



Event Program

May 23, 2011



## ATIS President's Message, World Telecommunications and Information Society Day, 2011

On the 17 May every Calendar year, the United Nations through it's Agency; the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), celebrates **World Telecommunications and Information Society Day (WTISD)**. The purpose of WTISD is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

**17 May** also marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union.

### World Telecommunication Day.

World Telecommunication Day has been celebrated annually on 17 May since 1969, marking the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865.

### World Information Society Day

In **November 2005**, the World Summit on the Information Society called upon the UN General Assembly to declare 17 May as World Information Society Day to focus on the importance of ICT and the wide range of issues related to the Information Society raised by WSIS. The General Assembly adopted a resolution

A/RES/60/252) in March 2006 stipulating that World Information Society Day shall be celebrated every year on 17 May.

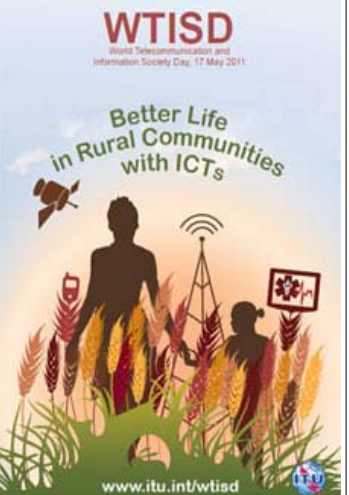
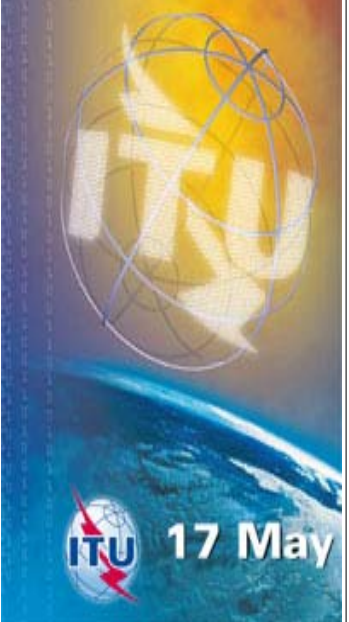
### World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

In **November 2006**, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Antalya, Turkey, decided to celebrate both events on 17 May as World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. This year due to the fact that WTISD falls on a Public Holiday in Singapore, ATIS who organizes this event every year, has decided to re-schedule this to May 23, so that key personnel from iDA, can attend as Guest of Honour.

**Theme WTISD 2011: Better life in rural communities with ICTs.** This year, World Telecommunication and Information Society Day highlights the theme "**Better life in rural communities with ICTs**", which was adopted by ITU Council in 2009 and follows up on the theme for 2010: "Better city, better life with ICTs".

**ICTs** are increasingly in demand to meet the **Millennium Development Goals**. In the rural context, **ICTs provide enhanced opportunities to generate income and combat poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy.**

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day



Editor

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**ICTs and related e-applications** are key instruments in improving governance and rural services, such as providing community health care, safe drinking water and sanitation, education, food and shelter; improving maternal health and reducing child mortality; empowering women and the more vulnerable members of society; and ensuring environmental sustainability.

As ICTs increasingly dictate lifestyles and behaviour patterns and power the growth of trade and commerce, rural communities must not be allowed to fall behind cities in their quest for connectivity.



**Broadband connectivity** is essential to establish the information and communication highway that will feed both urban centres and rural communities with the means to meet their development goals and aspirations.

ITU's Build on Broadband initiative is aimed at increasing the roll out of this state-of-the-art technology. Last September, the ITU/UNESCO-led Broadband Commission, which includes leading proponents from around the world, submitted its report to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon ahead of the MDG Review in New York.

Developing a global partnership for development and using the power of ICTs to meet the MDGs is a goal in itself. **We therefore call upon our Member States, Sector Members and Associates as well as academia and citizens' groups to pull together every conceivable resource to ensure that rural communities worldwide are fully connected to ICTs.** Acting as catalysts, ICTs open the door to myriad solutions in the quest for a more productive and better life in our rural communities.

The **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**, which met in Geneva in 2003 and in Tunis in 2005, called upon countries to consider establishing national mechanisms to achieve universal access in underserved rural areas in order to bridge the digital divide. ITU is committed to connecting the world and to ensure that the benefits of ICTs reach the remotest corners as well as the most vulnerable communities.

*The theme of this year's WTISD aims to ensure that ICTs will contribute to a better future for our rural populations*



On the occasion of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2011, **ITU calls upon all stakeholders** (Policy makers, Regulators, Operators and Industry) to promote the adoption of Policies and Strategies that will **promote ICTs in rural areas** to contribute towards a better life.

- 8.30 am - Registration / Breakfast Networking
- 9.15 am - Program starts, Reception of Guest of Honour - iDA, Ms Aileen Chia, Deputy Director- General (Telecoms & Post), Policy & Competition Development Group
- 9.25 am - Welcome by President, ATiS - Lord John Shazell
- 9.35 am - UN Sec. Gen. Speech, Mr. Ban Ki-moon - to be read by – Darwin Ho ATiS, Vice President
- 9.40 am - ITU Sec. Gen. Speech – Audio / Video of Mr. Hamadoun I Touré
- 9.45 am - Keynote Address - Ms Chia , Deputy Director-General (Telecoms & Post), Policy & Competition Development Group, Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA)
- 10.00 am - Presentation 1 - Dr. John Ure Phd, TRPC Ltd, ' Broadband Telecoms - Regulatory Challenges for Operators, Operational Challenges for Regulators'
- 10.35 am - Presentation 2 - Mr Bhatia Bharat, Regional Director, Asia Pacific Motorola Solutions, 'Protecting our Rural Communities with ICTs'
- 11.10 am - Panel Discussion and Q&A Session - Moderated by Lord John Shazell, President ATiS
- 11.40 am - Closing Remarks, ATiS Program 2011, Acknowledgement of Sponsor, Speakers, Attendees - ATiS, Lord John Shazell
- 12.00 pm - Networking and Buffet Lunch

Master of Ceremonies - Mr. Joshua Tan. ATiS

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