



**International Telecommunication Union
Telecommunication Development Bureau**

**Regional Workshop for Europe and CIS on
"Spectrum Management and Transition to Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting"**

Budapest, 5 May 2015

Opening Ceremony Remarks

Dear Dr. Monika Karas, President, NMHH

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and privilege to join the host country in welcoming you at the opening of the ITU Regional Workshop for Europe and CIS on Spectrum Management and Transition to Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting".

First and foremost on behalf of ITU and its Telecommunication Development Bureau I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Dr Monika Karas, President of NMHH for the invitation to hold this significant regional event in the capital of Hungary and for the usual and kind hospitality extended to all of us.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Workshop is organized in the context of the European Regional Initiative approved by World Telecommunication Development Conference held in Dubai in 2014.

European Regional Initiative on Spectrum Management and Transition to Digital Broadcasting seeks to provide a basis for the exchange of best practices encountered on the path of digital terrestrial television broadcasting transition, and works towards the way to maximize the economic and social benefits of the digital dividend. It will also consider how to develop further a unified approach in order to enhance the advantages that it will bring to the region of Central-Eastern Europe and how to enhance spectrum management tools and structures.

Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, this year is special for both ITU and WSIS. 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of ITU that has been accompanying the evolution of the ICT ecosystem since 1865 when it was founded.

2015 is also the deadline set for the UHF band for the migration from analogue terrestrial television to digital terrestrial television that applies to Region 1 (Africa, the Middle East and Europe) as well as to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Moving from analogue to digital terrestrial television frees up spectrum for other uses, especially mobile, unlocking new opportunities for development of inclusive information society and ensuring new dynamics in the ICT ecosystem.

All regions are keen to achieve digital switchover, and some countries have already managed to complete the process. In Asia-Pacific and in the Americas, national Administrations have worked together on a bilateral and multilateral basis to develop spectrum plans for digital terrestrial television. In North America, much of Europe and some parts of Asia, analogue switch-off has now been completed. Most countries in Latin America and Asia-Pacific have plans to complete the transition between 2015 and 2020.

In Europe BDT has been accompanying all member states in their efforts of transition and spectrum management. Several direct assistance has been provided in Europe region, including to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Albania, Serbia. Under the Regional Initiative on Broadcasting we have held on the annual basis seminars, providing a platform for coordination and exchange of knowledge and best practices.

Today wireless technology drives the development of information, communication services, education and capacity building among others. However, the rapid evolution of wireless services depends on one crucial asset – the radio spectrum. At the same time, there are limited Spectrum Management educational programmes currently available on the market.

In this context a new programme on Spectrum Management Training Program (SMTP) has been launched recently. This programme is the first in a series of educational products to be provided under the ITU Academy, guided by the needs and priorities of the ITU membership.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage all stakeholders to join ITU in its efforts of implementation of the actions related to the broadcasting and spectrum management defined by the World Telecommunication Development Conference.

I welcome you all to this Regional Workshop and reiterate my gratitude and appreciation to our host, Hungary.

We are looking forward to very fruitful discussions during coming days.

Thank you.