

Fellowships and Field Personnel Services

Reaching and Extending

Fellowships contribute toward a genuine sharing of knowledge and expertise both from the side of the participant and that of the trainer. Each year, ITU awards approximately 1,400 fellowships to telecommunication professionals from developing countries, enabling them to acquire and exchange knowledge and experience during training programmes, at regional and global seminars, workshops and meetings and to be active stakeholders in the formulation of global ICT issues.

BDT's **Fellowship Service** provides assistance to Member States by organizing fellowships for courses, study tours, seminars, workshops and meetings. In addition, it facilitates the participation of delegates in events organized by ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, the General Secretariat and ITU TELECOM.

The Service maintains constant contact with governments, United Nations specialized agencies, telecommunication organizations, host country authorities and others to implement **end-to-end service**, including the planning and preparation of the event, the event or the training process itself and the post-event evaluation.

The launch of ITU TELECOM's Youth Forum programme also brought a new target population with unique requirements to the ICT arena.

Fellowship reports and host **evaluations** provide feedback and enable continual improvement of the service extended to local coordinators and fellows.

To enable more candidates to benefit from fellowships, special BDT training arrangements provide effective opportunities to developing countries by sharing costs with training partners and the recipient home organizations. As more and more administrations take an active role in capacity building, **cost-sharing** and partial fellowships are becoming a growing trend.

Training and fellowship schemes constitute a strategic means for attaining sustainable human development and for fostering international understanding and cooperation.

ITU's phenomenal assistance throughout the Youth Forum has caused ripples in each participating country, who will get a dose of youthful strength from the various challenges we got at the conference.

Gbenga Sesan,

Youth participant at ITU TELECOM
AFRICA 2001, Nigeria



Patricia FACCIN



FPS staff

Experts are the main vehicle by which ITU transfers knowledge and skills directly to the field. BDT maintains a roster of 1,460 experts possessing a variety of skill sets: regulatory, administrative, legal, technical, educational, logistical and so on.

Experts operate in diverse environments in a wide variety of conditions and time-frames, and the role of **BDT's Field Personnel Service** is to provide all the necessary administrative support for the recruitment and management of experts' missions.

The team strives to make their sojourn as smooth as possible, facilitating a host of services such as salary

payments, hotel bookings, travel and visa arrangements, information and coordination with national administrations, UNDP and regional ITU offices, and logistical support.

The Field Personnel Service also provides administrative support for regional offices and support for recruitment of experts for regional divisions.

Experts complement the efforts of ITU staff both at headquarters and in the field to perform the nitty-gritty of project execution and implementation within over 100 Member countries. In many countries, the findings of ITU experts contributed substantially to the introduction of new technologies, improvements in the tariff regime, or to reform in the sector.

Through a proactive policy of encouraging **intra-regional placement** of experts, BDT has fostered home-grown talent in the last few years, helping developing country professionals build expertise and experience. In the past five years, 136 missions were undertaken by experts from LDCs.

The centres of excellence in each of ITU's regions represent an expanding area for deployment of experts, who are increasingly called upon to extend their skills in distance-learning, training and training-the-trainer programmes.

The commitment and efficiency with which BDT experts were administered was of fundamental importance to make our recent international seminar a reality.

Hélio Marcos Machado Graciosa,
Director of R&D, Telebrás, Brazil