



CONNECTING THE WORLD

**CELEBRATING
THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INTERNATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATION
UNION**

SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2015
UNITED NATIONS
HEADQUARTERS
6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

150 
1865-2015



MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL MR. HOULIN ZHAO, INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

"This year, 2015, marks the 150th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union established in 1865, 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.



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 Internet and mobile broadband, which now allows us to be in touch anytime, anywhere with friends, family, colleagues and even things.

As we celebrate our 150th anniversary, we look back with pride of our accomplishments. And we look forward to the future as we respond to the rapid changes in the global ICT environment.

The innovations with and from ICT and the implementation of these technologies pervade every aspect of our lives. ICTs are also the catalysts for shaping the post-2015 development agenda and achieving our goals for sustainable development. Throughout 2015, we will organize several events highlighting ICTs as the drivers of innovation at ITU and around the world to mark this landmark 150th anniversary. I invite you to celebrate with us and participate in the events, providing your support as well as your contributions in order to fulfill our commitment to connect the world.

I wish you a very productive 150th anniversary in 2015."

Houlin Zhao
ITU Secretary-General



ABOUT INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

ITU is the leading United Nations agency for information and communication technologies, driving innovation in ICTs together with 193 Member States and a membership of over 700 private sector entities and academic institutions. Established in 1865, ITU celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2015 as the intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating the shared global use of the radio spectrum, promoting international cooperation in assigning satellite orbits, improving communication infrastructure in the developing world, and establishing the worldwide standards that foster seamless interconnection of a vast range of communications systems. From broadband networks to cutting-edge wireless technologies, aeronautical and maritime navigation, radio astronomy, oceanographic and satellite-based earth monitoring as well as converging fixed-mobile phone, Internet and broadcasting technologies, ITU is committed to connecting the world.



ABOUT GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION

The Global Sustainability Foundation (GSF) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that human beings have access to the tools, knowledge, and opportunities to empower themselves and their communities, build resilient societies that protect our environment, honor cultural and social diversity, and cultivate social and economic development. Through collaboration with a global network of actors and institutions, with a wide range of resources and a wealth of aggregated knowledge and information, the GSF aspires to become a leading international resource for sustainable development. The GSF will undertake to organize and execute tangible initiatives that galvanize development under each of its "Three Pillars": Science & Technology, Resources & Environment, and Social & Cultural. Through such a holistic approach to sustainable development, the GSF affirms the fundamental right of all people to live harmoniously in justice and with dignity.



INTRODUCTION

On 17 May 1865, agreements between delegates of twenty European States, during the International Telegraph Conference in Paris, led to the signing of the International Telegraph Convention. The goal of the Convention was to make telegraph services more efficient by setting up uniform operating instructions, international tariffs, and accounting rules as well as standardizing telegraphy equipment. The International Telegraph Union later became known as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Today, ITU is the leading United Nations agency for information and communication technologies, with 193 Member States and a membership of over 700 private sector entities and academic institutions. In 2015, ITU celebrates its 150th anniversary as the intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating the shared global use of the radio spectrum, promoting international cooperation in assigning satellite orbits, improving communications infrastructures in the developing world, and establishing the worldwide standards that foster the seamless interconnection of a vast and range of communications systems. From broadband networks to leading-edge wireless technologies, aeronautical and maritime navigation, radio astronomy, oceanographic and satellite-based earth monitoring, as well as converging fixed-mobile phone, Internet and broadcasting technologies, ITU is committed to connecting the world.

ITU is widely recognized as a vanguard of the technology sector where information and communications technologies (ICTs) and telecommunications play a crucial role. ITU's mission has never been more vital and it continues to drive the development of cutting edge innovations such as 5G technologies, smart cities, green energy, and intelligent transport systems.

The world is becoming ever more reliant on broadband and communication technologies. The future of education, healthcare, security and industrial development, are all interlinked with the power and possibilities that broadband has created. However, it is on this momentous 150th anniversary that we possibilities are able to celebrate the power and contribution of ITU in shaping the present and future of global communications.



Gala
"CONNECTING THE WORLD"
SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2015

LETTER OF INVITATION

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are cordially invited to join the International Telecommunication Union and the Global Sustainability Foundation on **26 September, 2015** at **18:00 EST** at the **United Nations Headquarters in New York** to celebrate ITU's 150th Anniversary.

The theme of the gala will be "Connecting The World" to acknowledge ITU's goal of proliferating global communications for sustainable development. The gala will honor international leaders and prominent individuals with the inaugural annual ICTs in Sustainable Development Award and will conclude with a performance from an international youth choir.

We would be delighted to have you join us in celebrating the 150th Anniversary of ITU.

