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//MAY 2016

CTO OUTLINES NEW PLANS TO PROMOTE ICTs FOR DEVELOPMENT

// INDIA TO RESUME FULL MEMBER COUNTRY STATUS

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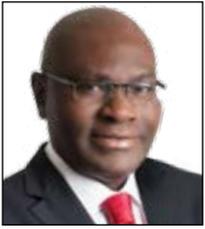
Shola Taylor
Secretary-General

Dear Members and Readers,

The month of May has been rich in action for the CTO as well as for many of our members, many of whom I was honoured to join at the recent World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva. The Summit was indeed a unique opportunity for me to highlight the CTO's plans for broadband, ICT applications and cybersecurity in support of the WSIS and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our member relations was also at its most intensive this month with my meetings with ICT ministers from Sri Lanka, Malawi, Ghana and Malta and from whom I learned more about the national priorities, challenges and successes.

Following the success of the Digital Broadcasting Africa Forum in Lagos, we are now fully focused on the forthcoming Commonwealth ICT Ministers Forum to take place on 14 - 16 June, and I look forward to meeting there with as many of you as possible during the two-day Open Forum to follow the ministers' one-day closed-door meeting. This event will also mark the launch of the Commonwealth ICT & Industry Awards.

In this issue, we are particularly excited to report India's re-engagement with the CTO as Full Member Country, as well as the admission of Facebook as ICT Sector Member.

We have also started the implementation of our 2016-17 capacity development programmes with courses taking place in Cameroon and Nigeria, in addition to the expansion of our cybersecurity programme to Bangladesh, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sri Lanka and Tanzania. Our spectrum auctions workshop announced earlier is now confirmed to take place in August in South Africa as part of our post-WRC-15 activities and we look forward to seeing as many of you there too.

Finally, we are also glad to report some progress by some of our industry members in expanding their operations in areas such as broadband, security and applications. //

//RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

WSIS FORUM

CTO outlines new plans to promote ICTs for development

Shola Taylor, the CTO Secretary-General, spoke this month at the World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS), the largest gathering of the ICTs for Development community which meets annually to track the progress of ICTs in meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Speaking at a high-level panel session, Mr Taylor outlined the CTO's plans to promote broadband, ICT applications and cybersecurity to deliver the benefits of ICTs to peoples.

"*The CTO's new strategic plan for 2016 to 2020 seeks to contribute to the promotion of ICTs for development by prioritising its interventions in key areas,*" Mr Taylor said.

"*In addition to working on broadband, applications and cybersecurity, we will also assist our members to create forward-looking regulatory environments that will encourage investment, facilitate innovation and maximise resources.*"

"*We, the ICT stakeholders, need to work collectively and collaboratively to ensure that the benefits of ICTs are maximised and equitably distributed,*" Mr Taylor continued. "*This is of particular importance to the Commonwealth, a unique collective of 53 countries with a combined population of 2.2 billion, whose membership includes both well-endowed and less-endowed countries, in various stages of ICT development.*" //

Secretary-General Shola Taylor at 2016 WSIS event, May 2016, Geneva.

India to resume Full Member Country status

India, a historically long-standing member country of the CTO is to resume its participation as Full Member Country, effective from 2016. Like many other Full Member Countries of the CTO, the transfer of the country's membership from its incumbent operator VSNL to the government has resulted in a lapse in the country's full participation in the CTO. Despite this, India remained active within the CTO, through the hosting of CTO's conferences and more recently through its participation in the Commonwealth's World Radiocommunication Conference preparatory meetings during 2015. In practice, resuming its Full Member Country status means that

India will make annual financial contributions to the CTO in return for privileges such as full voting rights at the Organisation's annual Council meeting. Secretary-General Shola Taylor who visited India as recently as February this year said that "*although there was reduced involvement from the Indian government within the CTO, the Organisation continued to work with Indian stakeholders, most noticeably in capacity development through operator BSNL.*"

