Big Data Workshop

17 June 2014  
Geneva

*Opening Address*

Malcolm Johnson

Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau  
International Telecommunication Union

Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to this first ITU-T Workshop on Big Data.

The importance of the topic needs little introduction.

New ICT capabilities mean that we are amassing more raw data than ever, but, crucially, these ICT capabilities have increased the value of this data immeasurably.

Above all, ‘Big Data’ is the concept that ICTs enable us to gain useful information from vast amounts of data; information of key value to administrations, untilisties and businesses in all industry sectors, telecommunications, healthcare, utlities, aviation… the list goes on.

The ITU-T Technology Watch Report on the subject was very well-received by our membership. Since then we have reached out to other United Nations agencies and international organizations to gauge potential for collaboration.

There have been a number of calls from both the public and private sector for ITU to tackle Big Data, including from last year’s CTO Group Meeting.

ITU is particularly well-placed to do this, with its public and private sector membership.

The ITU Future Networked Car symposium within the Geneva International Motor Show closed with leaders in the automotive and ICT industries asking ITU to study the standardization requirements of automated driving and the Big Data opportunities in the transportation sector.

And as many of you will know, on the request of the Malaysian government, we very recently held an Expert Dialogue on real-time monitoring of flight-data which found that the use of cloud-based solutions and real-time data analytics could lead to better informed travelers, as well as greater operational and environmental efficiency of commercial aircraft.

ITU Cloud Computing standards work is led by ITU-T Study Group 13 and Big Data has naturally become part of that work.

We are privileged to have a list of speakers from operators, equipment manufacturers, service providers, research institutes and academia - representative of the collaboration required to develop effective Big Data standards for the telecommunications sector.

There is so much to be gained from a globally coordinated standards effort on Big Data. I am very much looking forward to the the discussion which I hope will lead to some recommendations on how to take this work forward in ITU-T.

I wish you all an enjoyable and productive workshop.