



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: Circular BDT/PKM/HCB/003

Geneva, 14 February 2018

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- National Regulatory Authorities
- ITU-D Sector Members
- ITU-affiliated academic and research institutes
- United Nations and specialized agencies
- Regional and other international organizations
- Centres of Excellence

**Subject: Global ICT Capacity Building Symposium (CBS)
“Developing skills for the digital economy and society”
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 18-20 June 2018**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your organisation to participate in the Global ICT Capacity Building Symposium (CBS), which will take place in **Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 18 to 20 June 2018**. The Symposium is being organised by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and hosted by the Dominican Institute of Telecommunications/Instituto Dominicano de Telecomunicaciones (INDOTEL).

Under the theme “**Developing skills for the digital economy and society**”, the main objective of the Symposium is to discuss how emerging trends in the field of information and communication technologies (ICTs) change skills requirements for the digital economy and society, and in turn impact capacity building and skills development. The Symposium will cover debates around the skills requirements for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), examine community-based ICT developments and capacity building needs and identify the necessary policy interventions. The Symposium will further discuss the role of academic institutions in preparing a workforce fit for the digital economy, and address the subject of digital transformation, including artificial intelligence, robotics and machine learning, the Internet of Things, cloud computing and big data analytics. A dialogue between Centres of Excellence, the business and the academic communities will identify innovative approaches to addressing the skills gap. A number of young innovators will showcase their digital products and services in the field of e-learning and capacity development.

The Symposium brings together a variety of stakeholders from Government, industry, academia and other experts working in the field of emerging technologies and human skills development. Participants will share experiences, present case studies, discuss potential partnerships, and make recommendations on the way forward to strengthen capacities for the digital economy and society, in particular in developing countries.

Building on previous events, a major objective of CBS 2018 is to strengthen collaboration between ITU, the business and the academic communities in developing capacities for the digital future.

The Symposium will be conducted in English and Spanish and will be paperless. Interpretation in the other ITU official working languages will be provided based on the requests of participants, to be indicated on the registration form by 4 May 2018, and provided that there are at least five requests for a given language.

Further information on the meeting, including the draft programme, registration details and all other logistical information such as accommodation and visa arrangements, will be posted at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Capacity-Building/Pages/events/CBS/2018/default.aspx>

I look forward to your active participation in CBS 2018.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director