

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

*Telecommunication
Development Bureau*



T E L E F A X

Place des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Telephone +41 22 730 51 11
Telefax Gr3: +41 22 733 72 56
Gr4: +41 22 730 65 00

Date: 9 August 2006

Page: 1/15

Ref.: 2006-053/DM-189

To: Administrations of ITU Member States
ITU-D Sector Members
Regulators

Fax: «Ministry_Fax»

c.c.: Juan Zavattiero
ITU Regional Office, Brasilia

Fax: (5561) 2 312 2738

Contact: Philip Cross
ITU Caribbean Representative
ITU Area Office, Bridgetown

For your reply:

Email: melissa.arditto@itu.int

Fax: +41 22 730 5484 Tel: +41 22 730 6240

Subject: Caribbean Forum 2006: Using ICT for Effective Disaster Management, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, 26-28 September 2006

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to invite you to the Caribbean Forum 2006 on the Role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in disaster risk reduction in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. The event is co-organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization (CTO) with the assistance and facilitation of the Government of Jamaica, and the Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations (CANTO).

The Caribbean Forum 2006 which is being organized within the framework of the Telecommunication Development Bureau's Programme 6 (Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, and Emergency Telecommunications), will be held against the backdrop of an increase in the frequency and magnitude of disasters. The United Nations reported 360 natural disasters in 2005, with a death toll of 91'900 in addition to the Asian tsunami that claimed some 250'000 lives and left tens of millions destitute and in need of aid. A large number of these disasters were in the Caribbean, which remains vulnerable to natural disasters. During most of these disasters, telecommunications infrastructure is completely or partially destroyed making it difficult or even impossible for relief workers to coordinate complicated logistics and ensuring the effective delivery of rescue and relief operations such as finding the location of survivors, determining the number of injured or dead people and the number of people requiring medical help or transport to take them to medical facilities.

The event will address **policy, regulatory, and technological** issues that are related to Emergency Telecommunications before, during, and after disasters strike. Attached please find a Draft Agenda, Information Note, Hotel Reservation Form, Call for Papers and Registration Form that should be completed and sent directly to ITU fax number **+41 22 730 5484** or by e-mail to melissa.arditto@itu.int

For further information about this meeting, please contact:

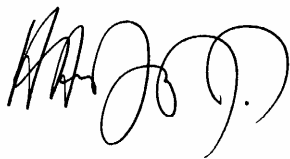
Philip Cross
ITU Caribbean Representative
ITU Area Office
Bridgetown, Barbados
Tel.: (1-246) 431 03 43-4
E-mail: philip.cross@itu.int
www.itu.int/ITU-D/emergencytelecoms/events/caribbeanforum

or

Mr. Matthew Dawes
Programme Coordinator
CTO
London, UK
Tel.: +44 20 7024 7602
E-mail: m.dawes@cto.int
www.cto.int/dmcaribbean/

I look forward to your invaluable contribution and have no doubt that the meeting will successfully come up with concrete strategies that will lead to effective disaster mitigation in the future.

Yours faithfully,



Hamadoun I. Touré
Director

Annexes:

- Draft Agenda
- Registration Form
- Information Note
- Hotel Registration Form
- Call for Papers