

Welcome to Geneva!

Mr David Hiler

President of the Geneva
State Government



Mr Robert Hensler

Geneva State
Chancellor and
President of the
local organisation
committee



On behalf of the Geneva State government, we would like to extend a warm welcome to the participants of ITU TELECOM WORLD 2009. We are honoured that Geneva has been chosen once again as the venue of this prestigious event, which has become the reference for all telecoms and IT exhibitions since its creation, back in 1971.

Together, the International Telecommunication Union and Geneva form a winning team. While the ITU provides the high level content and networking opportunities that are the hallmarks of ITU TELECOM, Geneva offers a world-class venue and top-level services.

The current economic crisis has shown the resilience of the telecommunication and IT industry. Its performance in today's troubled waters is a sign of maturity. The long-awaited convergence is well under way allowing this sector to encompass all aspects of the business line, from handsets to contents, through wired and wireless networks.

More important, the telecommunication and IT branches have the ability to let users tailor their usages and relationships to the existing services according to their needs and their cultural and socio-economic context. Users can also develop their own services and offer them to the broader community. The user-centric model is indeed a reality!

We would like to thank Dr Hamadoun Touré, ITU Secretary-General for his confidence and collaborative spirit in preparing this important encounter. His support is very much appreciated.

ITU TELECOM WORLD would not have been so successful without the support of the Swiss Confederation and of local sponsors to whom we would like to extend our warm thanks. These are the Foundation for Tourism in Geneva, the Geneva Financial Center Foundation, the Geneva International Airport, the Geneva Municipalities Association, the Geneva Tourism and Convention Bureau, and Palexpo Ltd.

It is our desire that you may go back home with renewed impetus and creativity for beneficial IT implementation in your own context, as well as with new business leads.

For our part, we will not tell you "adieu" at the end of the week, but rather "farewell, see you soon", as we look forward to greeting you again for ITU TELECOM 40th anniversary in 2011, in Geneva, the place where it all began, back in 1971!