Global ICT Human Capacity Development Forum 2016

1. Importance of Human Capacity Development for ITU membership

There is a growing consensus that competitive advantage in today's knowledge economies lies principally in fostering the skills and competencies of people – and this cuts across nations, regions, sectors and organizations. This is very significant as it is explicit recognition that individual human development is fundamental to our collective development as societies. Accordingly, one of the Strategic Goals of the ITU, on inclusiveness and bridging the digital divide, is linked to capacity building.

The World Summit on Information Society, WSIS, also noted that:

"to become fully-fledged members of the Information Society depends largely on increased capacity building in the areas of education, technology know-how and access to information, which are major factors in determining development and competitiveness"

It is for this reason that ITU places a high priority to the role of human capacity building in ICT development.

2. Capacity Building as a WTDC -14 Output

Member States have always recognized human and institutional capacity building as a key priority in the strategic and development plans of the Union.

At the 6th ITU World Telecom Development Conference (WTDC-14), held in Dubai in March/April 2014, membership adopted Output 4.1 of Objective 4 as one of its priorities for the planning cycle 2014-2018. This output focuses on building human and institutional capacity. Membership also reaffirmed Resolution 40, adopted during WTDC 10. Through this resolution, membership established the Group on Capacity Building Initiative, made up of human capacity development experts from the membership, to assist the Director BDT in all matters related to human capacity development.

3. Importance of the Global Forum on Human Capacity Development

Most human capacity development interventions carried out within the BDT are related to direct training activities and the impartation of specific skills. These are delivered through several avenues under the ITU Academy, chief among which are Centres of Excellence.

However, for high level senior Managers, top Executives and policymakers, capacity building is conducted through knowledge exchange and experience sharing workshops and forums, organised regionally and globally. Regional Human Capacity building Forums are organised regionally every year, and discussions at these regional workshops and forums feed into the Global Forum organised at least once every two years.

The Global forum on Human Capacity development is an opportunity to scan the entire ICT landscape and view the development challenges from the perspective of the knowledge and skills dimension. These challenges are multi-dimensional, from the march of technology, the rollout of infrastructure, the new products and services; new business opportunities, new regulatory issues, to name a few. As these challenges are global, the Forum brings together multi-stakeholder players from Governments, industry, academia, and consumer bodies and other non-state actors with an interest in the development of the ICT sector. Collectively, they bring their shared knowledge and experiences in dealing with the most pressing and most critical challenge that faces the digital society: the shortage of knowledge workers.

4.   Forum Objectives:

The key objectives of the Global forum are:

- To raise awareness of the importance of investment in ICT capabilities at a National Level to drive innovation, competitiveness and economic development.

- To promote a trans-sector approach across government to building ICT capabilities to maximise the economic and social benefits derived from a broadband infrastructure.

- To highlight the need to build capabilities in ICT applications and services, the drivers of the new economy– from e-health to e-education to e-commerce to e-government.

- To provide a forum for Policy Makers and Regulators to give feedback on their needs for support in terms of information, skills and training and the issues they face.

- To learn how to adopt ICT policies, regulation and capabilities development to capitalise on key emerging ICT trends and the changing telecoms environment.

- To educate, improve knowledge and raise awareness within audience of the use and benefits of ICTs in Learning and Development

- To promote best practice in building ICT skilled knowledge workers.

- Raise awareness and promote the benefits of ITU Academy and Centres of Excellence to drive increased participation.

- Deliver actionable information to enable participants to drive change when they return to their countries and jobs.

- To provide excellent informal and facilitated networking opportunities for all delegates.

5.   Who participates?

The Forum draws participants from various segments of the ICT sector including regional and international organisations, policy makers, regulators, industry and academia. Approximately 300 delegates are expected to attend this event. High level participation is expected from:

- Ministers responsible for ICTs; Director Generals from regulatory Agencies, Chief Executive Officers of telecommunications operators and executive management in ICT related private companies. It also targets Human resources and Training executives from these organisations;

- International institutions that have an interest to develop the capacity agenda for emerging markets;

- Regional organisations affiliated to the ICT sector;

- Providers of training, research and learning solutions. This includes Universities, Centres of Excellence and training partners of ITU.

6. What can we expect?

- High level speakers from leading industry voices talking about developments in the ICT sector and issues related to management of talent and development of skills;

- Quality value-adding content emanating from global best practices and regional Case studies.

- Opportunities to network with colleagues from other countries and organisations, and share experiences of similar problems and challenges;

- Exhibitions of products and services from stakeholders in the industry, including training services providers and universities;

- Strengthening of the global ICT human capacity development community, in order to better coordinate capacity building activities in all the regions and share resources and expertise.

7. Previous hosts of Global Forums on Human Capacity Development

The Human Capacity Development Forum has been hosted biennially for the past twenty five years. Most of these events were hosted in the United Kingdom through a long established capacity building agreement with the United Kingdom Telecommunications Academy (UKTA). UKTA would negotiate with one of its partner universities to provide the venue facilities for the forum.

However, since 2005, it was decided to rotate hosting of the Forum around the globe. The chosen hosts would be countries with significant achievements in ICTs or capacity building:

- In 2005, the theme was "Developing ICT Resources for Strategic Advantage". The Symposium was hosted in Manama, Bahrain, and organised through Bahrain Telecommunications Company (BATELCO). Bahrain had been widely praised for its leadership role in furthering the practice of e-government, an achievement recognised even today by the UN. Bahrain went on to establish one of the first eGovernment authorities in the Middle East, the Bahrain eGovernment Authority, in 2007.
- In 2008, the theme was on "Developing human capital in the ICT sector". The Forum was hosted at University of Warwick, and organised through UKTA. The University of Warwick is one of only five Universities never to have been rated outside of the UK's top ten universities in terms of teaching excellence and research.
- In 2010, the theme was on "Building capabilities for a broadband economy". The Forum was hosted in Busan City, by the Republic of Korea, through Korea Communications Commission and supported by Busan Metropolitan City. The Republic of Korea has topped the rankings as the leading nation in terms of its broadband penetration levels.
- In 2012, the theme was "Digital inclusion: transition from analogue to digital broadcasting". The Forum was hosted in Cape Town, by the Republic of South Africa. It was co-organized with the Department of Communications of the Republic of South Africa and its e-Skills Institute, in close collaboration with Telkom South Africa. The eSkills institute is the leading institute on national eSkilling as the main body mandated with the digital inclusion Agenda. The deadline for transition to Digital broadcasting was also an important factor for Africa.

8.   The Theme of the Forum

For each particular Forum a specific theme is selected, pitched on the priority themes that are defining the sector and are a priority to our members. The focus however will be on the human capacity development or related implications of that topic or area, for the sector in particular and the economy and society as a whole.

> Although the theme for the 2016 forum is subject to finalization, a tentative theme considered is:
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> *"Opportunities for capacity building in an era of mobile technology"*

9.   Target Dates

The forum is a three and a half day event targeted for the 5th - 8th September 2016

10.   Benefits of Hosting the Forum

One of the main benefits of hosting a global ITU event such as this one is that these events bring huge recognition of the country within the ICT stakeholder community. Hosting this event would highlight the importance that the country places on capacity building in order to keep pushing upwards its international rankings for information technology.

This event is also likely to benefit other key service industries of the country that are key to the economy and that benefit from a strong ICT environment, such as tourism and the financial services sector.