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| **Telecommunication Development Sector**  **ITU-D Academia Network meeting** | |  |
| **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION** | | |
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| **Abstract:**  Academia and research community aim to explore and develop ITU’s Global Exchange Platform among ITU Academia members, possibly utilizing the ITU-D Innovation Platform, in order to identify both expected needs and potential contributions from all related stakeholders for innovative ideas (products and services) that could help in closing the digital knowledge gap through various innovative exchange programs. |

**Background:**

Accessibility to the explicit knowledge in this digital world is considered as one of the most important threats as well as opportunities to our digital society. However, it is witnessed that there is a massive gap between users (especially in remote area) and the current flow of useful knowledge and information. Bridging this digital knowledge gap through ITU Academia networks and activities will not only assist ITU in achieving ITU’s mission but also improve the social well-being and economic prosperity in general.

**Objective:**

Academia and research community aim to explore and develop ITU’s Global Exchange Program among ITU Academia members, possibly utilizing the ITU-D Innovation Platform, in order to identify both expected needs and potential contributions from all related stakeholders for innovative ideas (products and services) that could help in closing the digital knowledge gap through various innovative exchange programs.

**Suggestions:**

To contribute to bridge the digital gap, all the stakeholders such as Academia in our global community are encouraged to engage in the efforts to bridge this digital gap. Firstly, we suggest to explore and establish Global Exchange Platform at the BDT/ITU among and between ITU Academia members. The Global Exchange Program can also contribute to understanding and identifying better the needs of ITU Membership – especially Academia – for their researches and up-to-dated curriculums, which can be inter-related to various ITU activities such as Study Group Questions, programs, and initiatives.

The Global Exchange Program can be also assisting the ITU-D Membership, Academia members in particular, to increase their capability and competencies in related to the optimization of the outputs.

Thus, we suggest to explore interests and mechanisms at the ITU-D Academia Network Meeting: e.g., who will be interested in the Global Exchange Program; what and how to exchange faculties, students and even curriculums in the converged ICT ecosystem among ITU Academia members; and which creative ideas to enhance the Global Exchange Program among ITU Academia in the years to come.

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