

International Telecommunication Union

The ITU New Initiatives Programme



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* 1999-2006

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September 2006

Strategy and Policy Unit (SPU),
Office of the Secretary-General

With the assistance of voluntary contributions from
ITU Member States, including Germany, Japan, the
Republic of Korea and Thailand.



Introduction

The transition towards a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society brings new challenges for ITU and its membership. As the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for telecommunications, ITU must constantly refresh its work programme to stay abreast of new developments and continue to serve its members to the fullest.

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The ITU *New Initiatives* programme allows ITU's membership to explore and discuss emerging topical issues in a timely and flexible manner. This brochure explains the background and objectives of the *New Initiatives* programme, provides information on past and future activities and shows how ITU members can become more closely involved in shaping the programme and making best use of the rich research and resources that it offers.

www.itu.int/newinitiatives





About the ITU New Initiatives Programme

In 1999, the ITU Council endorsed the *New Initiatives* programme with the aim of identifying emerging trends in the telecommunication environment, analysing their implications for ITU and its membership, preparing position papers and reports on issues of a strategic nature, and promoting the growth and expansion of the Internet, mobile wireless networks and the global information society as a whole. The *New Initiatives* programme, which is managed by the ITU's **Strategy and Policy Unit (SPU)**, comprises:

- A comprehensive research programme;
- Content-rich resources on many different topics;
- Country case studies and thematic studies; and
- International expert workshops.

The purpose of the programme is to track changes in rapidly changing technologies, market trends, and regulatory frameworks, so as to promote information exchange among the membership and generate new ideas supporting the activities of the ITU's Sectors. Since 1999, more than 15 workshops have been held and more than 50 studies and 200 presentations have been published on the internet. In addition, numerous publications have been released on paper and/or CD-ROM.

International expert workshops

6 The international workshops held under the *New Initiatives* programme deal with topics that are of high current interest, and that are especially relevant to policy-makers, regulators, industry, corporate analysts, academics and others. The topics are chosen as priorities by ITU Member States and Sector Members on the basis of a questionnaire. These workshops, which are reported on annually to the ITU Council, are on topics that cut across the work of ITU and are conducted with a view to bringing new topics into the regular work programme of the Union and its Sectors. Participation in the workshops is open to all ITU Member States and Sector Members and other experts may participate at the invitation of the ITU Secretary-General. The workshops are conducted according to the guidelines set out in Council Decision 496.

In preparation for each workshop, a briefing paper and a series of country case studies and/or thematic studies are prepared. A background resources website is also created and a list of issues prepared for discussion at the workshop. The output of each workshop typically takes the form of a chair's report, published as a printed document and/or CD-ROM as well as on the event website.

Studies

Under the *New Initiatives* programme, each topic is typically supported by a number of different country case studies or thematic studies that provide an analysis of contemporary issues in information and communications—and how they are being addressed in individual Member States. These studies are aimed at a wide audience, ranging from regulators to corporate managers, and from consultants to academics. Research for the case studies is conducted in collaboration with government officials, consultants and industry players. Each case study sets out its context, defines the ‘issues’, analyses the various models or strategies that might be employed, describes current approaches, identifies obstacles and assesses past and current experiences. The goals of these studies are to raise awareness of new and emerging issues among government officials, regulators and industry players both in developing and developed countries and to provide policy-makers and other players with relevant in-depth information.

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A full set of country case studies can be found at: www.itu.int/casestudies/. Other *New Initiatives* studies can be found at: www.itu.int/osg/spu/downloads/ as well as on the [SPU newslog](#).

The studies are also made available as part of a *New Initiatives* publication, available from the ITU sales office.

For more details, see: www.itu.int/pub/S-POL-NIP/e.



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Recent New Initiatives

The regulatory environment for future mobile multimedia services (June 2006)

This workshop, held in Mainz, Germany, June 21-23 2006, with support from the German Federal Network Agency, examined the regulatory challenges posed by new mobile multimedia services enabled through 3G networks and high-speed wireless access. Thematic studies examined the trend towards more flexible spectrum regulation and the issues raised by market developments, including the need for affordability and transparency, consumer privacy, content management and competition policy.

