



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

**ITU WORKSHOP ON  
SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT FOR A  
CONVERGING WORLD**

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## **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

*Mr. Yoshio Utsumi, ITU Secretary-General*  
(As prepared for delivery)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you here to Geneva for this workshop on **radio spectrum management for a converging world**, and to thank you for participating in this event.

This workshop is the twelfth in a series of expert meetings and workshops carried out under the ITU's New Initiatives Programme. It is, however, the first that has been organised jointly by the Strategy and Policy Unit and the Radiocommunication Bureau.

Since 1999, New Initiatives Workshops have covered a wide range of topics that our members have considered to be of high current policy interest. Some of our most recent ones include promoting broadband, competition policy in telecommunications and critical network infrastructures. Next week, we will be looking at Internet Governance, and the week after that at the future mobile information society. Support from our members, in the form of voluntary contributions, enables us to commission research and create a forum for our members to discuss these issues. For this particular workshop, we are particularly grateful to the support of the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications of Japan

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On my way here this morning I received a call on my cellular phone. This was an unremarkable event and I would have thought nothing of it if I had not been about to deliver this speech. It then occurred to me how quickly wireless services have integrated themselves in our lives. For us, in this room, this is a good sign. When our policies or our business plans work, calls can be placed on cell phones, planes can land safely, and the Olympics can be broadcast to us, live, every four years.

Today, however, our job is becoming harder to do. In recent years, the rapid pace of technological innovation and the ever-increasing popularity of wireless services have driven demand for radio spectrum to new heights. A host of new services have been launched, like 3G mobile communications and wireless LANs. These new services have to be accommodated while existing services, like mobile telephony or broadcast television, have continued to grow. Outside the telecommunications sector, applications as diverse as GPS services and RFID tagging continue to gain more users every day.

At the same time, because of convergence, the boundaries between these different services and technologies are becoming increasingly blurred. In some countries mobile handsets can now deliver live TV, as well as Internet access at speeds of up to 2 Megabits per second. All this, in addition to making voice calls. Broadcasting has crossed over into mobile telephony and mobile telephony into wireless broadband access. Gone are the days when a phone was just a phone, and was regulated as a phone.

Today, we live in a very different world and we require spectrum management policies that are rooted in modern-day technologies and modern-day markets. At a glance, it is good to see that many of us are making that transition. On one end of the scale, many countries have started to auction spectrum while a few have taken the bolder step of introducing spectrum trading. At the other end of the scale, more spectrum is being dedicated worldwide to license-exempt use, allowing industry and technology a freer hand in managing spectrum for themselves.

These new approaches have been employed with much success in different countries. And over the next three days I am sure that you will have ample opportunity to consider the merits of these approaches and the issues that they raise. For example, how can governments reconcile the reality that they are charging huge sums of money for some parts of the spectrum, while giving away other parts free of charge? This problem becomes acute as the services offered over different parts of the spectrum become increasingly substitutable.

In our process of transition, we should also bear in mind two things: that we do not disregard the benefits of international harmonisation and co-operation and that we do not neglect the needs of the developing world in making this transition. Wireless networks hold great promise in providing developing countries a modern and extensive communications network. However, regulators in these countries suffer from significant constraints in terms of manpower and experience. We must assist them in developing suitable spectrum management policies that allow them to make the best use of their limited resources.

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The task ahead for us is a difficult one. Over the next few days, I hope that this workshop will serve three functions, firstly to serve as vantage point from which we can view and examine the range of spectrum policy options available. In this regard, the ITU has commissioned country case studies of Australia, Guatemala and the United Kingdom, which will be presented this afternoon.

Secondly, this workshop is intended to serve as a forum. Those participating in this workshop represent a wide range of interests, including telecommunication regulators, equipment manufacturers and spectrum users. I hope that there will be a spirit of free and frank exchange among us, allowing us to benefit from each other's knowledge and experience.

Finally, we hope that this workshop will be able to provide some guidance as to the direction ITU should take in the area of spectrum management policy. For many years, ITU membership has chosen to debate these issues at World Radiocommunication Conferences. How can these Conferences be most efficiently organised? Concurrently, study groups of the ITU-R develop and refine spectrum management tools and techniques for our Member States. Is there something more that can be done in terms of spectrum policy? In the Development Sector, spectrum management assistance and advice is given to developing countries. Is enough being done to help them keep up with the increasing pace of change?

In conclusion, I hope that you will all benefit from the discussions here over the next few days. Please remember that the success of the workshop depends on your contributions and your willingness to share and participate in the discussions. Please feel free to express your opinions and, just as importantly, to ask questions.

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I would now like to turn over the floor to my colleague Mr Valery Timofeev, the director of the Radiocommunication Bureau at ITU. Mr Timofeev is someone who is very familiar with spectrum management having previously served as Deputy Minister for Communications and Informatization as well as Deputy Chairman of the State Radio-Frequency Commission of the Russian Federation. Since 1968, Mr. Timofeev has served at the head of his country's delegations at numerous ITU conferences and meetings on radiocommunications. Please welcome Mr Timofeev.