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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau |
| ITU Academia Engagement Opportunities in the work of ITU-D |
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| **Summary:**This information document provides details on i) past and ongoing collaboration of ITU-D with Members and non-Members of ITU Academia, and ii) potential areas for ITU Academia’s engagement in the work of the ITU-D.**Action required:**TDAG is invited to note this document.**References:**Document TDAG-25/8 on ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia |

**Academia**[**[1]**](https://chc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=en-US&rs=en-US&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fituint-my.sharepoint.com%2Fpersonal%2Fazzahra_adisuryo_itu_int%2F_vti_bin%2Fwopi.ashx%2Ffiles%2F68bd379154a04dabaf04888407ffb153&wdlor=cDCB1734A-D054-43EE-A4A0-949D551F20CB&wdenableroaming=1&mscc=1&wdodb=1&hid=47A78DA1-D096-C000-12E7-20D56E6E5F17.0&uih=sharepointcom&wdlcid=en-US&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v2&corrid=324ba302-9552-6c92-821c-a34d200300b6&usid=324ba302-9552-6c92-821c-a34d200300b6&newsession=1&sftc=1&uihit=docaspx&muv=1&cac=1&sams=1&mtf=1&sfp=1&sdp=1&hch=1&hwfh=1&dchat=1&sc=%7B%22pmo%22%3A%22https%3A%2F%2Fituint-my.sharepoint.com%22%2C%22pmshare%22%3Atrue%7D&ctp=LeastProtected&rct=Normal&wdorigin=Outlook-Body.Sharing.ServerTransfer.LOF&wdhostclicktime=1742821892199&csc=1&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&wdredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush#_ftn1) **engagement opportunities in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D)**

**Section 1: Past and Ongoing Collaboration**

* **University of the West Indies in Barbados, Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica (ITU Academia member):** provides training courses on smart cities on the ITU Academy, covering topics from design and development to key technologies, as part of its activities within the ITU Academy Training Centers (ATCs) programme.
* **INICTEL – UNI, Peru** **(ITU Academia member)**: offers courses on the different priorities of ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) and supports regional capacity development initiatives to deliver four courses in 2025 via the ITU Academy, as part of its activities within the ITU Academy Training Centers (ATCs) programme.
* **AIT (Asian Institute of Technology), Thailand** **(ITU Academia member)**: providescapacity-building for policymakers on the fundamentals of AI and the gender and social risks relating to AI technology. They delivered a session on deploying emerging technologies for digital transformation at the ITU Workshop on Digital Transformation for the Pacific on 12-14 February 2025, along with the 80th Session of the Commission of UNESCAP in April 2024, to promote Digital Innovations for Sustainable Development in LLDCs. Finally, they also organized student’s visit to ITU’s Regional Office in Bangkok in July 2024, as part of youth camps from Georgia Institute of Technology Shenzhen Institute and Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications respectively.
* **INATEL of Brazil** **(Non-Academia members):** supports the capacity development program on barriers to the deployment of infrastructure with the collaboration of SBA Communications (ITU-D Sector Member).
* **Juntendo University, Japan (Non-Academia members):** presented their latest research on Thailand’s Aging Demographics and Information and Communication Technologies' Role in Empowering the Older Persons in Different Cultures, as part of the Collaboration Information Session of ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific on Healthy Aging in Thailand through ICT, organized on 1 April 2024.
* **United Nations University Institute (UNU) Macau (Non-Academia members):** in 2023, conducted research onGender-sensitive Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy in Southeast Asia, specifically focused on Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. This research aims to address gender-sensitive AI policy development in the four countries and provided key recommendations for policymakers’ consideration.
* **Kostanay Engineering and Economic University (KEnEU), Kazakstan (Non-Academia members):** implemented a joint project “Smart Kostanay Ecosystem” by creating atraining and knowledge sharing ecosystem in Kostanay region of Kazakhstan. This ecosystem accumulates and disseminates best practices, delivers trainings on subjects ranging from startups to child online protection and helps to bridge the gap with the capital region of the country, directly implements connectivity initiatives, and has established broadband internet connection in several schools in the rural areas. This project continues as a project titled as “Smart Kostanay Education Ecosystem 2.0".
* **King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia (Non-Academia members):** is continuing a project on “Assistance to Arab Technoparks and Incubators Network”, which aims to bolster entrepreneurship and innovation by facilitating opportunities for companies to establish connections and expand into other participating countries.
* **Delta American Schools, Egypt (Non-Academia members):** in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), Egypt, and the ITU, held the Girls in ICT Day event held in Mansoura, Egypt, on April 30th, 2024. The event attended by 250 girls and showcased of girls' leading role in spreading awareness of digital citizenship to empower young girls to become advocates for digital citizenship, drawing inspiration from influential peer role models.
* **Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT), The Netherlands (Non-Academia members):** as one of the 14 ITU Academy Training Centres (ATCs), has two additional initiatives planned for Q2 of 2025 following the successful “Catalyzing the Digital Future for Sustainability” summer school last year. This year’s summer schools will focus on “Evidence-based digital policies for universal and meaningful connectivity” and “Digital and green transitions”.
* **LINK Centre**, **University of the Witwatersrand (WITS), South Africa (Non-Academia member):** serves as an ITU ATC providing training on a vast range of telecommunication/ICT regulatory topics. In 2024, its courses were offered to enhance the capacity of government officials and policymakers involved in digital transformation efforts. Notable is the Excellence in Digital Government online course, with face-to face courses on the topic being planned in 2025.
* **The Central American Technological University, Honduras (Non-Academia member):** has been valuable allies in developing capacity-building activities, which include the Digital Transformation Workshops for micro and small enterprises, among others.
* **Technological Institute of the Americas:** joined as a ew partner., while more partners from both Members and non-Members of ITU Academia are expected to have active participations and supports in various capacity-building activities, while encouraging Academia Members to engage in and contributed to the ITU-D Study Groups.

