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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **24th Meeting, Geneva, 3-5 April 2019** | C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg |
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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | |
| CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES | |
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| **Summary:**  This document provides an overview of key BDT capacity building activities carried out over the past year, including the development and delivery of training, the work of the Centres of Excellence (CoE) network and the selection of CoEs for the new cycle 2019-2022, the Global ICT Capacity Building Symposium (CBS) held from 18-20 June 2018 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and the ITU publication “Capacity Building in a Changing ICT Environment 2018”.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document 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. Dubai, 2018) on admission of Academia to participate in the work of the ITU | |

Over the past year, BDT 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. The [ITU Academy](https://academy.itu.int/index.php?lang=en) platform serves as the main delivery channel for ITU’s training activities.

In 2018, around 1’840 participants were trained through 55 courses delivered by the CoE network. Furthermore, in collaboration with other partners, 37 training and capacity building activities were delivered between January and December 2018 to a total of 1’883 participants. The capacity building activities covered the following main areas: policy and regulation, broadband access, cybersecurity, ICT applications and services, spectrum management, Internet governance, innovation, digital broadcasting, conformance and interoperability, cloud computing, quality of service and ICT accessibility.

In the area of Internet governance, BDT continues to develop capacities for the ITU membership. In 2018, through the Centre of Excellence network and the ITU Academy, several training courses were delivered in the field of Internet governance. A regional workshop on Internet governance was organized for the Africa region in Abuja, Nigeria, on 27-28 August 2018, in partnership with Diplo Foundation. The workshop attracted more than 100 participants. ITU also contributed to capacity building events during the WSIS Forum 2018 and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2018, in partnership with ICANN and Diplo Foundation.

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, and Internet of Things (IoT).

In April 2018, the Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (ZEvA), a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, awarded the ITU Spectrum Management Training Programme (SMTP) its quality label for higher education and recognition of the SMTP modules as equivalent to Master’s degree modules. With this award, the SMTP can be aligned to Master’s degree programmes internationally, making it easier for Universities to adopt the programme.

**Partnerships in support of capacity building**

ITU continues to deliver training for developing countries in cooperation with its partners, including the African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute (AFRALTI), the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO), Rohde and Schwarz and the International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Italy. In the past year, those training activities focused on the areas of satellite communication, spectrum monitoring and spectrum management, and Internet of Things. In partnership with the United Kingdom s Academy (UKTA), ITU continues to deliver the online Master of Communication Management through the ITU Academy. New partnership agreements were concluded with Wayfindr, to deliver training on the design of audio-based navigation systems for people with vision impairment; as well as with four partners in Latin America[[1]](#footnote-1) on the delivery of the Strategic Telecommunication Management Programme.

**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 [2015-2018 CoE cycle](https://academy.itu.int/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=249&Itemid=604&lang=en) ended in December 2018 and a performance evaluation of the CoE cycle was completed. Between January 2015 and June 2018, the 26 operational CoEs trained around 5’000 individuals across the world through almost 200 training activities. The performance of the network grew during the cycle, with a larger number of courses delivered, and number of participants trained, year-on-year. The end-of-cycle survey also revealed that CoEs were generally pleased with the network and 92% considered their experience as an ITU CoE as either excellent or very good. This indicates that the CoEs have a positive view of the network as a capacity building initiative. The assessment of the cycle also identified a number of challenges and lessons learnt which will be taken into consideration in the new cycle.

Between May and November 2018, the selection process for the new [Centres of Excellence cycle 2019-2022](https://academy.itu.int/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=251&Itemid=695&lang=en) was carried out. Out of 64 applications received, 31 Centres were selected across the six regions delivering training in 16 different priority areas. Formal Cooperation Agreements with each CoE are in the signature process and the new Steering Committees will hold their first meetings in the first quarter of 2019.

**GCBI**

The [Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI)](https://academy.itu.int/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=103&Itemid=630&lang=en) held its 6th meeting on 27-28 February 2018 and its 7th meeting on 19-20 March 2019, both in Geneva. Further information on the work of GCBI is contained in Document [TDAG-19/17](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0017/).

**CBS 2018**

The [2018 Global ICT Capacity Building Symposium (CBS)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Capacity-Building/Pages/events/CBS/2018/default.aspx) was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 18 to 20 June 2018, under the theme "Developing skills for the digital economy and society." It was organized by ITU and hosted by the Dominican Institute of Telecommunications/Instituto Dominicano de Telecomunicaciones (INDOTEL).

The Symposium is the main global event for capacity development in the field of ICTs. It brought together ministers, director-generals of regulatory authorities, UN agencies, CEOs of private sector companies, representatives from universities and research institutions and other experts in ICT capacity building, to discuss pertinent issues in the field of skills development for the digital economy and society.

The symposium attracted 331 participants from 36 countries. The outcomes of the symposium provide strategic guidance to the national and international community on issues of skills development in the field of ICT and digital technologies. The symposium also contributed to strengthening collaboration between ITU, the public and private sectors, business and the academic communities in developing capacities for the digital future.

The CBS is held biennially and in the year before, an event is held for the role of academic institutions in capacity building. The last ITU-Academia Partnership meeting was held in 2017 and the details are available [here.](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Capacity-Building/Pages/events/academia2017.aspx)

**Publication on Capacity Building in a Changing ICT Environment 2018**

This online publication, which is released annually, puts together scholarly articles with a focus on capacity building and skills development in the digital ear. It covers a wide range of topics related to the ongoing discussions on how digital technologies are transforming job markets, determining new skills sets requirements and driving the digital economy requirements for re-skilling.

The [second issue](https://academy.itu.int/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=236&Itemid=688&lang=en) of the publication was presented at CBS 2018. It features articles that highlight different levels of skills required, from basic digital skills that are aimed at raising ICT awareness and enabling use of simple applications to advanced digital skills targeted at more complex requirements such as network management and data analytics. In addition, the articles present a number of concrete examples in capacity building projects carried out across different regions of the world.

The third issue of the publication is expected to be launched in the second quarter of 2019.

**Conclusions and forthcoming activities**

BDT will continue to deliver capacity building and training activities to its membership, in close collaboration with its partners. A set of 31 new Centres of Excellence will start working in 2019 and deliver training in 16 priority areas that were identified at WTDC 2017.

The ITU Academy website and platform is currently being redeveloped with the objective to make it the main ITU entry portal for capacity development activities. The new portal, which is expected to be launched in the second quarter of 2019, will be based on state-of-the-art technology, include a full fletched e-learning system, feature a user-friendly and attractive design, and will be developed to cater to a wide range of ITU capacity development activities.

BDT will continue to develop and deliver training courses in areas of high demand, including cybersecurity, statistics and indicators. Existing content on spectrum management, quality of service, ICT and climate change or IoT will be shared with interested partners for delivery. Particular emphasis will be put on the quality of capacity building activities, including the quality of instructors, training content and delivery methods, to ensure they are at the highest standard and achieve the desired impact.

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1. Administración Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (ANTEL), Asociación de Empresas de Telecomunicaciones de la Comunidad Andina (ASETA), Comisión Técnica Regional de Telecomunicaciones (COMTELCA) and Universidad Blas Pascal (UBP). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)