



**Telecommunication Development
Bureau (BDT)**

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Subject: **Regional Workshop/Training on School Connectivity, in the framework of ITU's Special Initiative "Connect a School, Connect a Community" 14-16 November 2011 - Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the Americas Regional Workshop on connecting schools as community centres, organized in the framework of ITU-D Initiative "**Connect a School, Connect a Community**". The Workshop is being organized by ITU in close collaboration with the *Instituto Dominicano de las Telecomunicaciones* (INDOTEL) and will take place from 14 to 16 November 2011, at the "Centro Cultural de las Telecomunicaciones" in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

ITU's mission is to connect the world and thus seeks to mobilize resources to achieve the connectivity goals of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the United Nations. Similarly, ITU is carrying out activities aimed at promoting access to broadband and other next-generation services to reduce the digital divide and facilitate the social and economic development in all regions.

The main objective of the Regional Workshop/Training on "**Connect a School, Connect a Community**" is to share best practices and involve all stakeholders in the process of connecting schools in the Americas region to broadband Internet by 2015, in line with the commitments of the World Summit on the Information Society and the Millennium Development Goals.

In this regard, the Workshop will present best practices in the development of national policies and regulation as well as the key elements to achieve connectivity in schools and the use of these schools as ICT community centres to improve the social and economic development of local communities, in particular disadvantaged groups, including: women, persons with disabilities, people living in remote areas and indigenous peoples.

The Workshop will also provide training in each of the modules of the Connect a School, Connect a Community online Toolkit developed by ITU (www.connectaschool.org) to facilitate the training of managers and administrators of telecentres on how to integrate and involve the participation of disadvantaged groups in the use of the Centres, and thereby contribute to the economic and social development of those groups.

ITU believes that this is an opportunity for both those responsible in the relevant governmental sectors as well as managers and administrators of ICT community centres and telecentres, to unite their experience and knowledge through this workshop.

The ultimate goal of the Workshop is that its participants acquire knowledge on how better to provide connectivity to benefit all and to ensure that through new technologies we achieve not only the integration of these groups in the Information Society but also the promotion of their educational, social and economic development.

Please find below additional information on the Workshop:

Documents:

- All information and documents related to the Workshop are available and can be downloaded at: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/sis/index.phtml>.

Logistics:

- Simultaneous interpretation will be provided throughout the Forum in English and Spanish.
- Onsite registration will be open at the venue as from 14 November 2011, at 7h45.
- Please also note that participants shall cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.
- Due to visa requirements, and in order to ensure that your visa is processed in time for the meeting, I encourage you to follow the instructions available at the website.

Fellowships requests:

- I am pleased to inform you that, subject to the availability of funds, ITU will provide ONE fellowship per eligible Administration. While the number of participants from any country is not limited, eligible countries will bear the costs of any additional participant.
- Depending on the number of requests from duly authorized candidates who fulfil all requirements, fellowships may be either full or partial. A full fellowship includes one return economy class air ticket by the most direct/economical route from the country of origin to the Dominican Republic, as well as a daily allowance to cover accommodation, meals and incidental expenses. A partial fellowship includes the daily subsistence allowance or the economy class air ticket by the most direct/economical route.
- Please find attached **the fellowship form which must be returned no later than 31 October 2011 (Annex 4)**.

I very much hope that you will be able to participate in this special training and contribute to its enrichment.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annexes:

1. Provisional agenda for the Regional Workshop/Training on *Connect a School, Connect a Community*
2. Registration Form
3. General Information on host city
4. Fellowships Request Form