Warm regards,

Houlin Zhao
Secretary-General of ITU





SEPTEMBER 26TH EVENT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In honor of the 150th Anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union, we have organized several events, which will be held on 26 September to showcase the accomplishments of ITU.

The full day of events will see the opening of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development's annual meeting. The Commission, jointly organized by ITU and UNESCO, plays a unique role in spreading the benefits of broadband connectivity worldwide. The conference will commence at 8:00 a.m. with discussions scheduled to conclude by 2:00 p.m. The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development will host discussions on global connectivity, development, digital economy, big data, and education, which will influence policies on world broadband development. (This program is only open to Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development members).

On 26 September, guests are invited to view the ITU's 150th Anniversary Exhibition, which will be housed in the Main Hall of the United Nations Headquarters. The exhibition seeks to showcase how global communications have been shaped by ITU, and in turn, how ITU has evolved with the advent of advanced technologies.

The Gala Dinner is the culmination of the day's events. The theme "Connecting the World" celebrates ITU's mission to support sustainable development, and to promote education through globalized broadband access. During the Gala Dinner, the inaugural ICTs in Sustainable Development Award will be announced and presented to honor global leaders who promote the use of ICTs towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, ITU will also present their exclusive 150th Anniversary Award to individuals with outstanding merit.

Attendees will include various Heads of State, past and present Leaders of the United Nations, UN Permanent Representatives, and distinguished business executives.



KEY INFORMATION OF THE CELEBRATORY GALA DINNER

Location:	United Nations Headquarters, Delegates Dining Room
Date & Time:	26 September 2015, 6.00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Hosting Organization:	International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Co-Hosting Organization:	Global Sustainability Foundation
VIP Stakeholders:	United Nations Senior Officials Heads of the State and their Spouses Broadband Commission for Digital Development High Officials of UN Specialized Agencies Permanent Representatives of the UN Renowned Business Leaders & Philanthropists

Connecting the World Reception

Celebrating ITU's 150th Anniversary

Featuring:

Screening of ITU's 150th Anniversary Celebration short video
Remarks by United Nations Leader
Remarks by ITU Secretary General
Remarks by Co-Chair of Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda
Remarks by Honorary Chairman of GSF



KEY INFORMATION OF THE CELEBRATORY GALA DINNER (CONTINUED)

The Annual ICTs in Sustainable Development Award

Debuting this September, the annual award will recognize individuals in the digital world who are playing an instrumental role in realizing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each year, the ICTs in Sustainable Development Award will have a focusing theme within the spectrum of digital development.

Featuring:

ITU Secretary General, Mr. Houlin Zhao, and GSF Founder and CEO, Ms. Sheri Yan, introducing the ICTs in Sustainable Development Award

The ITU 150th Anniversary Award presented to distinguished recipients

GLOBAL STEM ALLIANCE and China Distance Satellite Real-Time Education Network

The Global STEM Alliance (GSA) is an international initiative established by the New York Academy of Sciences. Its founding partners are Global Sustainability Foundation, CISCO, and ARM. Supporting organizations include UNESCO and ITU, together with more than 90 partners and 50 countries including a collaboration of governments, corporations, education institution, and non-governmental organizations working together to ensure the emergence of the next generation of STEM innovators. In partnership with premier technological firms and organizations in their field, the Global STEM Alliance's goal is to provide access to quality STEM programming around the world, and to equip students with critical skills that are essential for careers in the 21st century.

KEY INFORMATION OF THE CELEBRATORY GALA DINNER (CONTINUED)

The China Distance Satellite Real-Time Education Network was established by the Chairman of China STEM Education Foundation, Dr. Ruiyun Wang. The project was launched in Shenzhen, China in March 2015. The network is part of GSF's Scientific & Technology Pillar and seeks to allocate high-quality virtual learning resources to more than 21 million children in remote regions of China and provide wider Internet access to disconnected communities. GSF current goal is to provide STEM education accessibility through high-capacity satellites to over 600,000 rural villages in China. The network is driven by the belief that access and opportunities created by STEM education are means to longterm societal advancement and global development.

Featuring:

Keynote speech by Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO on the impact of education for sustainable development

Video Screening of the Global STEM China Pilot Project "Knowledge Changes Lives, Science Realizes Dreams"

Keynote address by Dr. Ruiyun Wang, Chairman of the China STEM Education Foundation

Remarks by Mr. Ellis Rubinstein, Chairman of the Global STEM Alliance and President of the New York Academy of Sciences

First Ladies' New Silk Road Women & Children Education Fund Launching Ceremony

To RSVP, go to:

<http://ITU150ConnectTheWorld.rsvpify.com>

**For inquiries or questions,
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www.GSFoundation.org