



150 

1865 - 2015

Get involved!

www.itu150.org

BACKGROUND:

2015 MARKS ITU'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

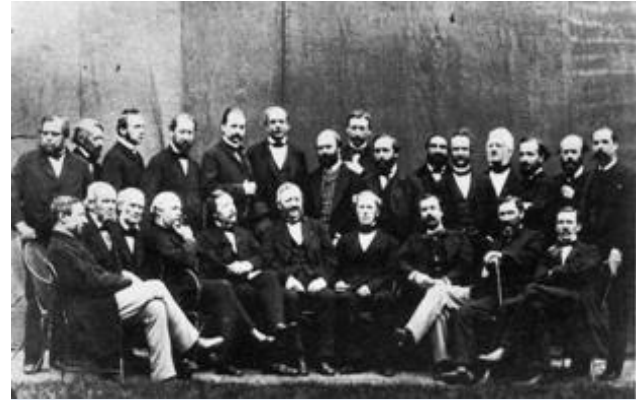
On 17 May 2015 ITU will be celebrating 150 years since the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telegraph Union. For a century and a half since 1865, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has been at the center of advances in communications – from telegraphy through to the modern world of satellites, mobile phones and the Internet.

150 years is only a brief interval in the recorded history of mankind. Yet those 150 years have been extraordinarily significant in terms of human progress and discovery. One of the most remarkable advances of the past 150 years has been the incredible increase in both the speed and variety of human communications.

First we saw the telegraph and the telephone, then radio and television, followed by satellite communications and the internet – heralding a new era of ubiquitous connectivity over the past twenty years. It is difficult to imagine how we communicated in 1865 – with no phones, no email, no instant messaging or SMS. Even the telegraph wasn't available for personal use, so the most common method of long-distance communication back then was to send letters carried on horseback or by ship. The exponential growth of science and technology over the past 150 years is fascinating – and it is part of ITU's story.

The story of ITU is one of international cooperation, among governments, private companies and other stakeholders. The continuing mission is to achieve the best practical solutions for integrating new technologies as they develop, and to spread their benefits to all.

2015 will be a commemoration year that we wish to celebrate with all our members – including governments, private companies, and other stakeholders.



Be part of ITU 150

Join this historic event by becoming a partner of the anniversary or by organizing activities within your country or region.

Contact itu150@itu.int for further information on how to get involved in ITU150.

You can find an overview of telecommunication's and ITU's history here:

<http://itu.int/go/OverviewITUsHistoryArticle>

KEY ITU MILESTONES SINCE 1865

we've come a long way together...

1865 WE WERE BORN!
At the end of the 18th century, the first visual telegraph stations appeared. With the subsequent invention of electric telegraphy, Morse code and submarine cables, it became obvious that international agreements were needed to standardize equipment, operations and tariffs. To this end, twenty countries signed the first International Telegraph Convention in Paris on 17 May 1865 and the International Telegraph Union (the first incarnation of ITU) was established.

1876 OPERATOR?
The next leap forward in communications occurred with the patenting of the telephone in 1876. At the International Telegraph Conference held in Berlin in 1865, ITU began to draw up international legislation and regulations governing telephony.

1880 INVENTION OF RADIO
Limited by the length of their wires, it was impossible for the telegraph and telephone to reach certain places, e.g. on a ship. "Wireless telegraphy", or radio, was therefore a welcome innovation in 1880. This led to the first International Radiotelegraph Convention (Berlin, 1906) and, later in 1927, the first allocation of frequency bands for various radio services.

1915 FIRST SOS
The 1906 International Radiotelegraph Conference established the first international maritime distress call "SOS" - one of the first steps in the field of emergency communications. But the sinking of Titanic in 1912 showed the need for further improvements. Just a few months after the tragedy, the 1912 International Radiotelegraph Conference agreed on additional measures for safety at sea.

1925 AS SEEN ON TV
Television's first public demonstration happened in London in 1925, and TV broadcasting boomed after WWII. ITU's inaugural technical standards for television were released in 1949, with more than 150 standards following thereafter. In recognition of ITU's important role in broadcasting, the US National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences gave Emmy Awards to the Union in 1983, 2008 and 2012.

