



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 15 September 2017

Administrations of the Member States of the
Union
ITU-D Sector Members
ITU Academia

Subject: Academia ④SDGs: from research to innovative solutions accelerating sustainable development at the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017, 12 October 2017, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the ITU Academia side event scheduled to take place on Thursday, 12 October from 12:35 to 14:15 at the Hilton Hotel jointly organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Government of Argentina during the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17), Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9 – 20 October 2017.

Within the diversity of players in a converged ICT ecosystem, that ranges from telecommunications, health, finance, education to agriculture, etc., there is growing recognition of the importance of bringing the academic wealth of knowledge and scientific expertise into ITU's work through innovative partnerships. Academia fosters innovative and sustainable solutions by providing a space where talent, research and technology come together to solve the world's most pressing problems. This is already happening in several academic institutions where high-potential projects are being nurtured, such as the e-Waste Project of the Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP), Argentina.

This joint side event will showcase both existing and new pilot ITU-D platforms for Academia engagement as well as other Academia-led projects and initiatives in ICT ④SDGs. Ms Andrea Maia remains at your disposal if you require more information about this ITU Academia Event and can be contacted by email at membershipitud@itu.int. For registration to WTDC-17 and its side events, please visit: www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC17/Pages/item.aspx?ItemID=19

I look forward to your active participation and valuable contribution to this event.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annex 1: Draft agenda of ITU Academia event

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Annex

ACADEMIA ④SDGs: from research to innovative solutions accelerating sustainable development

Thursday, 12 October, 12:35 - 14h15, Buenos Aires, Argentina

DRAFT AGENDA

Within the diversity of players in a converged ICT ecosystem from telecommunications, health, finance, education to agriculture etc., there is growing recognition of the importance of bringing the Academic wealth of knowledge and scientific expertise through innovative partnerships. Academia fosters innovative and sustainable solutions by providing a space where talent, research and technology come together to solve the world's most pressing problems. This is already happening in several academic institutions where high potential projects are being nurtured such as UNLP's e-Waste Project, recognized by the ITU.

Today, ITU has a large involvement of academia and research institutions, with a network of some 150 ITU Academia members. As the portfolio of Academia members continues to grow, various other types of collaborative platforms or products such as ITU Academy, ITU Journal, development projects are being explored with active engagement of Academia members and partners. In particular, recognizing that ICTs are a key enabler towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially through multi-stakeholder approaches, the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D) carried out a joint research with renowned experts from the academic community on "ICT-Centric Economic Growth, Innovation and Job Creation". This publication will be launched at WTDC-17 as part of the 25th Anniversary celebrations of the ITU-D Sector.

Furthermore, Argentina has been a key ITU partner in fostering the involvement of over 20 national academic institutions in the work of the ITU, aiming to encourage information sharing and cooperative relationships between universities and their associated research establishments and manufacturers, operators and public authorities from ITU Membership.

This joint side event will showcase existing and new pilot ITU-D platforms for Academia engagement and other Academia-led projects and initiatives in ICT ④SDGs.

12:35 – 12:45 [Opening remarks](#)

Mr Brahim Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), ITU

Mr. Hector Huici, Secretary of ICT of the Ministry of Modernization, Argentina

12:45 – 13:50 [Panel Discussion](#)

ICT ④SDGs

13:50 – 14:00 [Argentina ITU Academia member Case Study:](#)

Universidad Nacional de La Plata's e-Waste Project (2016 WSIS prize).

14:00 – 14:15 [Q&A session](#)
