



**Director of Radiocommunication
Bureau (BR)**

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ITU Member States

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ITU Academia

Subject: **Invitation to participate in ITU International Symposium on the Digital Switchover:
17 June 2015 – A milestone for Digital Terrestrial Television**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to invite you to participate in the ***“ITU International Symposium on the Digital Switchover: 17 June 2015 – A milestone for Digital Terrestrial Television”***, to be held at ITU Headquarters in Geneva, the next 17 June 2015. This Symposium will cover the following topics, *inter alia*:

- Objectives of the transition to digital TV– technical and regulatory frameworks;
- The Analog to Digital Switchover – stocktaking worldwide;
- Advanced Technologies for Television;
- Building a sustainable ecosystem for Digital TV.

The Symposium will conclude with a high-level round table discussion and will honor the contribution of outstanding persons to the Geneva 2006 Agreement. A draft agenda is annexed to this letter. For the final version, please visit the event web site, at the URL indicated below.

All ITU membership: Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia are invited to attend this event. The UN accredited media is also invited. This Symposium provides an excellent opportunity for dialogues among multi-stakeholders in public and private sectors; it also features a small exhibition to showcase innovative products and services of ITU members in the TV industry. For more details about the exhibition and sponsorship opportunity, or any further information related to the symposium, please visit: <http://www.itu.int/go/GE06-Symposium-2015>.

Participants are required to register online at <http://www.itu.int/go/GE06-Symposium-2015>, through their respective Designated Focal Points (DFP), before **29 May 2015**. Participants requiring an entry visa to Switzerland are requested to contact their local Swiss Embassy for information well in advance. For ease of reference, useful information for participants is also available at the website.

I look forward to your active participation and contribution to the success of this event.

Yours faithfully,


François Rancy

Annex : 1

Annex

ITU International Symposium on the Digital Switchover 17 June 2015 – A milestone for digital terrestrial television

17 June 2015

ITU Tower, Popov Room

09:30 – 18:00

Draft Programme

Summary

On 16 June 2006, a treaty agreement was signed at the conclusion of ITU's Regional Radiocommunication Conference (RRC-06) in Geneva, heralding the development of 'all-digital' terrestrial broadcast services for sound and television. The digitalization of broadcasting in Europe, Africa, Middle East and the Islamic Republic of Iran by a target date of 17 June 2015 represents a major milestone towards establishing a more equitable, just and people-centred Information Society connecting the unconnected in underserved and remote communities and closing the digital divide. The new digital GE06 Plan provides not only new possibilities for structured development of digital terrestrial broadcasting but also sufficient flexibilities for adaptation to the changing telecommunication environment. The GE06 Agreement triggered the analogue to digital broadcasting switchover world-wide.

The Symposium will provide background information on the GE06 Agreement, on the actual situation with respect to the analogue to digital switchover world-wide and on the potential future use of digital TV by the broadcasters in all three ITU Regions, taking into account new television systems such as HDTV and UHDTV on one hand and the allocation of the UHF band to other services known as a "digital dividend" on the other hand. The Symposium will be accompanied by technical demonstrations.

Planned Sessions

Symposium moderator: Christoph Dosch, Chairman ITU-R Study Group 6

9:30-9:45 Welcome by the ITU Secretary-General and the Director BR

Introductory video

9:45-11:00 Session 1: Objectives of the transition to digital TV– technical and regulatory frameworks

Session Chair: François Rancy, Director, BR

This session will give an overview on the way to digital television, the motivation for a new frequency plan in GE-06 and the consequences of the so-called "digital dividend" with respect to the television service in the 800-MHz and in the 700-MHz band. It will also discuss the GE06 frequency coordination meetings for additional TV channels in the band 470-694 MHz in the sub-Saharan Africa and Arab countries as well as the development of technical documentation in ITU-R for DTTB systems and the assistance by ITU towards determining needs of developing countries.

Question & Answer session

BREAK / DEMOS

11:20-12:50 Session 2: The analogue to digital switchover – stocktaking worldwide

Session Chair: Hai Pham, Counsellor for ITU-R Study Group 6

In this session, representatives from countries or areas in the three ITU Regions will provide status information about the analogue to digital switchover. Speakers are expected from China, Korea, Japan, Australia, India, the Caribbean area, USA, Brazil, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal, the Arabic area, Europe.

Question & Answer session

(The subject will be taken up again in the final round table.)

BREAK / DEMOS

14:10-15:30 Session 3: Advanced technologies for television

Session Chair: David Wood, Chairman ITU-R Working Party 6C

This session presents frontier technology in television production and service. Three exiting subjects are dealt with:

- New image technology such as UHDTV, enhanced image dynamic range (EIDR), wide colour gamut, etc.
- New sound technology such as advanced sound for UHDTV and 3DTV
- Integrated broadcast-broadband (IBB) systems such as HbbTV, HybridCast, GINGA NCL or HTML5 based Smart TV Platform

The session will close with a **Panel Session** debating the biggest future challenges facing the ITU-R in media and broadcast technology

BREAK / DEMOS / PRESS BRIEFING

16:00-17:20 Session 4: Building a sustainable ecosystem for digital TV

Session and Panel Chair: EBU

In this session, high-level experts will discuss the future of television, the efficient use of spectrum, the potential convergence between the broadcasting and the mobile service, and other spectrum issues and challenges stemming from the next step of transition, the digital-to-digital transition.

In a panel session, the changes and challenges for a sustained eco-system for digital TV will be discussed.

17:20-18:00 Closing Session (Round table) / Conclusions

Session and Panel Chair: François Rancy, Director BR

The panellist of the round table will draw conclusion from the previous session for the future of television.

The Symposium will close with a ceremony celebrating those experts whose outstanding contributions ensured the successful completion of the GE06 Agreement.