1947 WE ARE FAMILY
Under a 1947 agreement with the United Nations, ITU became a specialized agency. ITU harbored four permanent organs at the time: the General Secretariat; the International Frequency Registration Board (ITRB); and two International Consultative Committees, one for telephony and telegraph and the other for radio. Also, ITU headquarters moved from Berne to Geneva.

1957 SATELLITES & ORBITS
Since the beginning of the Space Age and the launch of the world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik-1, in 1957, ITU has played a leading role in regulating use of orbital slots. At its first Space Conference in 1963, ITU has ensured that geostationary orbit around Earth is shared fairly and in a way that avoids interference.

1969 WORLD WIDE WHAT?
It started in 1969 with a packet-switched network of computers - ARPANET - in the US Defense Department. Then, in 1989, a distributed hypertext system that became known as the World Wide Web was developed at CERN. The worldwide expansion of the Internet owes much to technical standards from ITU. Hardly anyone would be able to use this powerful resource without ITU-brokered and approved global standards for the critical transport layers and access technologies.

1973 GO MOBILE!
The first demonstration call with a handheld cell phone was made in 1973. In the following decades, mobile services went through several generations and ITU has been at the heart of its spectacular progress. When mobile phone systems existed in a fragmented market, ITU helped to achieve full interoperability with "IMT-2000" laying the foundation for high-speed wireless devices capable of handling voice, data and Internet, and later "IMT Advanced" - requirements for 4G - providing a global platform for next generations of high quality mobile services and a significant improvement in performance and quality of service.

2002 DIVIDE NO MORE
A 1982 ITU report, entitled "The Missing Link", revealed unequal access in ICT between developed and developing countries. Since then, ITU and its Development Sector strengthened its technical assistance and policy guidance to developing countries. Bridging the digital divide was a priority of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in 2003 & 2005, where ITU played a leading role.

2010 FUTURE IS BROAD
ITU, together with UNESCO, formed the Broadband Commission for Digital Development in 2010. The Commission believes that expanding broadband access to the Internet will better facilitate economic and social progress everywhere. It defines practical ways in which countries can achieve this, in cooperation with the private sector.

2014 A GLOBAL MIND
In today's increasingly interconnected world, ITU is the single global organization embracing all players in the dynamic and fast-growing sector of telecommunications. ITU's areas of action are all-encompassing and include: Accessibility, Broadband, Climate Change, Cybersecurity, the Digital Divide, Emergency Telecommunications, Internet as well as Women and Girls in ICT.

1865-2015 LET'S CELEBRATE!
ITU turns 150 years young in 2015. We certainly have come a long way together. Help make ITU's 150th celebration a big success!
Members are encouraged to donate CHF 150 for every year of their ITU membership
Members can also sponsor specific ITU's 150th anniversary projects and initiatives
Individual cash donations can be made online or at donation boxes that are located at the entrances of the ITU HQ buildings
More information visit www.itu150.org or contact us at itu150@itu.int
Get involved!
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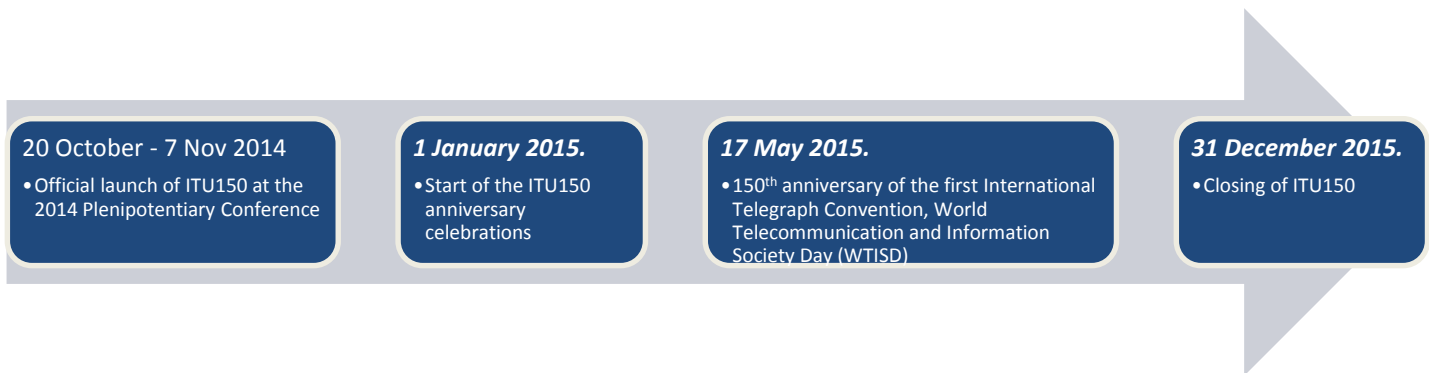
THEME, OBJECTIVES AND KEY DATES OF THE ANNIVERSARY