**Section 2: Potential Areas to Explore Collaboration with Academia**

* **ITU Acceleration Centers**

The Acceleration Centres are opportunity hubs for paving pathways for locally led, inclusive, and sustainable development. They enhance global, regional, and national innovation capabilities for technology, policy, and flagship initiative development amplifying local capabilities to accelerate innovation, entrepreneurship, and improve the competitiveness of economic sectors through digitalization. They host research, training, co-creation on stakeholder-defined problems and the incubation of innovative solutions. They also provide safe space for experimentation open to diverse teams from public and private sector stakeholders.

* + New Partners for 2024 :
		- **Universidad Nacional de la Plata (UNLP)**
		- **China Branch of BRICS Institute of Future Networks (BFNC)**
		- **China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT) to contribute to ITU Acceleration Center**.
* **ITU Academy Training Centers (ATCs)**

The ITU Academy Training Centers (ATCs) programme takes capacity development work forward into the future. It directly contributes to building knowledge and skills among professionals in the ICT field for enabling them to contribute to, and fully participate, in the digital transformation. ATCs offer high-quality training courses at intermediate and advanced levels through the ITU Academy, with a focus on the needs of developing countries. Training topics include emerging technologies, policy and regulation, network infrastructure, spectrum management, cybersecurity, digital inclusion, and digital services.

* **The 15th Cyberdrill for the Americas in Costa Rica**

It aims to enhance the communication and incident response capabilities of the participating teams and to ensure a continued collective effort in mitigating cyber threats among the region's national Computer Incident Response Teams. It will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica from June 9 to 13, 2025, co-organized by ITU and the Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology and Telecommunications (MICITT) and the Latin University, Costa Rica, which are also the hosts of the event. Itt is open to technical officials and/or management level officials of national CIRT/CERT/SOC, cybersecurity agencies, national cybersecurity authorities, ministries, regulators, academia, and other stakeholders of ITU members, including Member States, Sector Members, Academia, and NGOs. It will take place over five days and includes various technical sessions, discussions on the cybersecurity situation in Costa Rica, Central America and the Region of the Americas.

