



PRESS RELEASE

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION & INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY (WISD)

17 MAY 2007

This year marks the first year of the merging of **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WISD)**. Previously, ITU member countries, including Brunei Darussalam who has been a member since November 1994, celebrated World Telecommunication Day (WTD) annually every 17th May, marking the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in May 1865.

In November 2005, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) called upon the UN General Assembly to declare 17 May as World Information Society Day to focus on the importance of ICT and the wide range of issues related to the Information Society raised by WSIS. The General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/60/252) in March 2006 stipulating that World Information Society Day shall be celebrated every year on 17 May.

WISD 2007 themed at “**Connecting the Young: the opportunities of ICT**”. This year the theme revolves around young people are the best promoters of ICTs and are key contributors to building an inclusive Information Society. This should be taken into account in all actions and projects targeting the use and access of ICT, not only as a way to widen ICT opportunities for children and young people but also as a way to accelerate bridging the digital divide and contribute to the development of the telecommunication sector as a whole.

The theme also highlights the importance and urgency of providing access to the benefits of providing ICT to the younger generation around the world. ITU has launched a special global initiative for children and youth from developing countries and countries in transition. The aim is to increase their access, use and knowledge of ICT to facilitate integration in and contribution to the Information Society.

Under this umbrella initiative, the government and private sector are called upon to work together to extend the benefits of ICT to the leaders of tomorrow.

The Call for Action¹

- **The Youth Education Scheme — YES** — that supports the young in ICT education, which represents a critical solution for bridging the digital divide. This programme provides young people with scholarships.

Call for action: ITU Member States and Sector Members are encouraged to pledge additional scholarships to help students in developing and least developed countries access advanced courses in the field of Information and Communication technologies.

- **The Youth Incentive Scheme**, an internship initiative, which aims to integrate youth in the ICT field, encouraging and supporting first job opportunities.

¹ Source: <http://www.itu.int/wisd/2007/call-action.html>



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Call for action: ITU Member States and Sector Members are encouraged to launch internship opportunities in their own institutions/companies for young professionals in the ICT and related fields.

- **ITU TELECOM Youth Forums**, during which a contest is launched and the participants propose projects designed to integrate young people into the Information Society. The ITU Youth programme helps active and motivated Alumni shape their ideas into concrete projects that can be implemented in their region, country or community.

Call for action: ITU Member States and Sector Members are encouraged to sponsor the implementation of projects put forward by Youth Forum Alumni.

- **Global Network of Helplines for Children.** The World Summit on the Information Society recognized the important role played by Child Helplines in helping children in distress. [Child Helpline International \(CHI\)](#) and ITU, with the support of the Government of the Netherlands, are collaborating on the development of a global, multilingual portal to expand the availability of information and services for children.

Call for action: ITU Member States and Sector Members are encouraged to promote this global portal in their country/region as well as establish a Child Helpline if they have not already done so.

- **Cybersecurity information for Children and Youth.** Children and young people need support, advice and guidance regarding their use of communication technologies. A dedicated space for children and youth was created within the ITU's Cybersecurity Gateway: www.itu.int/cybersecurity/citizens.html to provide best practices and share experiences on how to make cyberspace a safer place for your children

Call for action: ITU Member States and Sector Members are encouraged to take concrete steps towards making cyberspace safer for children.

This year, the Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AiTi), had conducted an **Essay Writing Competition** which aimed the young and tech-savvy. It was centred around the WISD theme, to promote awareness on the effective use of ICT and other related issues. The winners of the competition will be announced in the local newspapers, radio and the AiTi website at www.aiti.gov.bn. This will be a kickstart of a series of on-going events commemorating the WISD 2007.



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The major telecommunication service providers; TelBru, DSTcom and B.Mobile will be organizing their own activities on 17th May. The three service providers welcome their customers to all their branches in all four districts. As a show of appreciation, they will be giving away special giveaways to customers who come in to pay their bills during that day. DSTcom will be organizing a series of roadshows and radio quizzes in conjunction with the Telecommunication and Information Society Day.

AiTi is also doing a similar Customer Appreciation Day at its payment counter at the AiTi building, Block B14, Simpang 32-5, Kg Anggerek Desa, Jalan Berakas.

For further information World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2007, please visit <http://www.itu.int/wisd/2007> or contact AiTi at 2323232. A video/audio message by **Dr Hamadoun Touré**, Secretary General, International Telecommunication Union, on WISD 2007 is downloadable at the same weblink.

Released by:

Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AITI)