



**ITU TELECOM  
WORLD 2009**  
Geneva  
5-9 October

## ITU TELECOM WORLD 2009 In Review

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon took part at WORLD TELECOM 2009 Youth Forum. ITU is encouraging Member States to adopt school-based community broadband plans in order to give disadvantaged groups access to ICT. Mr Ban endorsed this effort, stating that “connected schools can become connected community ICT centres. They can provide a vital link to marginalized and vulnerable groups. They can become an information lifeline for women, indigenous people, people with disabilities and those living in rural, remote and underserved areas.” Mr Ban urged world leaders to support the ITU initiative and take the necessary steps to meet the target agreed at the World Summit on the Information Society to connect all schools by 2015.



*Youth Forum fellows with heads of States, UN Secretary General and ITU elected officials*

### **A session on Policy and regulation, Connect a School, connect a community:**

- Technological, market, policy and regulatory developments have expanded the boundaries of people and communities connected to basic voice services, largely due to the success of mobile networks. While new technologies promise widespread Internet access, connectivity is still a dream for many children, women, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, and others living in rural areas. How can we replicate the mobile miracle to achieve the goal of promoting widespread Internet access and make the right to communicate a reality for all?