ITU Webinar on Standards Education, 30 April 2012

Summary

ITU-T hosted a two-hour webinar on Standards Education on 30 April 2012, with the objective of exploring standardization curricula currently offered by different academic institutions.

The event started with an overview of Aalborg University's standardization curriculum. Prof. Ramjee Prasad, Director of the University's Center for TeleInFrastruktur (CTIF), introduced CTIF, its current and planned divisions all over the world, its expertise and thematic areas, and the concept of entrepreneurship in education.

Dr. Neeli Prasad, Director of CTIF-USA, introduced the Master's Program on "Innovative Communication Technologies and Entrepreneurship" (ICTE) launched by CTIF in 2009. The aim of this 2 year MSc in engineering education is to educate engineers with a thorough technical background combined with strong business competencies. Some examples of curricula on standardization, IPR, patenting, technology transfer, etc. were also provided. The Master is currently being implemented in Bulgaria and Romania, in addition to Denmark.

Dr. Rasmus H. Nielsen provided an overview on Aalborg University and Problem-Based Learning (PBL). The aim of the project is "learning by doing" or "action learning". The PBL approach at AAU is both project-organized and problem-based. The traditional courses and labs are replaced by project work assisted by lecture courses, moving the perspective from description and analyzing into synthesizing and assessment. Traditional textbook-knowledge is replaced by the knowledge necessary to solve theoretical problems, moving from the perspective from understanding of common knowledge into the ability to develop new knowledge. One of the main achievement of the PBL is the establishment, in 2007, of the UNESCO Chair in PBL in Engineering Education (UCPBL) with the aim of promoting and supporting PBL in engineering education worldwide.

Dr. Anand R. Prasad, NEC Corporation, Japan, and Albena Mihovska, AAU, delivered a speech on standardization and IPR, stressing the importance of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) sector, as well as the importance of the standardization and IPR for ICTs. They highlighted some challenges for and of an interconnected world, such as cybersecurity and security of the ICT infrastructure. They believe that, in order to overcome these challenges, it is important to foster synergy between ICT research, innovation and standardization. Moreover, national and global standardization should cooperate in order to ensure that new technologies take into account the market requirements.

Dr. Anand R. Prasad introduced the New Journal Initiative developed in collaboration with Dr. Sofoklis Kyriazakos, AAU. Three issues per year will be published with the aim of providing up-to-date information in the field of the standardization of ICTs. The journal will be addressed to a wide audience from practitioners to new comers. This journal will be published by River Publishers.

Prof. Dina Simunic, University of Zagreb, Croatia, introduced her Course on "Technical Standardization and Legislation", held in collaboration with the Croatian Standardization Institute (HZN), and dedicated to electrical engineering. She shared her academic experience related to this standardization course which also provides an overview of the National and International Standardization Organizations, including ITU.

Dr. Bilel Jamoussi, Chief, Study Groups Department, ITU-T, highlighted the benefit of academia seeking a better understanding of the purpose and potential of standards education. He also shared its perspective on the motivations underlying the creation of the new ITU academia membership category, and outlined the ways in which academic institutions can best make use of ITU's standardization expertise when developing standards education curricula.

Building on the outcomes of this virtual event, Dr. Jamoussi and Prof. Ramjee Prasad announced the Workshop on Standards Education, jointly organized by ITU and the Global ICT Standardization Forum

for India ([GISFI](#)), that will take place at Aalborg University, 8-9 October 2012. At this event, ITU academia members will be invited to share details of their standardization curricula and thereby aid in the development of an ITU repository of standards courses currently on offer. The repository will provide a useful resource to individuals interested in the study of ICT standards and to institutions deciding on the content of standards courses as they develop them. In addition it will examine means to develop such curricula and ways to encourage other institutions to integrate similar courses in the programs on offer to their students.

52 people registered online to this webinar. 27 people from 11 countries participated (including 7 ITU-T staff). In addition to the 7 presenters, 3 participants made comments.