



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref: BDT/IEE/SIS/DM/296

Geneva, 9 April 2013

Name

Title

School's name

Subject: Invitation to Girls in ICT Day Celebrations – ITU ICT Discovery, 25 April 2013

Dear Sir/Dear Madam,

International Girls in ICT Day, celebrated on the fourth Thursday of April every year, is an initiative to create a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider careers in the growing field of information and communication technologies (ICTs). This year, the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union and ICT Discovery, ITU's museum dedicated to ICT advances, will host an interactive educational event, celebrating International Girls in ICT Day.

It is with great pleasure, therefore, that I invite your school to visit ITU on **Thursday 25 April** to celebrate International Girls in ICT Day. Our celebration will include a visit to the ICT Discovery, hands-on workshops to introduce participating young female students to technical skills such as coding and mobile application development as well as interactive discussions with female ICT professionals to allow students to ask questions and further explore future ICT career opportunities. The event will run from **08:30 to 14:30**.

Why do we celebrate International Girls in ICT Day? Globally, it is estimated that the world shortfall in skilled ICT professionals exceeds two million. Many countries and regions are predicting a shortage of qualified staff with math, science, engineering and computing skills to meet the increasing demand. Indeed, ICTs are a growing sector for employment as well as a key economic factor underpinning both national and international development. Despite the obvious benefits, however, many girls never even consider a career in ICT. International Girls in ICT Day, backed by ITU Member States in Plenipotentiary Resolution 70 (Guadalajara, 2010), is designed to ensure that girls and young women learn about the exciting opportunities a career in ICT offers.

Your students will be part of a global movement. All around the world on this day, teenage girls will participate in fun and instructive "open days" at the office of ICT companies, ICT training facilities, universities, research centres, government bodies, and other ICT-related institutions where girls can see for themselves what a career in the field might bring, freely ask questions, and meet women role models. ITU encourages organizers to also invite teachers and career advisers, many of whom are not aware of the opportunities offered by the ICT sector, so they become better informed about the possibilities of ICT careers.

We will be very pleased to welcome the female students of your school between the ages of 13 and 17, along with their teachers and career advisers, to ITU headquarters at the Place des Nations in Geneva for this unique opportunity to meet with inspiring people, develop their ICT skills and take a journey to the fascinating history of ICT at the ICT Discovery museum. The detailed programme of the event will soon follow.

If your school and students would like to get involved, please contact us for further details (girlsinct@itu.int or info@ictdiscovery.org or +41 22 730 61 55).

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director