



Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

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Subject: **Girls in ICT Day Portal**

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my great pleasure to inform you that in line with ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 70 (Guadalajara, 2010), which promotes the celebration of “Girls in ICT” days on the fourth Thursday of each April and the creation of the Global Network of Women ICT Decision Makers (WITNET), ITU is developing an interactive “Girls in ICT” portal. This portal will provide practical information to young women and girls seeking to enter or further their ICT careers in order to attract more women into multi-disciplinary ICT careers.

I would like to invite our public and private sector members to contribute to this portal, to highlight national or regional initiatives and programs that would be of interest and relevance to girls and women in ICT professions. ITU believes that support for girls in ICT is especially timely, in light of the predicted shortage of skilled ICT professionals within the next ten years. A career in technology promises excellent employment opportunities for girls around the globe.

The portal, which will provide information in the official ITU languages, aims to:

- Provide links to courses, awards, scholarships and other related support that specifically target ICT career development for girls (in middle and secondary school levels) and young women (at the university and graduate school level). This will include information about fellowships, scholarships and awards, mentoring or shadowing programmes, technology camps, internship programs and employment drives. The programs may be implemented by the ICT private sector, Ministries of Communication and National Regulatory authorities as well as by educational institutions and non-governmental groups;
- Profile companies, Ministries of Communication, National Regulatory Authorities, and other entities that :
 - seek to employ women ICT professionals;
 - promote research and development (R&D) among young women;
 - provide training, internships or other career development programmes for girls and young women;
 - organize “Girls in ICT” days on the fourth Thursday of every April;
- Profile the experiences of women in leading roles in the ICT sector as well as successful young ICT innovators;
- Facilitate industry connections with students, career counselors and educators to promote ICT education and career paths through promotion and marketing of the portal;

- Highlight ICT careers as dynamic and exciting and offering multi-disciplinary options;
- Document sector projections, trends and analysis including national or regional labour market analysis; key measures that primary, secondary and tertiary schools can take to prepare girls and young women for careers in ICT; and the role of the ICT private sector, Ministries of Communication and National Regulatory authorities in encouraging more women to enter the ICT sector.

We invite you to contribute relevant information about your programmes, as well as any recommendations and references you may be able to provide to help ensure the portal is as comprehensive as possible. In addition to posting information about your programmes on the Girls in ICT Portal, ITU will select from the submissions, several innovative programmes to be showcased at ITU World TELECOM in October 2011.

Your contribution to this initiative is valuable not only to the future of the ICT industry but also to girls and women who seek more information on entering this exciting and rewarding field. Please provide your response to girlsinct@itu.int no later than 30 September 2011 to ensure your programmes are included in the Girls in ICT Portal and to be considered for showcasing in the ITU World TELECOM 2011 event.

Yours faithfully

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director