



Sameer Sharma
Head, Special Initiatives,
BDT/ITU



Mr. Sharma is the Head, Special Initiatives in the office of Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau of the ITU, ensuing meaningful connectivity with digital transformation fostering partnerships through Partner2Connect, connecting every school to Internet by 2023 under ITU-UNICEF GIGA, resilient digital infrastructure under Connect2Recover and FCDO Digital Access Programme towards broader digital inclusion.

Earlier to this position, Mr, Sharma was lead for ITU Flagship Initiative "Connet2Recover" for Digital Infrastructure Reinforcement for COVID-19 Recovery and Preparedness focusing on countries from Africa region as well as CIS, Americas, Arab and Asia-Pacific regions. He is also lead on ITU-UNESCO Broadband Commission Working Group on Smartphone access ensuring affordable smart devices in the hands of those who have yet to connect to the Internet.

From 2008 onwards, Mr. Sharma, as Senior Advisor, he had been responsible for countries in South-Asia region to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals through Digital Transformation using ICTs. Mr. Sharma was also the regional lead on Cybersecurity and his role included assisting countries in developing National Cybersecurity Strategies, establishment, and enhancement of capabilities of national CIRTs, organizing Cyberdrill and building capacity to secure trust in use of ICT. He was also regional lead on E-Waste and environment to assist Member States to take advantage of the opportunities of ICTs to address the challenges linked to climate change in the region. Mr. Sharma had also served as acting Regional Director for Asia-Pacific region for over a year on two successive occasions.

Mr. Sharma's technical experience includes assisting countries on digital transformation, migration of legacy networks to Next Generation Networks, Conformance and Interoperability, Type Approval, Interactive Terrestrial Transmission Map, National Broadband Policy frameworks and Wireless Broadband Master Plans, IoT, IMT/5G , bridging the standardization gap and developing policy and regulatory frameworks for creating enabling environment for countries in Asia- Pacific region.

Prior to ITU, Mr. Sharma has worked as an Advisor for the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), General Manager for Celcom, Malaysia and working with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). He also has an extensive experience working with the Television and Radio broadcasting industry. Mr. Sharma holds an MBA in Telecom Management and Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics and Communications (Honors).