



Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Administrative Circular
CA/222

12 May 2015

To Administrations of Member States of the ITU and Radiocommunication Sector Members

Subject: **Invitation to participate in ITU International Symposium on the Digital Switchover:
17 June 2015 – A milestone for Digital Terrestrial Television**

I would like to invite you to participate in the ***“ITU International Symposium on the Digital Switchover: 17 June 2015 – A milestone for Digital Terrestrial Television”***, to be held at ITU Headquarters in Geneva, on 17 June 2015. This Symposium will cover the following topics, *inter alia*:

- Objectives of the transition to digital TV – technical and regulatory frameworks;
- The Analogue to Digital Switchover – stocktaking worldwide;
- Advanced Technologies for Television;
- Building a sustainable ecosystem for Digital TV.

The Symposium will conclude with a high-level round table discussion and will honour the contribution of outstanding persons to the Geneva 2006 Agreement. A draft agenda is annexed to this letter. For the final version, please visit the event web site, at the URL indicated below.

All ITU members – Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia – are invited to attend this event. The UN-accredited media is also invited. This Symposium provides an excellent opportunity for dialogues among multi-stakeholders in public and private sectors; it also features a small exhibition to showcase innovative products and services of ITU members in the TV industry.

During the Symposium, simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the six official languages of the ITU.

For more details about the exhibition and sponsorship opportunity, event webcasting or any further information related to the symposium, please visit: <http://www.itu.int/go/GE06-Symposium-2015>.

Participants are required to register online at <http://www.itu.int/go/GE06-Symposium-2015>, through their respective Designated Focal Points (DFP), before **29 May 2015**. Participants requiring an entry visa to Switzerland are requested to contact their local Swiss Embassy for information well in advance. For ease of reference, useful information for participants is also available at the website.



François Rancy
Director

Annex: 1

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of ITU
- Observer (Resolution 99 (Rev. Busan, 2014))
- Observers which participate in an advisory capacity pursuant to Nos. 278 and 279 of the ITU Convention
- Observers from Sector Members of the Radiocommunication Sector which do not participate in an advisory capacity pursuant to No. 280 of the ITU Convention
- Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Radiocommunication Study Groups and Special Committee on Regulatory/Procedural Matters
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference Preparatory Meeting
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board
- Secretary-General of ITU, Deputy Secretary-General of ITU, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

ANNEX

ITU International Symposium on the Digital Switchover 17 June 2015 – A milestone for digital terrestrial television

**17 June 2015
(ITU Tower, Popov Room)
0930-1800 hours**

Draft Programme

Summary

On 16 June 2006, a treaty agreement was signed at the conclusion of ITU's Regional Radiocommunication Conference (RRC-06) in Geneva, heralding the development of "all-digital" terrestrial broadcast services for sound and television. The digitalization of broadcasting in Europe, Africa, Middle East and the Islamic Republic of Iran by a target date of 17 June 2015 represents a major milestone towards establishing a more equitable, just and people-centred Information Society connecting the unconnected in underserved and remote communities and closing the digital divide. The new digital GE06 Plan provides not only new possibilities for structured development of digital terrestrial broadcasting but also sufficient flexibilities for adaptation to the changing telecommunication environment. The GE06 Agreement triggered the analogue to digital broadcasting switchover worldwide.

The Symposium will provide background information on the GE06 Agreement, on the actual situation with respect to the analogue to digital switchover worldwide and on the potential future use of digital TV by the broadcasters in all three ITU Regions, taking into account new television systems such as HDTV and UHDTV on one hand and the allocation of the UHF band to other services known as a "digital dividend" on the other hand. The Symposium will be accompanied by technical demonstrations.

Planned Sessions

Symposium moderator: Christoph Dosch, Chairman ITU-R Study Group 6

0930-0945 hours **Welcome by the ITU Secretary-General and the Director BR**

Introductory video

0945-1100 hours **Session 1: Objectives of the transition to digital TV – technical and regulatory frameworks**

Session Chair: François Rancy, Director, BR

This session will give an overview on the way to digital television, the motivation for a new frequency plan in GE06 and the consequences of the so-called "digital dividend" with respect to

the television service in the 800 MHz and in the 700 MHz bands. It will also discuss the GE06 frequency coordination meetings for additional TV channels in the band 470-694 MHz in the sub-Saharan Africa and Arab countries as well as the development of technical documentation in ITU-R for DTTB systems and the assistance by ITU towards determining needs of developing countries.

Question and Answer session

BREAK / DEMOS

1120-1250 hours Session 2: The analogue to digital switchover – stocktaking worldwide

Session Chair: Hai Pham, Counsellor for ITU-R Study Group 6

In this session, representatives from countries or areas in the three ITU Regions will provide status information about the analogue to digital switchover. Speakers are expected from China, Korea, Japan, Australia, India, the Caribbean area, USA, Brazil, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal, the Arabic area, Europe.

Question and Answer session

(The subject will be taken up again in the final round table.)

BREAK / DEMOS

1410-1530 hours Session 3: Advanced technologies for television

Session Chair: David Wood, Chairman ITU-R Working Party 6C

This session presents frontier technology in television production and service. Three exciting subjects are dealt with:

- New image technology such UHDTV, enhanced image dynamic range (EIDR), wide colour gamut, etc.
- New sound technology such as advanced sound for UHDTV and 3DTV
- Integrated broadcast-broadband (IBB) systems such as HbbTV, HybridCast, GINGA NCL or HTML5 based Smart TV Platform

The session will close with a **Panel Session** debating the biggest future challenges facing ITU-R in media and broadcast technology.

BREAK / DEMOS / PRESS BRIEFING

1600-1720 hours Session 4: Building a sustainable ecosystem for digital TV

Session and Panel Chair: EBU

In this session, high-level experts will discuss the future of television, the efficient use of spectrum, the potential convergence between the broadcasting and the mobile service, and other spectrum issues and challenges stemming from the next step of transition, the digital-to-digital transition.

In a panel session, the changes and challenges for a sustained eco-system for digital TV will be discussed.

1720-1800 hours Closing Session (Round table) / Conclusions

Session and Panel Chair: François Rancy, Director BR

The panellists of the round table will draw conclusions from the previous session for the future of television.

The Symposium will close with a ceremony celebrating those experts whose outstanding contributions ensured the successful completion of the GE06 Agreement.