"*We are delighted that India is able to fully resume its role within the CTO and we welcome this. At the very least, this shows how committed India is in using ICTs to boost development and assist others,*" added Mr Taylor. //

Facebook joins CTO

Online social networking group Facebook, also owners of well-known brands such as WhatsApp and Instagram, have joined the CTO as ICT Sector Member. In recent years, Facebook has participated in CTO's events and high-level workshops. "The CTO is pleased to welcome Facebook as member, and we are confident that more regular engagement with the company will add value to the entire membership of the CTO," said Lasantha De Alwis, ICT Development Director at the CTO. //

CTO lead on Commonwealth coordination in Internet governance

The next meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) will take place at the end of June in Helsinki, Finland and the CTO will, once again, coordinate Commonwealth governments' contributions to the deliberations.

The CTO convenes a meeting of Commonwealth interested parties to the ICANN Government Advisory Committee (GAC) at every ICANN meeting. The upcoming Commonwealth GAC will receive an update on the transition of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority from the US government to the international community and will also look at the year ahead for ICANN as well as discuss

how the Commonwealth can engage further with the GAC.

"*As a group that crosses traditional regional boundaries, the Commonwealth offers a unique perspective to international deliberations,*" Shola Taylor, Secretary-General of the CTO said. "*The ICANN GAC plays an important role in Internet governance, and a coordinated approach from the Commonwealth contributes greatly to that work.*"

Later this year, the CTO will further contribute to Commonwealth coordination on Internet governance when by convening the Commonwealth Open Forum at the Internet

Governance Forum (IGF) taking place in Guadalajara, Mexico.

"*The CTO is mandated to lead on ICT issues across the Commonwealth,*" Mr Taylor added. "*Coordination of Commonwealth views on Internet governance and in international treaty negotiations is critical to ensuring the CTO and ICT agencies across the Commonwealth fully play their part in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. I have made Commonwealth coordination one of the priority areas for the CTO, and I look forward to meeting with colleagues from across the Commonwealth in Helsinki as we discuss how to reach these goals.*" //

//APPLICATIONS

Technology and financial inclusion – better late than never?

One of the CTO's six strategic goals for the next four years is focused on promoting the development and use of ICT applications for socio-economic development. Undoubtedly, communication technologies have already affected positively and significantly the lives of billions of people around the world and continue to do so, making the excluded increasingly part a fast-growing global e-society.

Despite these many achievements in social inclusion, much remains to be done in other areas, including in financial inclusion. Over two billion people lack access to basic financial services, and it is puzzling to think that this is a gap decades-old readily available technology can help bridge in a scale proportionate to the

magnitude of the problem. Thankfully, this is one area the International Telecommunication Union addressed this year at its Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) where ICT and banking regulators met and discussed how technology can and should help countries reach out to the unbanked.

For the CTO, such debate on financial inclusion is well-overdue. Nevertheless, it was a start and we must now build on this growing goodwill to encourage greater engagement and collaboration between the two sectors.

Three major forthcoming events by the CTO will contribute to efforts on financial inclusion in our member countries. In September, our annual Forum to take place in Nadi, Fiji will

focus on ICTs for Inclusive Growth, working with members to explore a wide range of inclusion policies, including policies that best address the complexities of financial exclusion. In October, we will convene our members to our first ICT Investment Forum for Emerging Markets in Dubai, UAE. And in March next year, the first Commonwealth E-Applications Forum to take place in Rwanda will showcase specific policies, legal and regulatory frameworks, technical and banking applications that radically improve access to key services, including basic financial services.

For more information about these events, write to events@cto.int. //

//CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Technology essential to tackle the challenges posed by urbanisation

In the latest CTO Lecture, Carl Wright, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) examined the growing challenges posed by the growth of urban centres across the Commonwealth, and outlined the need for smart city solutions to tackle these challenges.

The CLGF is a governmental membership organisation that works to promote and strengthen democratic local government across the Commonwealth and to encourage the exchange of best practice. In 2015 they founded the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network to share knowledge and best practice among CLGF's city members. The network looks at issues such as the role of cities as engines of economic growth, and how Smart Cities will use ICTs to implement the Millennium Development Goals.

