

Welcome Message from Dr Hamadoun I. Touré ITU Secretary-General

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré
ITU Secretary-General



On behalf of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Geneva, Switzerland, and ITU TELECOM WORLD 2009.

Since our last WORLD event was held in Hong Kong in 2006, much has changed in the world's ICT industry, making this event into a true milestone as we take stock of what has occurred. Mobile subscriber numbers continue to increase, for example, with key markets such as Brazil, China, India and Nigeria all posting healthy mobile growth. Mobile broadband uptake is accelerating in a number of regions, helped by new networks and technologies. ICTs are becoming increasingly energy efficient, and new services such as social networking promises to bring the world to our fingertips.

Nevertheless, many challenges still remain. The ICT sector is still grappling with effects of a major economic slowdown and much needs to be done particularly to help restore confidence, as this will be a critical step on the road to recovery. And, despite good progress, there is still work to be done before we reach our goal of connecting the unconnected by 2015, one of the main goals of the MDG (Millennium Development Goals) and one of ITU's core aims. It is my sincere hope that this event will help us examine the challenges that we face and find concrete solutions moving forward.

Under the broad-reaching theme "Open Networks – Connected Minds," the event seeks to facilitate the meeting of minds from across the industry and around the world, to explore the latest technologies and understand what will be driving the ICT sector forwards. We are delighted to welcome participants at our event from across the globe, including Heads of State, Government Ministers, CEOs, CTOs and many more.

The Forum provides a unique opportunity for all stakeholders to come together, interact and seek answers to some of the major questions and challenges facing the ICT industry at this time, including the use of ICT for economic recovery and sustainable development.

Meanwhile, The Show Floor features the latest technologies and innovations, plus many national and regional pavilions, from across the world, giving the Exhibition a truly global feel. We are also very pleased to have, for the first time, a number of thematic pavilions, such as eHealth, green@ICT and empowering people with disabilities through ICT. These will focus on some key areas facing our industry today and will also mirror discussions in the Forum.

Join us to experience the ICT landscape of tomorrow being brought to life today at ITU TELECOM WORLD 2009.

I wish you all a fruitful and informative WORLD event.

Dr Hamadoun Touré
Secretary-General
International Telecommunication Union