The theme for ITU's 150th anniversary will be **"Telecommunications and ICTs: drivers of innovation"** as decided at the 2014 Session of ITU Council. This will be the theme for the 2015 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD), to be held on 17 May 2015, as well as for all the anniversary celebrations to be organized by ITU. Overall ITU 150 will be an opportunity for:

- **Highlighting the history of ICTs and the achievements of ITU's membership.** The objective of the anniversary will be to commemorate the unique contribution that telecommunication and information and communication technologies (ICTs) have made to drive innovation, as well as to accelerate social and economic development, highlighting the unique contribution that ITU and ITU Membership have made on this regard.
- **Building a bright digital future for all.** Looking into the future the anniversary also provides an opportunity to share views on the future of the ICT sector, identifying the main challenges that still need to be addressed to expand access to ICTs and build digital inclusion for all.

- **Enhancing collaboration.** Through ITU150 we also want to make ITU's work better known worldwide, to continue promoting innovation and new technologies accessible to all and to reinforce relationships among all players of the ICT ecosystem, including public administrations, private sector companies, entrepreneurs, non-for profits, as well as the 7 billion of people living in our planet.
- **Celebrating with the whole ICT sector.** ITU Membership at large (including ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia), as well as other relevant stakeholders are invited to adopt the theme of ITU150 for their own anniversary celebrations to be organized at the international, regional and national level, and to contact ITU Secretariat to request content support or to showcase these activities in the main website for ITU's 150th anniversary.

Key dates for the anniversary



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Join this historic event by becoming a partner of the anniversary or by organizing activities within your country or region. There are several ways Member States, Private Sector, Academia, and individual delegates and other supporters can contribute to 150th Anniversary celebrations.

- Showcase your achievements at ITU Headquarters
- Organize 150th activities in your own country
- Make a financial contribution to support ITU's anniversary celebration
- Sponsor a specific 150th Initiative



BECOME A ITU150 PARTNER

ITU Members are encouraged to become a partner in the 150th Anniversary celebrations.

Contact us at itu150@itu.int to see how you can benefit.

What types of activities can you organize?

National Events

- National dialogues on the future of the ICT sector
- Symposia and/or technical events with the academia, research centers, industry, entrepreneurs
- Series of webinars

Publications and communications

- Publication of books on relevant personalities and milestones that contributed to the development of telecommunications at the regional and national level.
- Series of technical papers on the future of the ICT sector
- Issuing stamps, posters, flyers and other general communication material to observe celebration



National Projects and initiatives

- National initiatives to bring ICTs to schools, hospitals, rural areas
- Launch of new ICT-enabled public services inspired by ITU150
- Connecting the unconnected, digital literacy campaign to promote digital inclusion

You name it!

- Share with us your own ITU150 initiatives so we can give you visibility and provide you content support!

How will ITU support national celebrations?

The ITU Secretariat will be at the availability of Members to support the organization of national celebrations. ITU support will include:

- **Provide content support.** In order to promote ITU's history and to make unique ITU records widely available to researchers, ITU staff, and ITU delegates, the ITU Library and Archives Service has been working on a digitization programme for several years now. The purpose of the programme is to organize, catalogue, digitize and publish a selection of historical documents. These digitized historical collections are made available on the History of ITU Portal www.itu.int/history. In addition to that, more content specifically for the anniversary celebration will be developed.
- **Provide a visual identity.** Using the ITU150 visual identity will make your national celebration clearly marked as an ITU150 celebration. Benefit from this additional exposure and national and international recognition by contacting ITU150 team, who will be able to provide you with a detailed set of guidelines on how to use ITU150 visual identity and provide you examples on how other national celebrations use this identity.
- **Include you in social media interaction: add your voice to the global conversation.** A set of social media accounts will be used to initiate a global conversation on the history and future of telecommunications. Contact us to learn how to add your voice to this global conversation. Official accounts will include (but not be limited to) use of Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Tumblr, as well as other social media channels.

