



### What to see at WSIS

The Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) will feature top-level events to interest everyone concerned with tackling the digital divide. More than 300 discussion sessions and presentations are planned, hosted by international organizations, civil society groups and industry at the Kram conference and exhibition centre in Tunis.

#### **ITU High-Level Panel (15 November) "Information Society 2015: Building the way forward"**

Chaired by ITU Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi and moderated by Aiko Doden, WSIS Goodwill Ambassador of Japan, the panel will discuss key issues concerning the WSIS Plan of Action: how will we make it a reality within the next ten years? Topics will include the challenges faced by developing countries; emerging business opportunities; multi-stakeholder partnerships; improved financing mechanisms; universal access and affordability; and effective regulatory reform. Confirmed participants so far include high-level officials from various countries and the European Commission, as well as the leading executives of Skype, KADO, Nokia, Sentech, and the Grameen Technology Center.

#### **"One Laptop per Child" launches rugged computer (16 November)**

The One Laptop per Child group is a partner in ITU's Connect the World initiative. To provide sturdy, flexible and affordable technology for use in any area, it has been developing a "one-hundred dollar laptop," assisted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Lab, led by Professor Nicholas Negroponte. Using open source software, the computers are designed for use by schoolchildren in developing countries.

#### **Global Pledge to Connect the World (16 November)**

On the opening day of the summit, leaders from government administrations, international organizations, civil society and the private sector will gather to pledge their commitment to "connect the unconnected" by 2015. Among the distinguished participants will be Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal; Vivianne Reding, European Commissioner for the Information Society; Craig Barrett, Chairman of Intel; Carlos Valente, CEO of Telefonica Peru; Jerroo Bilimoria, CEO of Child Helpline International; Ahmed Touni, Director General of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO), and, of course, ITU Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi.

#### **WSIS Partnership Pavilion**

ITU has organized this exhibit on WSIS partners who are working to bring the benefits of information and communication technologies to all.



The pavilion (see picture) will be sited near the venue of the summit's plenary sessions, and will be open throughout the event.

#### **ICT 4 all Exhibition**

Also throughout the summit, there will be an exhibition about efforts to bridge the digital divide that are being made by governments, civil society and industry. It will be a showcase of projects and solutions from across the world, as well as the latest technologies. ■

*ITU has organized the WSIS Partnership Pavilion, which can be visited at the Kram Centre*