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## Reforming the international accounting rate system, 1999



via ITU Website

During 1999, ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau continued to support developing countries' efforts to review telecommunication costs and tariff reform. This addendum to the 1998 Review of "Reforming the international account rate system" contains the reports of the 1999 series of seminars and contributions from developing countries to the work of the Regional Tariff Groups and Study Group 3. These reports are complemented by three additional case studies.

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The 1998 series of BDT seminars and workshops highlighted the importance for developing countries to examine the underlying cost elements of telecommunications in order to contribute to the reform of the accounting rate system. At the request of participants in those seminars and workshops, BDT continued to support meetings at which developing country representatives applied the various methodologies for calculating tariffs to real situations. Part 3 contains reports of these meetings, as well as recommendations to Study Group 3's on-going deliberations on tariff reform. In addition, Regional Tariff Groups met to review cost models for use in calculating more precisely actual costs. A number of additional papers give overviews of tariff-related questions, of significant interest to developing countries. Three more country case studies – Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Ukraine – are also contained in this volume, as a complement to the 11 published in 1999.

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- Sub-Regional Workshop on International Cost Calculation for Mediterranean Arab Countries – Damascus, Syria.
- Workshop on Universal Service Price Setting – Prague, Czech Republic.
- Workshop on Costing and Tariffs for the Gulf Countries and the Arab States.
- Concluding Seminar on Costing and Tariffs for Arab Countries – Tunis, Tunisia.

### **Regional Tariff Groups' Activities 1999**

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- Joint BDT/TSB Workshop on Tariffs and Costs for the TAF Group – Dakar, Senegal.
- TAL Group Meeting – Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago.
- TAS Costing Methodology: Background and Input.

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- December Meeting Report of the Rapporteurs' Group on Question 12/1 – Geneva, Switzerland.

## **Review of Costs Issues**

- Accounting/Settlement Arrangements in International Telephone Services – Dr M. E. Fakhr El-Din, ITU Senior Advisor for Arab States.
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