



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/PKM/HCB/DM/240

Geneva, 25 April 2017

ITU Academia Members
ITU Centres of Excellence

**Subject: ITU-Academia Partnership Meeting: Developing Skills for the Digital Era
Budapest, Hungary, 19-21 September 2017**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your institution to participate in the global *ITU-Academia Partnership Meeting: Developing Skills for the Digital Era*, which will take place in Budapest, Hungary from 19 to 21 September 2017. The meeting is organised by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and hosted by the National Media and Infocommunications Authority of Hungary (NMHH).

The meeting brings together universities from all over the world that have an interest in the topic of information and communication technology (ICT), with a view to discussing emerging technology trends and how they impact on academic programmes, sharing latest developments in teaching and learning in the digital era, and examining approaches towards building skills for a 21st century workforce. The event will cover debates around the digital transformation and required skill sets, the role of universities in shaping the digital agenda, changes in the curriculum in particular with respect to embracing Internet policy-related topics, and new ways of teaching and learning in the digital age. The meeting will also feature a series of discussions showcasing successful partnerships between universities, the private sector, Centres of Excellence and ITU. It will also explore the role of universities as incubators of innovation and start-ups and present some concrete examples of those. A major objective of the event is to identify ways and means to strengthen collaboration between ITU and the academic community in developing capacities for the digital future.

Please note that the meeting will be conducted in English, and will be paperless.

Documents related to the event, including the draft agenda, registration form, visa requirements, hotel reservation and other practical information for participants, will be posted at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Capacity-Building/Pages/events/academia2017.aspx>.

Although there is no participation fee for this meeting, please note that all expenses concerning travel, accommodation and meals should be covered by participants.

Should you have any questions or need clarification concerning logistics such as the venue, accommodation, entry visa etc., please do not hesitate to contact Ms Krisztina Szeremi (szeremi@nmhh.hu) and Mr Laszlo Pados (pados@nmhh.hu), National Media and Infocommunications Authority of Hungary. For any other questions concerning this meeting please contact Ms Susan Teltscher, Head, Human Capacity Building Division, ITU/BDT (telephone +41 22 730 6315, e-mail: hcbmail@itu.int).

I look forward to active participation from your institution in this important meeting.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annex 1: Draft agenda



ITU-ACADEMIA PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Developing skills for the digital era

**Budapest, Hungary
19-21 September 2017**

DRAFT PROGRAMME

(as of 19 April 2017)

Tuesday, 19 September 2017

08:30 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 10:30 Opening ceremony

- Welcome address by host (NMHH)
- Opening remarks by ITU

10:30 – 11:00 Group photo and coffee break

11:00 – 12:30 Session 1: Developing skills for the 21st century digital economy: the role of academic institutions

The world is undergoing a major digital transformation, driven by robotics, big data analytics, Internet of Things and artificial intelligence. These developments will have an impact on how we live as well as how we learn. The session looks at the role of universities in shaping this transformation, how technological change is shaping the future of e-learning and how universities are changing their programmes to embrace these emerging topics and technology trends. Some of the issues to be addressed in the session are:

- The characteristics of the future digital ecosystem
- The role universities are playing in shaping the future digital ecosystem
- The sets of skills required for the future
- New academic programmes and changes in the curriculum to better prepare 21st century students

Keynote speaker: TBA

Moderator: TBA

Panelists: Universities

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30 Session 2: Enhancing capacity in Internet governance through academic programmes

The spread of the Internet and connectedness does not only bring opportunities but also huge challenges, for example in areas such as security and privacy. Internet governance is thus becoming a priority topic at global, regional and national levels. The rapid evolution of ICTs also led to an increase in the scope and level of complexity in the field of Internet governance. Internet governance now encompasses matters related to the technical administration of the network, and to an ever growing myriad of issues related to policy and regulatory realms. The need for capacity development, a precondition for meaningful involvement in the decisions about the future of technology, is therefore paramount. Over the years, the topic has increasingly gained importance as an academic discipline with many universities including Internet governance-related components in their curricula or even offering advanced-level degree programmes. This session discusses the role of academic institutions in building skills in the field of Internet governance, and examines the work undertaken in this area. Some of the issues to be covered are:

- Understanding key issues of the Internet governance ecosystem
- The role of academia in shaping and/or influencing public policy in Internet governance
- Best ways of addressing Internet governance as an academic discipline

