

INTERNATIONAL GIRLS IN ICT DAY - 2014

CELEBRATING SUCCESSES, INSPIRING GIRLS - WELCOME REMARKS

15 APRIL 2014 AT 09H00

ICT DISCOVERY, 2ND FLOOR, MONTBRILLIANT

MR BRAHIMA SANOU

DIRECTOR, TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

It is my pleasure to welcome all the girls and teachers who have joined us today to celebrate International Girls in ICT Day 2014. This will be the fourth International Girls in ICT Day celebration at ITU headquarters.

Girls in ICT Day is celebrated around the world and up to now we have seen over 1,500 events in 121 countries empowering over 70,000 girls and young women.

We are delighted that you are part of this global movement to empower and encourage girls and young women like you to consider careers in the growing field of ICTs.

It is with great excitement we look forward to the events happening this year in different parts of the world.

In Europe for instance, Germany organized 500 ICT-oriented events and empowered 6000 girls as part of the Girls' Day. Private sector companies like Cisco and Ericsson have outdone themselves by organizing events in several of their offices around the world. In US, there will be an International Women's Hackathon to celebrate this day. ICT-related government agencies, NGOs, and Universities in Africa, Asia, and in Latin America have put forward great plans to celebrate Girls in ICT Day this year.

ITU Regional Offices are also actively promoting this day. Our Addis Ababa office aims to support several countries organizing events in the Africa region. ITU Bangkok office is currently hosting a competition for young girls and women to share their ideas in getting more girls into ICTs. ITU Cairo office just celebrated Girls in ICT Day with Cisco and managed to reach female students in Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia and Pakistan.

These are indeed great and timely strides especially considering how the ICT sector is rapidly advancing at a global level and generating more and more jobs which all of you could aim to tap into.

According to the European Commission there will be 900,000 unfilled ICT jobs in Europe by 2015. A similar scenario is occurring in US where it is estimated that 1 million tech jobs will be unfilled in the period 2010-2020.

You are here today to learn about these vast range of opportunities offered by ICTs and get hands on experience by taking part in the workshops we have put together for you to learn coding, make digital music, develop a mobile app, or know more about photo blogging.

We hope that this celebration will be productive for you and you will continue to become ICT creators who will redefine the future.

Once again, welcome to International Telecommunication Union and International Girls in ICT Day 2014.