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ITU Regional Activities for the development of ICTs in the Arab Region

ITU Forum on Conformance and Interoperability
for the Arab and Africa Regions
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Topics

1. Workshops and Seminars
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4. Regional Initiatives
5. Preparatory Meetings



Workshops and Seminars

- Arab Regulators Network, Beirut – Lebanon, 21 Feb. 2012 and the workshop on QoS, Beirut – Lebanon, 22 Feb. 2012 and ARO has recruited an international expert to participate in the conduction of the workshop.
- Connect Arab States Summit, Doha-Qatar, 5-7 March 2012.
- Regional Workshop on “ICT Indicators from Strategy to Impact”, Sharm El Sheikh-Egypt, 8-9 June 2012.
- Regional Workshop on the “Legal Aspects of Child Online Protection in the Arab Region”, Algiers-Algeria, 24-25 June 2012.
- Training on SMS4DC for 5 Somali Engineers, Khartoum-Sudan, 24-26 June 2012.
- Training on SMS4DC for Comoros and Djibouti, 2-10 July 2012.
- ITU/BDT Arab Regional Workshop on “IMPACT Alert-Cyber Drill for Partner Countries”, Amman – Jordan, 15-17 July 2012.
- Expert Level Training on “Telecom Network Cost Modeling for Regulators in Arab States Region”, Giza, Egypt, 2-6 Sept. 2012.
- Recruitment of an expert for GCC VOIP Forum , April 8, Muscat, Oman.



Activities of the Centre of Excellence

- Arab Regional Workshop on “Transition from Analog to Digital (Digital Terrestrial Television: Trends, Implementation & Opportunities), Tunis – Tunisia, 12 to 15 March 2012.
- Online course on “How to build an e-Learning content using Adobe tools”, in cooperation with NTI, Egypt, 24 March – 19 April 2012.
- Arab Regional Workshop on “Dispute Resolution in ICT”, Khartoum-Sudan, 1 to 4 April 2012.
- Arab Regional Workshop on “Development of ICT Competition Policies”, Rabat-Morocco, 9 to 11 May 2012.
- Online course on “Overview of Wireless Networking and Current Practices for the Arab Region”, in cooperation with CERT of Tunis, 7 - 27 July 2012.
- Workshop on “Connectivity in Rural Areas”, 20 to 22 November.
- Online course through ITU Academy on “Telecom Policies and Regulation”, starting on 22 November for 2 weeks.
- The 1st plenary meeting for CoE will be in Cairo from 11-12 November to attract more partners from the region & to know the HCB requirements in ARB.



Connect Arab Summit

- Summit held from 5-7 March in Doha-Qatar under patronage of H.H. Amir of Qatar.
- Seven Heads of States or their Representatives, 28 Minister, over 540 delegates.
- Final Summit Communiqué stressed the need for execution of regional projects.
- Project proposals submitted to the Summit worth around \$48 billion.
- Follow up mechanism set up between the ITU and League of Arab States (LAS).



Regional Initiatives

Open Source

- A needs assessment on this issue was undertaken. The study included a survey of the 22 Arab countries. Based on the study; Tunis was selected to start the first support center for open source in the region.
- The establishment of 1 or 2 centers is expected during 2013-2014. Other countries that have shown interest in Open Source centres are Egypt and Lebanon.
- The establishment of these centres will also assist in providing a basis for the creation of more Arabic digital content.



Regional Initiatives

Cybersecurity

- A survey on current legal practices, and other important tools like PKI and CERT deployment was undertaken.
- A workshop on Cyber security attack drill took place in Jordan from 15 to 17 July to simulate an actual attack and the response to be taken. It involved 6 operational CIRTs in the region as well as potential new CIRTs.
- A comparative study on the Cyber laws in the region is planned to be conducted to find the best practices for adoption by members in order to ensure adequate protection and trust by the citizens for the use of the ICTs.
- A workshop specifically on legal aspects of COP was held in Algeria at the end of June.
- On the regional office website, a link of all the work related to COP and carried out by the countries was created.



Regional Initiatives

Digital Broadcasting

- A workshop related to migration from analogue to digital broadcasting was held in Tunis and a workshop on the efficient frequency spectrum use was held in Jordan.
- A survey was also conducted in the region to identify country needs and challenges in the transition process. The survey has been analyzed and a work plan to address the outcome of the survey is being established.
- An action to assist some countries in their migration from analogue to digital broadcasting is being implemented as well as the creation of a guideline and a road map for such migration. This work is being carried out in collaboration with the Arab Spectrum Management Group as well as the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU).
- Countries like Sudan and Iraq have requested direct assistance for technical expertise. This is being organised through the usual ad hoc assistance programme.



Regional Initiatives

Digital Content

- To enhance access and use of Arabic digital content, BDT worked with the League of Arab States (LAS) for the establishment of the dot Arab domain name registration with ICANN. An application of the domain name has been submitted in both the Latin and Arabic strings paving way for easier access and use sharing digital content.
- A study on the assessment of digital content in the region is being carried out this year to look at the reasons why the Arabic content is very low on the internet and to propose approaches for its development. This study will complement the dot Arab project and would provide guidance on elaboration of Arab digital content.
- Work is also being done in association with some regional entities on approaches for the translation of online documents to Arabic.
- Another aspect of this is also the capacity building and the illiteracy campaigns being carried out in the region through projects in collaboration with the Arab Women Organisation and the ALECSO.



Regional Initiatives

Broadband

- Capacity building: This was done by conducting several workshops and training in IP-based networks (LTE, ICT Indicators from Strategy to Impact, Assessment of Internet Traffic Infrastructure....etc).
- Internet Exchange Points: ITU in collaboration with LAS issued the final report of the working group on the "Connect Arab Internet Networks" in January 2012 and a new working group for facilitating and following up the implementation of this project is announced.
- Connect a school, connect a community: this project envisages connecting selected schools in Comoros and will promote broadband internet connectivity in schools in remote, rural or underserved areas of Comoros.
- National master plan for broadband: technical assistance to develop Master plan for BB in selected countries.
- Strategic partnership: Expert training course on "Broadband Policy" in collaboration with Korea Communications Commission (KCC)



Preparatory Activities

ITU Telecom and WTSA/WCIT

- As these events will be held in the Arab region, close collaboration with the host and members from the region on the preparatory processes for these major events.
- WTSA and WCIT RPMs held in Cairo and supported by the regional office.
- ITU Telecom invitations and follow up to ensure regional participation.
- ITU Telecom held in Dubai last month with a great participation.

WTDC/WSIS+10

- Egypt had sent an invitation to the ITU to host the 2014 WTDC and WSIS+10 event.
- ITU Council 2012 endorsed the invitation for the event to be hosted in Egypt.



Cooperation with Regional Entities

Participation/presentation in the meetings that contribute to the relevant regional initiatives such as:

- Arab Internet Governance Forum ,AIGF (IXP, and COP).
- ESCWA (Digital Content)
- LPI (Open Source)

Several resolutions in ITU stressed the importance of the cooperation with regional entities..