* **EQUALS Global Partnership to Bridge the Gender Digital Divide Research Coalition**

The EQUALS Research Coalition Annual Report calls for contributions from academics and researchers who can offer insights, case studies, and scholarly perspectives on the gender digital divide, specifically within the three EQUALS action areas – Access, Skills, and Leadership. It aims to identify key knowledge and evidence gaps, conduct research on priority topics, provide practitioners and policymakers with actionable information, collect and analyse data and case studies to understand global gender disparities in technology access, skills development, and leadership opportunities.

* + New Partners 2024:
		- **Korean Advance Institute of Science and Technology – KAIST, Korea (Rep.of)**
		- **Georgia Institute of Technology, United States**
		- **University of Pennsylvania**, **United States**
* **Girls in ICT Day**

It encourages girls and young women to pursue STEM education, inspire girls and young women to work in STEM careers, and engage the community and promote collaboration through partnerships. Everyone is invited to celebrate Girls in ICT Day in their countries and communities across the globe. TOn April 24th 2025, the global celebration will be co-hosted by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Arab States regions as a hybrid event, featuring a live link between Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and Nouakchott, Mauritania, along with distinguished panellists from around the world, live streamed for global audience.

* + Partner examples:
		- **Technical Training Center of Chile (INACAP**) supports Girls in ICT activities in remote areas of Chile.
		- **Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt and Delta American Schools** held the Girls in ICT Day event, showcasing girl's leadership, aiming to raise awareness and inspire.
* **Generation Connect Young Leadership Programme (GCYLP)**

An exciting programme to engage, empower, and inspire young digital leaders and changemakers. It supports young visionaries from around the world, who propose creative, far-reaching, innovative, and feasible community-driven projects aimed at creating a more inclusive and empowered digital future. ITU in partnership with Huawei, is providing guidance, training, and financial support to 30 young fellows per year to enable them to practically implement digital development projects in their diverse communities across the world.

* **Open Source Ecosystem Enabler (OSEE) project**

The OSEE project and associated training activities help advance open source AI capacity-building. The partnerships enable the rollout of a specialized opensource AI training course to be delivered through Open Source Programme Offices that we are deploying internationally. It is designed to equip member states (particularly in the Global South) with the expertise needed to leverage AI for sustainable digital transformation. Since its launch, the program has successfully supported over 150 policymakers, government officials, and technical experts from about 50 countries, including ministers, diplomats, digital transformation leaders, and AI practitioners. Building on this momentum, we are committed to expanding the reach of our open source AI training program to even more member states, particularly in regions where digital capacity-building is most needed. By forging new partnerships and tailoring our approach to local contexts, we aim to equip governments, institutions, and technical communities with the skills and knowledge to drive AI-powered digital transformation. This training programme will be presented together with AI for Good (AI Skills Coalition) and UNITAR on ~~nex~~t 22~~nd of~~ May at ITU, in an AI briefing session destined to 50 delegates (officials and diplomats from various missions in Geneva) and later on will integrate the ITU Academy platform. As we continue to scale, we welcome collaboration with additional stakeholders to ensure that open source AI remains a force for inclusive and sustainable development worldwide.

* Partners:
	+ - **Emory University**’s Simuvaction program
		- **Geneva Graduate Institute**’s Executive Education
		- **IHEDD-FERDI** under the EU’s Global Gateway initiative

By integrating insights from Emory’s scenario-based policy simulations, the Geneva Graduate Institute’s leadership in global governance education, and IHEDD-FERDI’s focus on economic development, we are strengthening knowledge-sharing networks that foster the responsible and impactful adoption of open-source AI worldwide.

* **Capacity Development for Digital Transformation Project**

To advance digital transformation globally, ITU, the European Commission (EC) and UNDP have joined forces in the context of the 4-year, € 4-million project “Capacity Development for Digital Transformation”, funded by the European Union. Since the beginning of the project in 2023, there are 27 courses in all modalities (face-to-face, online, summer school) that were organized with 1414 global professionals trained in a range of topics such as digital transformation, artificial intelligence, e-waste, cybersecurity, policy and regulation.

Partners: ITU Academy Training Centres

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