

Future ITU TELECOM events:

ITU TELECOM's upcoming range of events will draw together a unique mix of industry leaders, governmental and regulatory bodies from across the spectrum of the industry and provide a forum to meet, exhibit, discuss policies and explore new business opportunities.



ITU TELECOM ASIA 2004
Busan, Korea
7-11 September



ITU TELECOM AMERICAS 2005



ITU TELECOM WORLD 2006



ITU TELECOM MIDDLE EAST & ARAB STATES



ITU TELECOM AFRICA

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FORUM PROCEEDINGS AND WHO'S WHO



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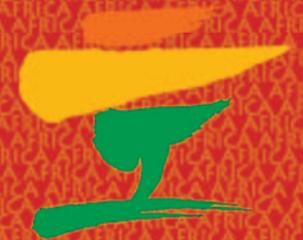
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ITU TELECOM AFRICA 2004
Cairo
4-8 May

Secretary-General's Message



Yoshio Utsumi
ITU Secretary-General

In the three years since we held the last ITU TELECOM AFRICA, in Johannesburg in 2001, the information and communication technologies (ICT) sector in the region has just about doubled in size. In mobile communications, in particular, Africa has emerged as the fastest-growing world region, sustaining a level of growth that has been around 75 per cent per year, almost twice as fast as the global average. In 2001, Africa was the first region of the world where the number of mobile subscribers overtook the number of fixed lines, and there are now twice as many.

In short, the region is being transformed. For years, analysts have talked about the possibility for developing regions to leapfrog ahead, missing out whole stages in network development. Africa is doing just that.

The Forum Programme at ITU TELECOM AFRICA attempted to capture some of this process of transformation. Under the theme "Advantage Africa", we have examined, through Plenary Sessions, topics such as the "State of the Industry", "Policy visions", "Successful business models" and "Building the Infrastructure". In parallel with this, a number of workshops examined more specific issues, such as "Voice over IP", "Management of Internet Resources" and "Fostering local content and software development".

But if one topic really captured the essence of this year's Forum, it was the session entitled "Mobile Africa". This was the theme of ITU African Telecommunication Indicators 2004, a report specially prepared for ITU TELECOM AFRICA. The report concludes that the region will have a minimum of 100 million mobile subscribers by 2010, and may even have as many as 200 million, or four times the current level.

Are we right to be so ambitious? Can Africa's ICT transformation be sustained? Over the three days of the Forum, from 4 to 6 May 2004, Ministers, CEOs, regulators, visionaries, entrepreneurs, users and others have engaged in a lively debate to provide a vision for the future of Africa's ICT sector.

The Forum concluded with a session on the Digital Solidarity Agenda, agreed at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). As this year's ITU TELECOM AFRICA took place on the same continent as the second phase, to be held in Tunis, November 16-18, 2005, this was the ideal chance for the stakeholders in the region to meet together, to forge ahead with the implementation of the Plan of Action and the preparations for the Tunis phase.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yoshio Utsumi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Secretary-General
International Telecommunication Union



This CD-ROM contains Forum Proceedings, presentations and authors' biographies submitted during the event. They are organized by Session, by Speaker, by Country and by Organization. The collection is converted to Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF). It is fully indexed and searchable with the Adobe Acrobat with Search for CD-ROM retrieval software provided with the products. PDF files can be used on Windows 9x, 2000, Windows ME, NT and XP.

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