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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **23rd Meeting, Geneva, 9-11 April 2018** | P:\SUP\Logos\Post-150th Anniv\ITU-logo-UNblue.jpg |
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|  | **Document** **TDAG-18/18-E** |
|  | **5 February 2018** |
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| Report by the Director of BDT | |
| capacity building activities | |
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| **Summary:**  This document provides an overview of key BDT capacity building activites carried out over the past year under the framework of the ITU Academy, including the development and delivery of training, the work of the Centers of Excellence network, the ITU publication “Capacity Building in a Changing ICT Environment”, and the ITU-Academia Partnership Meeting held in September 2017 in Budapest, Hungary. It also summarizes WTDC-17 outcomes with respect to capacity building.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this report and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  Buenos Aires Action Plan, Objective 3, Output 3.3  WTDC Resolution 40 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), on the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives  WTDC-14 Resolution 73 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), on ITU Centres of Excellence  PP Resolution 169 (Rev. Busan, 2014) on admission of Academia to participate in the work of the ITU | |

Under the framework of the ITU Academy, BDT has carried out a number of capacity building activities, which contributed to the strengthening of human skills and the enhancement of knowledge in the field of telecommunication/ICT among the ITU membership.

**Development and delivery of training courses**

Capacity building activities are delivered in close collaboration with partners, including Centers of Excellence (CoEs), the private sector, academia and other training institutions.

In 2017, more than 1 500 participants from 116 countries were trained through 64 courses delivered by the CoE network and 28 regional capacity building events were organized, attended by around 1 300 participants, covering the following main areas: policy and regulation, broadband access, cybersecurity, ICT applications and services, spectrum management, Internet governance, digital broadcasting, conformance and interoperability, cloud computing, quality of service and e-waste.

Under the framework of the ITU Academy, BDT has developed high-quality, comprehensive training programmes. These training resources are developed and peer-reviewed by experts from ITU, academic scholars and other experts, to ensure they meet the highest levels of quality and are conform to ITU standards. Over the past year, training programmes on the following topics were updated, finalized or being started: spectrum management, quality of service, ICT and climate change, Internet of Things (IoT) and Internet governance.

**Centers of Excellence network**

The Centers of Excellence (CoEs) network is the main channel of training delivery under the ITU Academy. Over the past year, the CoE network has continued to enhance capacities among policy makers, regulators, operators and other beneficiaries in a wide range of ICT-related areas, ranging from cybersecurity, broadband infrastructure and spectrum management, to ICT policy, applications and services.

The current CoE network is now entering into its final year, with the 2015-2018 cycle coming to an end in December 2018. The fourth round of CoE Steering Committee meetings under the current cycle was held between November and December 2017. The meetings reviewed the performance of the network, discussed ways of improving and decided on the training activities for 2018. Preparations for the new cycle (2019-2022) are under way and, following the outcomes of WTDC-17, BDT has reviewed the strategy and operational processes and procedures guiding the CoE operations. A call for proposals for new CoEs will be launched in the second quarter of 2018, with a view to finalizing the selection of the new CoEs in the third quarter of 2018.

**Publication “Capacity Building in a Changing ICT Environment“**

The first issue of the ITU online publication “[Capacity Building in a Changing ICT Environment](https://academy.itu.int/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=178&Itemid=687&lang=en)” was released in 2017. This new publication puts together scholarly articles with a focus on the human and institutional aspects of capacity building in the telecommunications/ICT sector. It covers a wide range of ICT topics that may affect people and their skills development.

The first issue of the publication focuses on mobile technologies for skills development and lifelong learning. It features the work of an international team of experts, tackling the issues in an analytical, critical and conceptual fashion. The articles in this issue explore the increasing power of mobile devices in bringing the benefits of ICTs to more people worldwide. They are a contribution to the current discussions on the educational applications of mobile technologies and their potential to enhance and facilitate lifelong learning and skills development.

The second issue of the publication is currently under preparation. It will focus on building capacity for the 21st century digital economy, with emphasis on how major digital transformations – such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, Internet of Things and big data analytics – change skills requirements and in turn impact capacity building and skills development. The second issue of “Capacity Building in a Changing ICT Environment” is expected to be launched in the second quarter of 2018.

**ITU-Academia Partnership Meeting**

[The ITU-Academia Partnership Meeting: *Developing Skills for the Digital Era*](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Capacity-Building/Pages/events/academia2017.aspx) took place in Budapest, Hungary from 19-21 September 2017. The meeting was organised by ITU and hosted by the National Media and Infocommunications Authority of Hungary (NMHH). The meeting was attended by 88 participants from 32 countries, including 38 academic institutions representing all regions.

The meeting discussed emerging technology trends and how they impact on academic programmes, sharing latest developments in teaching and learning in the digital era, and examining approaches towards building skills for a 21st century workforce. The event covered debates around the digital transformation and required skill sets, the role of universities in shaping the digital agenda, changes in the curriculum, in particular with respect to embracing Internet policy-related topics, and new ways of teaching and learning in the digital age. The meeting also featured a series of discussions showcasing successful partnerships between universities, the private sector, Centers of Excellence and ITU. It also explored the role of universities as incubators of innovation and start-ups and presented some concrete examples of those.

A major outcome of the event was a series of recommendations and proposals on ways and means to strengthen collaboration between ITU and the academic community in developing capacities for the digital future. Delegates confirmed that there was high demand for these kind of partnership events and that ITU had an important role to play in bringing different stakeholders and Universities from all regions together. In this respect, one of the key advantages of ITU is its global reach and large worldwide membership. Finally, capacity development for the digital era was considered as a growth area by participants and that ITU should play a key role in this.

**WTDC-17**

The importance of capacity building and skill development was reaffirmed at WTDC-17 and is reflected in the Buenos Aires Action Plan under Objective 3, in Resolution 40 (on the Centers of Excellence) and in Resolution 73 (on the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives, see document [TDAG-18/17](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0017/)).

In particular, the following outcomes of WTDC-17 can be highlighted:

* The importance of increasing awareness on the importance of skill development for the digital future.
* The inclusion of international Internet governance in ITU capacity building and human skill development programmes.
* The importance of the Centers of Excellence programme and a call for its review and further strenthening.
* Further enhancement of the ITU Academy platform and related services as the primary tool and main umbrella for ITU’s capacity development activities.
* A call to provide global and regional fora on digital skill development, education and lifelong learning, including through the Global ICT Capacity Building Symposium.
* The development of partnerships with academic institutions and other partners to build professional knowledge and skill development related to the digital transformation.
* Strengthening the role of Regional Initiatives in building human capacities. All Regional Initiatives incorporated capacity building as a key deliverable.

**CBS-18**

The 2018 Global ICT Capacity Building Symposium (CBS-18) will take place in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 18 to 20 June 2018. It will be organized by ITU and hosted by the Dominican Institute of Telecommunications/Instituto Dominicano de Telecomunicaciones (INDOTEL). The Symposium will bring together representatives from Government, private sector and academia to discuss pertinent issues in the field of skills development for the digital economy and society.

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