IGF Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt 15-18 November 2009



WORKSHOP #110 & #540

Accessibility & Disability





WORKSHOP #110 ORGANIZED BY ITU & EBU

Global Internet Access for Persons with Disabilities

16 November 09:30 – 12:30 Room 1, Sinai

WORKSHOP #540 ORGANIZED BY ITU

Best Practices for an Accessible Web **17 November** 16:30 – 18:00 Room 3, Suez Canal

Access to the Internet is important for all people of all nations so that they can benefit from e-commerce, e-health, e-education and in general e-communications.

The ITU is one of the founder Members of the IGF Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD). The aim of the DCAD is to facilitate interaction between relevant bodies, and ensure that ICT accessibility is included in the key debates around Internet Governance in order to build a future where all sectors of the global community have equal access to the Information Society. This year the ITU will organize two workshops: one on the «Global Internet access for persons with disabilities» (workshop no. 110), is organized in collaboration with the European Broadcasting Union; the second one will be focused on the best practices for web accessibility «Best practices for an Accessible Web» (workshop forum no. 540). Both workshops will highlight the necessity to make the Internet accessible to all, regardless of individual capabilities of different users.

It is especially important now that we have a worldwide economic crisis with the impact of climate change, that we need to eliminate information deprivation, social and economic discrimination and also to take into account the use of critical internet resources. We must recognize and use energy efficient methods of access without sacrificing accessibility for persons with disabilities, and continue to encourage universal design for all.