



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Contact: Ms. Chali Tumelo
ITU Regional Office for Africa
Telephone: +251 11 5514855/+251 11 5514977
Telefax: +251 11 5517299
E-mail: chali.tumelo@itu.int

To:
- Administrations of Member States of the Union;
- ITU-D Sector Members and Associates;
- Regional Organizations

Subject: ITU Regional Seminar for the Africa Region on Conformance and Interoperability Testing Centre(s), Accra (Ghana), 4-6 July 2011

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have the pleasure to inform you that at the kind invitation of the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of Ghana, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is organizing a Regional Seminar for the Africa Region on Conformance and Interoperability Testing Centre(s) which will take place in Accra (Ghana) from 4 to 6 July 2011.

The Seminar will be held back to back with the ITU Symposium on ICTs, the Environment and Climate Change that will be held from 7 to 8 July 2011. Information on the Symposium may be found at: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/go/ghana>.

The main objective of this Regional Seminar is to inform the attendees in the following subjects: Status of the needs of Developing Countries for building testing labs for conformance and interoperability testing; Existing testing labs and their areas of activities in the ICTs field; Assessment of the needs and the opportunities to establish type approval testing labs in the countries; Criteria and characteristics to establish accredited Bodies/Labs in the Regions for Type Approval/Homologation based on rules and recommendations, and also best practice; The ILAC, IAF and accreditation bodies, MRAs (Mutual Recognition Agreements) reference documents, framework and procedures for mutual recognition of conformity assessment of telecommunication equipment and systems; ITU testing approaches including ITU experience, conformance testing experience in different countries and technologies to be tested, application of Model networks for conformance testing, proposed methodologies of protocols, equipment and services conformance testing, experience from international testing projects, steps to be undertaken to facilitate the creation of regional test labs and to create capacity building opportunities at a regional level; Establishment of further actions on economical, technical and regional presence.

The Seminar will bring together leading specialists in the field, from top policy-makers to engineers, designers, planners, government officials, regulators, standards expert and others.

Discussions will be held in English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Please note that there is no participation fee for this Seminar. Travel arrangements and accommodation should be made and borne by the participating entity. However, ITU is providing the daily subsistence allowance (DSA) to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and possibly to Low Income Countries (LICs) subject to availability of funds. The last date for fellowship application is **10 June 2011**.

The draft program as well as the registration form are attached (Annex 1 and 2). More information including updated program, registration form, fellowships request form and participant's information is available on the ITU website at: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/tech/events/index.html>. Participants are invited to download and print the documents needed for the event. We encourage participants to kindly confirm their participation by **24 June 2011** at the latest.

For further information, or should you require any clarification, please contact the Seminar Coordinator, Ms. Chali Tumelo, Tel.: +251 11 5514855, Fax: +251 11 5517299, e-mail: chali.tumelo@itu.int.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director, BDT

[Original signed]

Malcolm Johnson
Director, TSB

Attachments:

1. Draft program
2. Registration form

ANNEX 1

**ITU Regional Seminar for the Africa Region on
Conformance and Interoperability Testing Centre(s)
Accra (Ghana), 4-6 July 2011**

Draft Programme**What is conformance and interoperability testing, and why is it important?**

Conformance testing measures how accurately a product implements a technical specification. The degree of compliance helps vendors and users of the equipment to evaluate how the equipment will perform in the network where it will integrate with other network devices to provide an offered network service. Interoperability testing measures if two or more products correctly implement the technical specifications necessary to ensure successful integration supporting particular communication protocols. Conformance and interoperability testing is important to identify the non-compliance aspects of the equipment being tested, as defined by accepted standards in the industry, that may interfere in the quality of the network service being provided. High quality performing products available for commercial use will accelerate widespread deployment of the network technologies and their associated network services.

For service providers, conformance and interoperability testing is necessary to reduce the probability of errors being introduced during the network integration period, which can impact commercial deployment schedules. Besides the financial costs associated with the resources required to support an extended deployment schedule, other costs may manifest in lost market share or of customers experiencing the impact of poorly tested services.

Many service providers will require proof of compliance before accepting a product into its network. By taking a proactive approach, equipment manufacturers have the opportunity to any correct non-compliances, and improve the marketability of the product.

