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I attended the 5th annual m-Enabling Summit and Exhibition on June 13th and 14th, 2016 in the Renaissance Arlington Capital view hotel in Washington DC, USA. The Summit was organised by G3ICT in conjunction with ITU and the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Around 475 delegates attended from 26 countries. The theme this year was "Enabling Environments for All". For the agenda and further details see:

www.m-enabling.com/agenda.html

I was honoured to be Master of Ceremonies for the first morning of the Summit which included addresses by U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey and Ambassador Luis Gallegos, Chair of the Board of G3ICT and 2 plenary sessions. The 2-day Summit consisted of 4 plenary and 26 parallel sessions. These covered accessibility in areas as varied as the Internet of Things, Smart Cities, wearable technologies, Innovation in Government including public procurement, data security in the Cloud, mobile devices including Apps, standards, financial services and a complete set of sessions on education. The exhibition included demonstrations of new and mature technologies from the USA and further afield. It included a new innovation this year of a set of beacons which was accompanied by a downloadable app that informed the user of which booth they were in front of.

The Summit was preceded by a two-day conference for U.S. government officials who are involved with public procurement and international delegates to the Summit. It took place in the offices of the U.S. Access Board, which is the organisation that is co-ordinating the refresh of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. This conference compared best practice in the area of public procurement in the USA and elsewhere. It paid particular attention to the similarities and differences between the U.S. Section 508 and the European EN 301 549 standard.

I consider this Summit to be the best of its kind in that it brings together industry, academia, innovaters, officials from national and international statutory bodies and persons with disabilities and their organisations from many countries. It reflects very well on ITU that it is at the heart of the organisation and implementation of this event. ITU's involvement has improved and enhanced the Summit by the expertise of its attendees, but also by advising and supporting all aspects of accessibility during its two days including sign language interpretation and captioning. We are already looking forward to the 6th iteration next year.

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