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ITU Management team inauguration on 15 January

ITU pledges commitment to innovation as it celebrates 150th anniversary

ITU's new management, led by Secretary-General Houlin Zhao, was formally inaugurated last January 15, 2015 in the presence of Permanent Representatives of Member States to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Heads of UN agencies.

Mr Houlin Zhao of the People's Republic of China was elected Secretary-General at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference last October in Busan, Republic of Korea. He was previously ITU Deputy Secretary-General for two four-year terms (2006-2014) and Director of the ITU Standardization Bureau for another two terms (1998-2006).

Mr Malcolm Johnson of the United Kingdom was elected ITU Deputy Secretary-General. He was previously the Director of the ITU Standardization Bureau for two four-year terms.

Mr François Rancy and Mr Brahima Sanou were re-elected as Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and Telecommunication Development Bureau respectively. Mr Chaesub Lee from the Republic of Korea was elected Director of the ITU Standardization Bureau.

ITU celebrates 150 years of innovation

The year 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union.

"The remarkable history of ITU exemplifies its stellar role in connecting the world to the most advanced and innovative means of communication, from the days of the telegraph to the telephone, television, Internet and mobile broadband, which now allows us to be in touch anytime, anywhere with friends, family, colleagues and even things," said Secretary-General Houlin Zhao. "ITU has reaffirmed its reputation worldwide as one of the most resilient and relevant organizations and continues its work as the specialized agency of the United Nations, and its oldest member, dealing with state-of-the-art telecommunications and information and communication technologies. Along with ITU's diverse membership, we look forward to addressing the challenges and opportunities future innovations will bring to this technology and to ITU."

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day marks this historic event annually and is celebrated worldwide. A full day of events is planned this year on 17 May, including an Awards Ceremony and a multimedia smart show. ITU Members will also be celebrating this special 150th anniversary across the globe.

Throughout 2015, ITU will organize several events highlighting ICTs as the drivers of innovation and sustainable development both at ITU headquarters in Geneva and around the world.

In late January, ITU will co-organize a special session of the Broadband Commission during the World Economic Forum in Davos, using the high profile platform to promote innovative finance and investment models for the rollout of global broadband.

In February, the theme is Youth and Innovation which is also the focus for World Radio Day on 13 February. ITU will host a special event in Geneva and partner with UNESCO, BBC, RTS, EBU, UN Radio and others to broadcast a 24-hour worldwide event to mark the day.

The ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2015, one of the most important events on the ITU calendar and a key contributor to enabling innovation, will be held 2-27 November.

The Conference will review and revise the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits to ensure reliable radio services are available everywhere and at any time enabling people to live and travel safely while enjoying high performance radiocommunications.

A video expert series will be released in November to highlight ITU's technical achievements and innovations. **On World Television Day on 21 November, ITU will explore how ICTs drive innovation in broadcasting.**

December marks the end of the year of anniversary celebrations and we plan to place a special emphasis on broadband and the important outcomes of WRC-15 and how they drive innovation and lay the foundations for future innovation. The World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) that will take place in December will review the level of ICT development worldwide, and the progress made during the year.

Many ITU Members have come forth to lend their support to the 150th anniversary celebrations and will be recognized during the events planned throughout the year.

Source: ITU

() IAB is ITU Sector Member and Member of the International Committee for the Celebration of "World Radio Day".*