



الاتحاد الدولي للاتصالات  
المكتب الإقليمي العربي

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**Circular to All Arab Telecom Administrations**

**Subject: Request for Information: Terrestrial Fibre Optic Transmission Networks and Broadband Transmission Capacity Indicators**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the pleasure in notifying you of a new project on which the ITU is embarking, and to ask for your assistance in collecting required information for this project . One of the outcomes of the recent Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and World Telecommunication Indicators Meeting (WTIM) held in Bangkok, Thailand from 25 – 27 September 2012 (<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/wtim12/index.html>) was to develop an interactive web map of regional transmission networks, and a new set of broadband transmission capacity indicators.

One of the final recommendations adopted by the WTIM was that: *"The meeting welcomes the ITU pilot project to collect indicators to measure backbone terrestrial transmission capacity. These include transmission network length (route kms), node locations, equipment type of terrestrial transmission network, network capacity (bit rate), number of optical fibers within the cable, operational status of the transmission network, and population within reach of transmission networks. The data, which will be collected by ITU through an external consultant, will be shared with and verified by national authorities. The aim of the project is to meet the demand for transmission capacity data and to develop an interactive online transmission map."*

The list of the seven Indicators to be collected for building the transmission Maps, as endorsed by the last WTIM, is herewith attached.

All information on this project is posted at:  
<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/tech/InteractiveMaps/index.html>  
It will be regularly updated as appropriate.

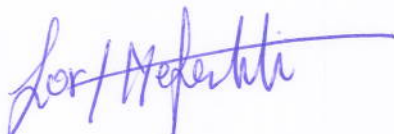
As we start the implementation of this project, I am writing to ask for your kind assistance in helping us to collect the source material in your country from which the map and indicators will be produced. We are looking for maps or diagrams of operator's terrestrial fiber optic transmission networks, which will be inserted into a GIS mapping system. This will then be used to produce a regional transmission map for the Regions, from which the indicators mentioned above can be calculated at a national and regional level. Please find attached some useful examples of source material which is used to produce the regional map; you may already have something similar or be in a position to ask operators if they are able to provide similar information. Please note that we are looking for maps or diagrams of long-haul national and regional terrestrial transmission networks (rather than metro or street level access networks), and are not looking for any information which is regarded as confidential by the operator/s.

The collected data, used for building the interactive transmission Maps hosted on the ITU Web site, will be password protected directory (ITU TIES) while waiting for validation of data from the concerned stakeholders. It has to be also noted that all concerned Administrations/regulators will be notified of the project for information and feedback.

Therefore, I would like to introduce the external consultants Paul Hamilton and Chris Emberson, who have been appointed by the ITU to process the information into the regional transmission map, and produce the indicators outlined above. Once the interactive web transmission map is ready, We will send you details of how to access it. The web map will be password protected so that authorities, regulators and operators have the opportunity to verify and validate the information I related to your country. After this validation stage, it is the intention to publish a public version of the regional map and summary indicators.

Would appreciate providing us with the needed information as well as the names and coordinates of the Focal Point in your Administration/Company.

Yours sincerely,



**Ebrahim AL HADDAD**  
Regional Director,  
ITU Arab Regional Office

Cc:

- Riccardo Passerini, Head - Telecommunication Technologies and Network Development Division (TND), Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), ITU.
- Paul Hamilton, External Consultant for ITU, Broadband Transmission Network Project.
- Chris Emberson, External Consultant for ITU, Broadband Transmission Network Project.

Annexes:

- The list of the 7 Indicators to be collected for building the transmission Maps.
- Some useful examples of source material which is used to produce the regional map.