

**ITU/MIC Japan Symposium on ICTs and Climate Change**  
**Closing Remarks, Malcolm Johnson, ITU-T Director**

- It has been a great pleasure for me to be here again in Kyoto this week. On behalf of all of us let me once again thank our hosts – the MIC Japan, our organizers the ITU Association of Japan, and the sponsors of the event – for making our stay so comfortable, we will treasure the memories of the cherry blossom, the maiko odori, and the excellent, entertaining and thought provoking presentations.
  
- I am sure you will agree with me that the hospitality, facilities, and presentations have been outstanding. I am so pleased that we chose Kyoto for this event. The ITU Resolution 35 adopted by the Kyoto Plenipotentiary in 1994 is actually the oldest of the current ITU's Basic Texts. It has been left untouched by three successive ITU Plenipotentiaries. Similarly, the Kyoto Protocol, now more than ten years old, has served the world well. That shows that the words that are drafted and the ideas that are generated here in Kyoto carry great significance! And I am sure this event will also go down in the long history of ITU.
  
- In this symposium, we have generated a rich source of ideas of how the ICT sector can contribute to a “greener” world, without impacting negatively on global growth and prosperity. In ITU, we need time to digest these ideas and at the next symposium, in London on 17-18 June, hosted by BT, we will further refine these ideas. I hope to see many of you there. London is a city which also has a rich culture and much to see, even if the transport system is not as enjoyable as that of Kyoto!

- As I mentioned in my opening remarks, those of you not knowing ITU very well might have wondered why we are tackling the difficult and challenging issue of climate change. I hope that after these two days you can see that in fact ITU and the ICTs sector can make a significant contribution to the global efforts to combat climate change.
  
- We have identified three order effects to address:
  - 1st Order: the negative impact of resources and energy to operate ICTs
  - 2nd Order: Efficiency gains from using ICTs both for the ICT industry and other industry sectors
  - 3rd Order: adaptation and changes in business and consumer behavior, and political priorities.
  
- I believe ITU has a role to play in all these areas. We will study seriously the Chairman's excellent summary of this symposium to adapt our future strategy. This report will also provide the basis of further discussion and development at the London Symposium in June, but as Director of Telecommunication Standardization Bureau in ITU I have taken particular note of the need for action in the standardization Sector.
  
- One message is very clear, and that is that there is not, as yet, any internationally agreed common methodology for measuring the impact of ICTs on climate change, either in terms of the direct emission of greenhouse gases or the savings that can be generated in other sectors of industry through the application of ICTs.

- I believe this is important and urgent work. It needs to be carried out in an open, rigorous and multi-disciplinary way. It needs to involve not only the whole ITU membership, but also the work of non-members, especially those who have so kindly contributed to this event. An ITU-T Focus Group is therefore an appropriate vehicle to take forward this work. I will make this proposal to our Advisory Group meeting in July. However, to move quickly, I would encourage you to submit your proposals on the terms of reference for this group, as well as your initial proposals on methodologies to be adopted, to me at: [tsbtechwatch@itu.int](mailto:tsbtechwatch@itu.int). I would especially welcome contributions from the speakers at this event.
- I will also pass on the messages from this symposium to my colleagues in the other ITU Bureaus (Development and Radiocommunications) as well as to the General Secretariat and these messages will help to formulate the ITU global role in combating climate change.
- Of course, when I refer to ITU it includes its membership – 191 governments and over 700 private sector entities, and so it is you that we always rely on, your experience, motivation and hard work. There were many difficult challenges in the past, which were resolved in the ITU and it is with your help we will define the optimal global strategy for the use of ICTs in combating climate change.

- Finally, I wish to conclude by thanking some of the many people that have been involved in making this symposium a success:
  - First of all, I would like to thank our colleagues in MIC Japan, in particular Mr Yamakawa, Mr Torigoe, Mr Takamoto, Mr Sakurai, Ms Miyara and Mr Yoshida. I would especially like to thank Vice Minister Mori, for offering the excellent reception last night,
  - We should also thank the ITU Association of Japan, in Mr Yamashita, Mr Ohmi, Mr Tsugawa and Ms Ishii,
  - I would like to thank my colleagues especially those here with me: Mr Art Levin, Mr Alexandre Vassiliev, Mr Bob Shaw, and Dr Tim Kelly,
  - I would like to thank our interpreters, who have provided a very efficient service, they should be congratulated for dealing so well with a large number of complex terms and acronyms.
  - We should also express our appreciation for the local conference organizers here at the Kyoto International Conference Centre, and the Kyoto Prefecture for their welcome last night.
  - I would particularly like to recognize the sponsors: NTT, NEC, Fujitsu, Hitachi, NICT and OKI .
  - I would like to thank all the speakers and moderators for their hard work and efficiency, and all the participants, including the almost 200 that joined us remotely using GoToWebinar.
  - Finally, I would like to offer my especial thanks to the chairman, Mr Takashi Hanazawa, for his excellent work in guiding and summarizing our discussions in his report and bringing us to a successful conclusion.

- Thank you all very much – see you in London
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