RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 17

Sharing of facilities in rural and remote areas

(January, 2002)

Question 10/2:   *Communications for rural and remote areas*

The ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (ITU-D),

considering

a)   the work of Focus Group 7[1], Focus Group 7's Report[2], and the updated Report on Communications for rural and remote areas;

b)   the need for provision of and the fundamental goal of providing access to basic and advanced telecommunication services;

c)   the significance of obtaining physical access to and use of public or community communications centres (e.g. public call offices, multi-purpose community telecentres, and other community access centres; and

d)   the benefit brought to underserved communities by these facilities,

bearing in mind

a)   that the success of a community access focal point also depends upon access, availability, cost, community participation, reliability, sustainability, and services offered;

b)   that the success of the community access focal point also depends on analysis and assessment of the needs of the community and the appropriate technology, a community action and business plan, and the development of know-how, expertise and human resources,

noting

that there is no single model that meets the needs of an individual community, but that certain elements may be applicable in other community models,

---

[1] Focus Group 7 was established at WTDC-98 to study various mechanisms by which to promote the development of new telecommunication technologies for rural applications. Focus Group 7 completed its work at the end of 2000.

[2] The Report of Focus Group 7 entitled New technologies for rural applications was published in February 2001. Also see http://www7.itu.int/itudfg7/

recommends

1   that community stakeholders, policy makers, the private sector, and regulators facilitate the most inclusive framework for sharing community access facilities from practical and partnership perspectives, and collaborate to document successful and sustainable examples of community centres/access facilities, and

2   that stakeholders take advantage of a wealth of knowledge gained by development organizations, non-governmental organizations, ITU members and ITU experts on lessons learned in creating sustainable community access centres.