



الاتحاد الدولي للاتصالات
المكتب الإقليمي العربي

Reference:017479.....

19 February 2014

H. E. Mr. Botros Harb
Minister of Telecommunications
Beirut-Lebanon

Subject: Collection of missing data- ITU Interactive Terrestrial Transmission Maps (Optical Fibres and Microwaves)

Dear Sir,

As per the replies received to the Circular letter - Request for Information (RFI) related to the ITU Project for the implementation of Interactive Terrestrial Transmission Maps which was circulated in the Arab Region on 27 November 2012, substantial inputs have been collected from the concerned stakeholders so far. The validation process has also been completed for the available data through a transparent and open consultation process involving all concerned stakeholders and related administrations.

ITU is, therefore, pleased to announce that the Interactive Transmission Maps have been disclosed to the public domain through the ITU website in the Public Version Maps (<http://www.itu.int/itu-d/tnd-map-public/>), upon the official launch in the Connect Asia Pacific Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 18 November 2013. The complete data which has been collected, including data which is still in the process of being validated, is available in the password protected (TIES) version of the map and Validation Framework (<https://www.itu.int/itu-d/tnd-map/>).

The above mentioned Maps show the terrestrial transmission networks of network operators. These backbone networks underpin the ability of network operators to deliver high capacity broadband services.

The map shows:

- The routing of long-haul fibre optic transmission networks.
- The operational status of transmission networks (operational, under construction, planned, proposed).
- The nodes (add/drop points) on these transmission networks.
- The range to operational fibre nodes on these networks (10-km, 25-km, and 50-km range).
- A selectable map layer which shows the validation status of each piece of network.
- Information for each link in the network (where available): who owns it, where it runs from and to, how long it is, and the source material that was used to create the map.
- The routing of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks.

Using the information shown in the map, ITU has used the GIS data to calculate the Broadband Capacity Indicators for the countries for which the data has been received and validated. For each country, this shows the total number of route kilometers of terrestrial fibre optic transmission network, and the population and area within reach of nodes on an operational fibre optic network.

However, we would like to draw your attention that the Broadband backbone data for your network is not currently shown in the current version of the Map, and we are therefore kindly inviting you to provide such data for inclusion. Please note that we are looking for maps or diagrams of long-haul national and regional terrestrial transmission networks (please refer to the annex showing examples of source material).

The collected source material which is used for building the ITU Interactive Transmission Maps, will be available in the password protected map and Validation Framework (ITU TIES). Once the data has been validated, it will then appear in the public version of the map. 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 ITU Interactive Transmission Map (Optical Fibres and Microwaves), and to produce the indicators outlined above. The web map is password protected so that authorities, regulators and operators have the opportunity to verify and validate the information related to your country.

I would be appreciative if you could provide us with the needed information outlined above, and/or the names and contact details of the Focal Point in your Administration. I thank you in advance for your collaboration and assistance in making this important project a success for the development of the ITU Interactive Transmission Map (Optical Fibres and Microwaves) which will be beneficial to all stakeholders.

With your help and collaboration, ITU will continue working to make this worldwide transmission map as accurate and up-to-date as possible. I look forward to receiving your feedback.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. A. H.', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Ebrahim AL HADDAD
Regional Director,
ITU Arab Regional Office

Annexes:

- The list of the 7 indicators to be collected for building the ITU Interactive Terrestrial Transmission Maps.
- Examples of source material which is used to produce the map.