- Fostering multistakeholder partnerships for capacity development in Internet governance

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00 Session 3: New paradigms for teaching and learning in academic institutions

The new digital environment demands new sets of skills, and new modes of acquiring these skills. There is also a new generation of learners emerging whose learning styles may be different from those of the previous generation. Universities need to align their learning methodologies and teaching paradigm with the new environment. This session will cover:

- Characteristics and attributes of the learner in the digital era
- The new learning paradigms and their impact on teaching
- New modes and methodologies of teaching (e-learning, flipped classroom, labs and studios based learning, collaborative and co-creation learning, online coding, hackathons etc.) and student assessments
- How universities need to respond and adapt to these changes

Moderator: TBA

Panelists: UNESCO, universities

17:30 Excursion followed by dinner

Wednesday, 20 September 2017

09:00 – 10:30 Session 4: Re-defining the role of academia in the digital economy: universities as incubators of ICT innovation

Universities play a key role as drivers of innovation and entrepreneurship. Many ICT sector disruptors and innovators made their technological breakthroughs while they were at university. Universities are called upon to redefine their role and approach to learning to accommodate the needs of a performance-oriented digital economy. The session looks at the role universities should play as incubators of innovation, cultivators of the entrepreneurial spirit, and as platforms for technology start-ups in the ICT sector. Some issues covered are:

- How universities should reinvent themselves to embrace their new role as incubators
- Translating academic research into concrete business models
- Successful examples of universities' innovation labs, including start-up companies, and challenges to be addressed
- Academia-industry partnerships for creating innovation and entrepreneurship

Moderator: TBA

Panelists: Universities, start-up companies

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30 Session 5: Developing a workforce fit for purpose: A dialogue between academia and industry

Advances in technology are rapidly changing the workplace and a different set of skills will be required in tomorrow's digital economy. The business community is facing a shortage of skilled workers which will increase significantly in the future in view of the changing ICT environment. This will also require continuous updating and upgrading of skills and learning, which needs to be taken into consideration by training institutions, in particular universities. Therefore, the university educational system needs to be tailored to the needs of industry. This session examines the gaps in performance of today's graduates, as seen by selected industry representatives and the role of academic institutions in filling this gap. It will address the following topics:

- Which are the most important workforce skills required by industry in the future?
- How can the skills required by industry be met by academic institutions?
- How can industry contribute to curriculum development in universities?
- Successful examples of collaboration between universities and the private sector for improving the quality of graduates
- The role of ITU in facilitating academia-industry collaboration

Moderator: TBA

Panelists: Universities, selected private sector companies

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30 Session 6: Fostering collaboration between universities and ITU Centres of Excellence

ITU Centres of Excellence, many of which are academic institutions, have been at the forefront of ITU's capacity development efforts for a number of years. Recently, ITU has been strengthening its collaboration with academia, both in terms of development and delivery of training programmes. This session will address the complementarity of the work of Centers of Excellence and academic institutions and explore avenues for further collaboration.

Moderator: TBA

Panelists: CoEs, universities

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30 Session 7: ITU Academy partnerships between CoEs, industry and universities: a practical example of the work on spectrum management

Building on the discussions in the previous sessions, this session will illustrate a practical example of how different players can work together in strengthening capacities for the digital age, under the umbrella of the ITU Academy. Choosing the topic of spectrum management, the session will highlight the role of universities in developing the training programme and showcase different approaches to delivery, through partnerships between CoEs, the private sector, and academic institutions. The focus will be on highlighting the impact such partnerships can have in strengthening capacities in developing countries.

Moderator: TBA

Panelists: CoEs, universities, ITU

Thursday, 21 September 2017

09:00 – 10:30 Session 8: Strengthening ITU-academia partnerships for capacity development

Based on the discussions held on the previous days, this session will discuss ways and means of how ITU and the academic community can strengthen their collaboration to develop capacities and skills for the digital future. It will present examples of successful collaboration as well as discuss proposals for future partnership opportunities.

The session will consider, among others, the following areas of collaboration:

- Development of content on key emerging ICT topics
- Delivery of training
- Knowledge sharing
- Forum for debate and partnership creation
- Twinning arrangements and exchange programmes

Moderator: TBA

Panelists: TBA

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 11:30 Final conclusions

11:30 – 12:00 Closing ceremony