITU's actions in implementing the WSIS outcomes, detailed by Sectors, as well as overall;
- how ITU should further adapt itself to the Information Society and the changing telecommunication environment including, for example, any amendments to the ITU Constitution and Convention, in accordance with Resolution 114.

The Council also invited the WG-WSIS to continue to monitor ITU's contribution to, and leading role in, the multi-stakeholder implementation of the WSIS outcomes, as well as its contribution to the work of the Internet Governance Forum.

Further information can be found at: [www.itu.int/council/wsis/wsis\\_WG.html](http://www.itu.int/council/wsis/wsis_WG.html).

For more detailed information about these and other SPU activities, please visit [www.itu.int/spu](http://www.itu.int/spu).

