



**GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM FOR REGULATORS (GSR)
Spotlight on Effective Regulation
Keynote Address**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the ITU for the second Global Symposium for Regulators. I am delighted to see that so many of you have come to the ITU to participate in the discussions of regulatory issues, a matter of prime importance to the telecommunications sector.

More than 30 years ago, when I first joined the Ministry of Telecommunications in Japan, I came across two words I had not known and with which I was always occupied: crossbar and FCC. Cross bar was replaced by digital switches and ATMs, and they are now being replaced by routers, but FCC remains a main focus point.

The subject of my thesis for the MA in political science in the States was a comparative study of broadcasting regulations, between the FCC-style commission and the Department-style regulator. That was three decades ago. Since then, the liberalisation of markets, the development of telecommunications competition, and the creation of a regulatory authority in Japan - and now worldwide - has been one of my lifetime commitments.

I am quite happy to witness today that about 80 countries have a competitive telecommunications market and 112 countries have separate telecommunication regulators from operators.

Against this background, I would like to pose you a question - How can the ITU provide its membership with the necessary services that new regulators and the market need?

My answer is that the ITU can play, through four main vehicles, an important role in helping to strengthen regulators:

? Firstly, the ITU can provide a **forum** for regulators to discuss the most current issues.

To take one example, IP telephony. Should this recent technology be considered to be an obstacle for the development of telecommunication networks and should it be prohibited or is it a technology that provides affordable services to users and encouraged by the regulator? It was a very controversial issue to many regulators in the world. We had a so-called new initiative workshop two years ago on this issue and produced a chairman's report.

The ITU so far has had 5 workshops under this new initiative program. Electronic Signature, IP telephony, Interconnection, Broadband and 3 G Mobile licensing policy.

? Secondly, through these discussions the ITU can provide a type of **knowledge centre**, or a repository of global expertise.

The ITU has already established a leading position as a source of telecommunications market data and we are expanding that coverage to incorporate regulatory and tariff data. Actually the chairman's report on the above workshop became one of the best references on IP telephony and was the basis for the discussion we had at the successful 3rd World Policy Forum last March which produced a number of shared opinions to encourage the use of new technologies for the benefit of the human being.

Other ITU products and services, such as the newly-launched series of Internet case studies, the regulatory website, the ITU World Telecommunications and Regulation Databases and other products and services are good examples of the type of added value that the ITU can bring.

? Thirdly, the ITU can provide a forum where **a specific policy and regulatory matter** should be discussed in order **to solve problems** of a global and cross-sectoral nature.

I do not need to explain that the three successful World Telecommunication Policy Forums formed a number of shared opinions among policy makers and regulators around the globe and facilitated the development of new services using new technologies.

? Then, fourthly, the ITU can serve as a conduit for the **transfer of regulatory expertise** between our Member States.

Transfer of technical expertise has traditionally been one of the main roles of the Development Sector. The demand from our Member States is now less for technology transfer and more for regulatory expertise and know-how. This is one of the goals of the ITU's Centres of Excellence programme, but we would like to improve the ITU's ability to respond to requests from our Members. I am very happy that last year at the first Development Symposium for Regulators, you yourselves acknowledged the usefulness of this forum. And now we are organizing the second one.

These are my ideas as to the role that the ITU could play in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The global information society is evolving at breakneck speed. The accelerating convergence between telecommunications, broadcasting and information technologies is generating new products and services, as well as ways of conducting business and commerce. At the same time, commercial, social and professional opportunities are exploding as new markets open to competition and foreign investment and participation.

The modern world is undergoing a fundamental transformation as the industrial society that marked the 20th century rapidly gives way to the information society of the 21st century. This dynamic process promises a fundamental change in all aspects of our lives, including knowledge dissemination, social interaction, economic and business practices, political engagement, media, education, health, leisure and entertainment.

We are indeed in the midst of a revolution, perhaps the greatest that humanity has ever experienced. To benefit the world community, the successful and continued growth of this new dynamic process requires global discussion and harmonization in appropriate areas.

That is why the ITU is now preparing, in addition to the four vehicles proposed above for policy makers and regulators, the World Summit on the Information Society together with other UN agencies.

The first phase of the World Summit will take place in Geneva, hosted by the Government of Switzerland, from 10-12 December 2003. It will debate all themes related to the Information Society and adopt a Declaration of Principles and related Action Plan addressing the entire range of topics dealt with.

The second phase of the World Summit will take place in Tunis, hosted by the Government of Tunisia, in 2005. Development themes will be a key focus of this phase and it will assess the progress made and adopt any further Action Plan deemed relevant.

I am very proud of reports among UN colleagues that this World Summit on the Information Society which the ITU is preparing will be one of most important events in the UN system.

I am delighted to be sharing these views at this opening session with some distinguished regulators from different regions of the world. I look forward to hearing their views from a broader perspective on information and telecommunications.

To conclude, I would like to wish you every success in your deliberations over the next few days and I hope to receive constructive feedback as to how the ITU can better serve its membership in the field of co-operation between regulatory agencies.

Thank you.