Day 1, 4 July 2011**Registration: 9:00****9:30 – 10:00 - Opening Session**

- Welcoming address from Hosting Administration
- Welcoming address from ITU: Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Director TSB

Coffee Break: 10:00 – 10:30**10:30 – 12:30 - Session 1: ITU Activities on Conformance and Interoperability**

- Why Conformity: the philosophy and the need of Conformity as a step towards Interoperability

and costs of no-conformity and no interoperability: experiences from end users and operating companies

- Resolution 47 WTDC-10, BDT Programme 1
- WTS-08 Resolution 76: the ITU-T approach to Conformity Assessment, Interoperability, Capacity Building and Test Centres

12:30 -14:00 Lunch

**14:00 - 17:00 - Session 2: Global Approaches of Testing
(Coffee Break 15:30 - 16:00)**

- Analysis of ITU Recommendations suitable to conformance testing. The role of the ITU-T Study Groups and the ITU-T conformity Database
- Conformance and Interoperability: Network development, Integration and Interconnection
- Conformance Testing on the Model Networks

Day 2, 5 July 2011

9:00 – 12:30 - Session 3: Building Testing Labs

(Coffee Break 10:30 – 11:00)

- Status of the needs of Developing Countries for building testing labs for conformance and interoperability testing of equipment and systems.
- Existing testing labs and their areas of activities in the ICTs field
- Assessment of the needs and the opportunities to establish type approval testing labs in the countries and to implement Mutual Recognizing Agreements / Arrangements for ICTs products
- Criteria and characteristics to establish accredited Bodies/Labs in the Regions for Type Approval/Homologation based on rules and recommendations, and also best practices (e.g. ISO/IEC/CASCO toolbox, guides and standards such as ISO/IEC 17011 and 17025)

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 17:00 - Session 4: Building Testing Labs (cont)

(Coffee Break 15:30 – 16:00)

- Technical and economical steps to be followed to build Testing Labs according to the identified criteria and characteristics outlined in ISO/IEC 17025
- The ILAC, IAF and accreditation bodies, MRAs (Mutual Recognition Agreements) reference documents, framework and procedures for mutual recognition of conformity assessment of telecommunication equipment and systems
- Status, responsibilities and coordination mechanism of national and international bodies responsible for accreditation of Testing Labs
- Involvement of other international funding and training organizations for establishing testing labs where applicable

Day 3, 6 July 2011**9:00 - 12:30 - Session 4: Building Testing Labs (cont)****(Coffee Break 10:30 - 11:00)**

- Available test suites from any SDO (Standards Development Organization) and proposal for ITU for the development of new test suite (Bridging Testing Gap: BTG)
- Role of International telecommunication testing centers (ITTC) Unified and test network solutions for Region (equipment requirements, special requirements to services and QoS); ITTC's operational procedures; Typical work plan for build ITTC; Structure of ITTC including testing lab facilities, technologies and equipment to be tested, personal to be trained
- Impact and cost penalty due to lack of unified work program for Region (regional specific requirements, methodology of testing)

Lunch 12:30 – 14:00**14:00 - 16:00 - Session 4: Building Testing Labs (cont)**

- Identification of the roadmap, strategies (e.g. locations and not duplication of areas of testing: market needs analysis) and guidelines in accordance with the environment for test centre project document and the roll out plan.
- Economical impact on:
 - creation of test centers according to established criteria (geographical distribution, existing labs and technologies to be tested)
 - creation of capacity building opportunities
 - costs of human, material and instrumental resources
 - costs of maintenance and periodical activities (e.g. calibration)
- Possible location and areas of interest of the Test Centre(s) in consultation with the relevant regional Organizations (e.g. African Telecommunication Union for AFR)

Coffee Break 16:00 – 16:30**16:30 – 17:30 - Round Table**

Final/Closing Session: steps to be undertaken to facilitate the creation of regional test labs and to create capacity building opportunities at a regional level. Establishment of further actions economical, technical and regional presence.

ANNEX 2



ITU Regional Seminar for the Africa Region on Conformance and Interoperability Testing Centre(s)

Accra (Ghana), 4-6 July 2011

REGISTRATION FORM

To be returned to the ITU Regional Office (Fax: +251 11 5517299 or e-mail: margenet.abebe@itu.int)

before 24 June 2011

<input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Miss	<input type="checkbox"/> Administration of ITU Member State
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ITU Sector Member
Family name	<input type="checkbox"/> ITU Associate
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member
First name	

Name and full address of administration or organization:

_____	Tel.: _____
_____	Fax: _____
_____	E-mail: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____