- **Enhance your visibility.** From October 2014 the dedicated portal www.itu150.int will evolve into an online repository of ITU150 related celebrations. Contact us to announce your activities and let us share your national celebrations with the whole community.

ITU150 official partners will get additional benefits to organize and showcase their national celebrations. Find more information by contacting itu150@itu.int

SAVE THE DATE! LAUNCH OF THE ITU150 PROGRAMME AT PP-14

The official programme of ITU's 150th anniversary, including a preliminary overview to national celebrations will be launched at the 2014 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14). Held every four years, this conference defines ITU's mission, vision and areas of work for the future. The conference, attended by ITU Member States and Sector Members, will provide a global platform to kick off with ITU 150 programme and to show your engagement for the anniversary. Take action now to be part of this global launch:

Sponsors

- Confirm **by 30 September 2014** your financial contribution to ITU150

National celebrations

- Confirm by **10 October 2014** the activities that you be organizing in the context of ITU150 by submitting your initiative at www.itu150.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

ITU150 will be a unique opportunity to spark a global conversation on the role of ICTs to promote global innovation for accelerated social and economic development. Throughout 2015 all ITU Membership will be invited to add their voices to this conversation through the use of social media, including Twitter, Facebook, Google+, Youtube, as well as other national social media platforms.

ITU 150 key vitals

ITU will be sharing content through our core accounts:



@ITU



www.itu.int/facebook



+ITU



#ITU150 will be official hashtag for all social media platforms. #ITU150 to join the global conversation on the anniversary!

Top news stories will be collected via Scoop.It! <http://www.scoop.it/t/itunews>.

Be sure to start following our accounts to be the first informed of news and activities, and don't hesitate to contact us for any questions you may have on social media.

Your ITU story!

From the telegraph to Twitter, we've come a long way together... and we want to share your own stories of ITU over the years. Have a favorite moment with us or from our history? Dust off your photos, videos + stories to

start sharing on our new blog platform <http://itu150.tumblr.com/> For assistance with uploading your content, contact us via ITU150@itu.int.

ITU Video/Audio Recording and Submission guidelines

Video

The best format to shoot video for ITU is Full HD 1920 x 1080 on a camera dedicated to that purpose, however ITU is also very keen to receive your content and will accept videos filmed in any format on any equipment - even on a smartphone.

If filming with a smartphone please ensure that you avoid a common mistake – filming Landscape NOT Portrait: Hold the smartphone the right way up when you are filming, for photographs it doesn't matter how you hold it - horizontally (landscape) or vertically (portrait) but don't film with the phone vertically, a television or computer monitor isn't vertical, it may look OK when playing back on your phone, but playing it back on a horizontal screen will make it look small and squashed.

Also, try and ensure that you record good quality sound on your video recordings, one way to ensure this is to record sound with an external microphone if possible, and avoid wind or overpowering background noise. Video files should ideally be compressed as H264 mp4 format at HD resolution, however ITU can accept most forms of compressed files.

Audio

Please try and ensure that your recordings are free from extraneous background noise. To supply sound recordings to ITU, we would prefer to receive files as WAV or Mp3.

Getting video or audio recordings/clips to ITU

Please upload your video or audio in the highest possible quality and send it to ITU via an ftp transfer service, for example www.wetransfer.com – which is free of charge.

Please include your full contact details as well as any information that may be useful to include in a YouTube or Soundcloud description., this can be sent by ftp or on a separate email.

All videos or audio recordings submitted to ITU must be copyright free. By submitting content to ITU the sender agrees that ITU may use it in part or in its entirety at ITU's discretion. Please note that submitting content to ITU does not automatically guarantee publication or posting.

Please send videos and audio recordings and/or address any questions on filming or audio or sending to: ITU150@itu.int

For more information visit www.itu150.org or contact us at itu150@itu.int.