Case studies: China, Germany and Hong Kong SAR.

www.itu.int/multimobile/

What rules for IP-enabled Next Generation Networks (March 2006)

This workshop, held in Geneva on 23-24 March 2006, looked at the implications for the industry of the current wave of investment in IP-enabled NGNs. Thematic studies looked at regulation, interconnection and universal service in an NGN environment. Specifically, the workshop looked at the evolution of national, regional and international approaches to NGN, pro-competitive regulatory approaches and emerging best practices for interconnection and interoperability.

www.itu.int/osg/spu/ngn/

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Ubiquitous Networks Societies (April 2005)

The concept of ubiquitous network societies describes a world in which information and communication technologies have permeated all aspects of human life to the extent that they become invisible, embedded in everyday objects all around us. This workshop, held in Geneva on 6-8 April 2005, explored the impact that technological ubiquity may have on the current telecommunications landscape and business practices. It also explored a number of public policy questions, in particular on consumer protection and social inclusion.

www.itu.int/ubiquitous/

Earlier topics

* March 2004	
Shaping the Future Mobile Information Society	www.itu.int/futuremobile/
* February 2004	
Radio-spectrum Management for a Converging World	www.itu.int/spectrum/
* February 2004	
Internet Governance	www.itu.int/osg/spu/forum/intgov04/
* April 2003	
Promoting Broadband	www.itu.int/broadband/
* November 2002	
Competition Policy in Telecommunications	www.itu.int/competition/
* May 2002	
Creating Trust in Critical Network Infrastructures	www.itu.int/osg/spu/ni/security/
* April 2002	
Improving IP Connectivity in Least Developed Countries	www.itu.int/ipdc/
* December 2001	
Multilingual Domain Names: Joint ITU/WIPO Symposium	www.itu.int/mlds/
* November 2001	
The Internet in South East Asia	www.itu.int/asean2001/
* September 2001	
Licensing Policy for 3rd Generation Mobile	www.itu.int/3G/
* May 2001	
Regulatory Implications of Broadband	www.itu.int/osg/spu/ni/broadband/
* September 2000	
Fixed-Mobile Interconnection	www.itu.int/osg/spu/ni/fmi/
* June 2000	
IP Telephony	www.itu.int/iptel/
* December 1999	
Electronic Signatures and Certification Authorities	www.itu.int/osg/spu/ni/esca/





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Forthcoming topics

The Future of Voice (January 2007)

The 18th New Initiatives workshop, to be held in January 2007, will investigate the changing role of voice in the future ubiquitous network environment. Voice revenues have been the main driver of telecommunications revenues for decades, but traditional models of pricing per minute are becoming harder to sustain, as voice traffic is increasingly carried over IP-based networks. How will voice services evolve and what does this mean for users, providers and for the telecom sector as a whole?

www.itu.int/osg/spu/voice/meeting.phtml



Other SPU programmes

In addition to the *New Initiatives* programme, a number of other programmes are ongoing within the SPU, in partnership with ITU members. These include

- * the **Digital Opportunity Platform**

www.itu.int/digitalopportunity/

- * the **Shaping Tomorrow's Networks** programme

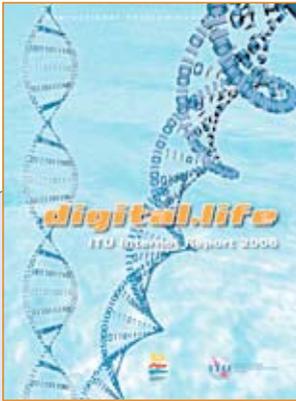
www.itu.int/stn/

- * ongoing work on **Policy issues related to IP-based networks**

www.itu.int/osg/spu/ip/



New!



ITU Internet Reports: digital.life (December 2006)

The eighth edition of the ITU Internet Reports takes a look at our changing digital lifestyles. It examines the underlying technological enablers of a digital life, and the fresh approach to policy-making that may be required in areas such as content management, competition policy, and spectrum management. The report also examines the need for improving the design of identity management mechanisms for a healthy and secure digital world.

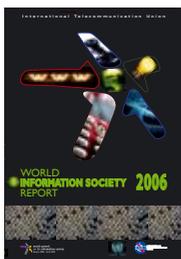
www.itu.int/digitalife/



Other SPU publications

In addition to the New Initiatives series of publications, SPU publications cover a wide range of telecommunications topics and provide both market data and analysis and coverage of regulatory and policy issues.

World Information Society Report (July 2006)



The inaugural edition of the ITU's World Information Society Report looked at the issue of measuring progress in building the global information society. It proposes a new composite index—Digital Opportunity Index (DOI)—for tracking progress in implementing the WSIS outcomes and shows how it can be used as a tool to aid policy-makers.

www.itu.int/wisr/

ITU Internet Reports: The Internet of Things (November 2005)



The seventh edition of the ITU's popular Internet Reports series looks at the the next step in "always on" communications, in which new technologies like RFID, smart computing, and sensor networks, promise a world of networked and interconnected devices that provide relevant content and information whatever the location of the user.

www.itu.int/internetofthings/

Information & contact

All information resources under the ITU *New Initiatives* programme (background resources, thematic papers, country case studies, presentations, etc.) are published on CD-ROM, on paper, or are available on the New Initiatives website at www.itu.int/newinitiatives/.

Information about all SPU publications and events are available on the ITU Strategy and Policy Unit website: www.itu.int/spu/.

For further information, please **contact**:

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