ANNEX - KEY ITU MILESTONES SINCE 1865

Year	Milestone	Summary
1865	We Were Born	At the end of the 18 th century, the first visual telegraph stations appeared. With the subsequent invention of electric telegraphy, Morse code and submarine cables, it became obvious that international agreements were needed to standardize equipment, operations and tariffs. To this end, twenty countries signed the first International Telegraph Convention in Paris on 17 May 1865 and the International Telegraph Union (the first incarnation of ITU) was established.
1876	Telephone	The next leap forward in communications occurred with the patenting of the telephone in 1876. At the International Telegraph Conference held in Berlin in 1885, ITU began to draw up international legislation and regulations governing telephony.
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1906	SOS	The 1906 International Radiotelegraph Conference established the international maritime distress call "SOS" - one of the first steps in the field of emergency communications. But the sinking of Titanic in 1912 showed the need for further improvements. Just a few months after the tragedy, the 1912 International Radiotelegraph Conference agreed on additional measures for safety at sea.
1925	As Seen on TV	Television's first public demonstration happened in London in 1925, and TV broadcasting boomed after WWII. ITU's inaugural technical standards for television were released in 1949, with more than 150 standards following thereafter. In recognition of ITU's important role in broadcasting, the US National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences gave Emmy Awards to the Union in 1983, 2008 and 2012.
1932	New Name, New Mandate	In 1932, at a conference in Madrid, it was decided that a new name would be adopted to reflect ITU's full range of responsibilities, i.e. not only telegraphy, but also all aspects of telecommunications. The new name, "International Telecommunication Union", came into effect on 1 January 1934.
1947	ITU Joins UN Family	Under a 1947 agreement with the United Nations, ITU became a specialized agency. ITU harbored four permanent organs at the time: the General Secretariat; the International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB); and two International Consultative Committees, one for telephone and telegraph and the other for radio. Also, ITU headquarters moved from Berne to Geneva.
1957	Satellites and Orbits	Since the beginning of the Space Age and the launch of the world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik-1, in 1957, ITU has played a leading role in regulating use of orbital slots. At its first Space Conference in 1963, ITU has ensured that geostationary orbit around Earth is shared fairly and in a way that avoids interference.

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1973	Go Mobile!	The first demonstration call with a handheld cell phone was made in 1973. In the following decades, mobile services went through several generations and ITU has been at the heart of its spectacular progress. When mobile phone systems existed in a fragmented market, ITU helped to achieve full interoperability with “IMT-2000” laying the foundation for high-speed wireless devices capable of handling voice, data and Internet, and later “IMT Advanced” – requirements for 4G-- providing a global platform for next generations of high quality mobile services and a significant improvement in performance and quality of service.
1989	New 3-Sector Structure	Against a background of increasing globalization and the liberalization of telecommunication markets, the 1989 Plenipotentiary Conference, held in Nice, decided that ITU's structure and working methods needed to be reviewed. As a result, an Additional Plenipotentiary Conference (Geneva, 1992) streamlined ITU into three Sectors: ITU-T, ITU-R and ITU-D.
2003	Bridging the Digital Divide	A 1982 ITU report, entitled “The Missing Link”, revealed unequal access in ICT between developed and developing countries. Since then, ITU and its Development Sector strengthened its technical assistance and policy guidance to developing countries. Bridging the digital divide was a priority of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in 2003 & 2005, where ITU played a leading role.
2010	The Future is Broadband	ITU, together with UNESCO, formed the Broadband Commission for Digital Development in 2010. The Commission believes that expanding broadband access to the Internet will better facilitate economic and social progress everywhere. It defines practical ways in which countries can achieve this, in cooperation with the private sector.
2012	Next Generation Mobile Platforms	ITU's Radiocommunication Sector laid the ground work for a global platform on which to build the next generations of mobile services – fast data access, unified messaging and broadband multimedia – in the form of exciting new interactive services. In 2012 a consensus was reached on the IMT-Advanced Standard and additional spectrum was allocated for mobile applications. This was a big achievement and essential to the success of the industry it paved the way for 4G mobile networks, enabling mobile broadband speeds to be up to ten times faster.

Year	Milestone	Summary
2014	A Global Mind	In today's increasingly interconnected world, ITU is the single global organization embracing all players in the dynamic and fast-growing sector of telecommunications. ITU's areas of action are all-encompassing and include: Accessibility, Broadband, Climate Change, Cybersecurity, the Digital Divide, Emergency Telecommunications, Internet as well as Women and Girls in ICT.