"*As urban centres continue to grow, so does the need for greater efficiency in areas such as energy, public transport and other services,*" Mr Wright said. "*Smart city solutions through better use of technology will be essential to making our cities more efficient.*"

The demands of city growth across the Commonwealth are hugely diverse and forums such as the Sustainable Cities Network can play a vital role in addressing these varied challenges. And with four billion people in the developing world remaining offline the digital divide must also be addressed in order to ensure that smart city planning does not widen inequalities and increase the marginalisation of the most vulnerable cities.

"*The CLGF provides exceptional support to local government authorities and communities in our member countries,*" said CTO Secretary-General Shola Taylor. "*They have a unique understanding of the growing social and demographic urban challenge as more rural and semi-urban populations continue to migrate to larger urban centres. Through e-government and other technology-centric solutions, ICTs provide us with opportunities to manage this change more effectively. The CTO looks forward to working with CLGF and our members to grasp these opportunities,*" he concluded.

To hear more about upcoming lectures taking place at the CTO's headquarters in London, please contact **Emma Killick** at **e.killlick@cto.int**

The Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network will hold their next meeting in London in July. For more information on this event, please contact: **info@clgf.org.uk //**

CTO deliver bespoke training in Nigeria and Cameroon

Participants at the Nigeria programme.

The CTO's Programme for Development and Training operates as a corporate membership programme and has provided technical expertise in ICTs to its members since 1985.

PDT supplier member Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) recently carried out a training course for recipient members Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) on Competition Regulation in the Telecommunications Industry. The course was designed to develop a more thorough understanding of competition policy and the role of regulatory organisations within the

telecommunications sector and was interactive and dynamic with sessions being adapted to the varying needs of participants and following feedback. "*The training has developed my competence in the evaluation of competition formulation of a competition policy and ability to support the commission in the regulation of the Industry,*" comented one participant, while another said that the course had "*excellent content and excellent presentations.*"

"*As telecommunications technology constantly evolves and progresses, those involved in the regulation of the industry must also adapt and progress,*" said Hilda

Muchando, CTO's Capacity Development Manager. "*I commend NCC for recognising this and requesting this training, and BSNL for delivering a thorough and dynamic training course.*"

Two further PDT courses, on Cloud technology and solutions and broadband pricing also took place in May at the request of Cameroon's regulator TRB. The course on Cloud technology was also attended by MTN Cameroon.

For more information on the CTO's Programme for Development and Training, please visit the website at **www.cto.int //**

//EVENTS

African delegates discuss how to achieve digital migration success

Delegates to the CTO's Digital Broadcasting Africa Forum 2016 examined the changes that have taken place in broadcasting over the last decade at the event which took place on the 11 - 13 May 2016 in Lagos, Nigeria. The event is a continuation of the successful Digital Broadcasting Switchover Forum Africa events that have taken place over the last decade and the new title for the event recognises the changes that have taken place in broadcasting during that time. "*When this event was first held in 2006, Cloud platforms and devices such as tablets and wearables were hardly known; but today, their impact on broadcasting is beginning to be felt,*" said CTO Secretary-General Shola Taylor. "*New challenges are looming, which is why the event's theme The pan-Africa transition: Achieving Digital Migration Success reflects the new targets African countries have set to achieve the digital switchover.*"

Over 200 delegates from 14 countries heard from experts and policymakers on future trends in digital broadcasting, the current state of digital migration and implementation challenges, local content creation for Africa and the spectrum implications for broadcasting of WRC-15, among other topics."*The CTO's Digital Broadcasting*

Secretary-General Shola Taylor addressing delegates at the Lagos event.

Africa Forum is an important event that's been igniting the light of digital transitions across Africa for the last ten years," said Alheri Saidu, Acting Director General of hosts, National Broadcasting Commission Nigeria. "*Digital Terrestrial Television offers the potential for more channels, greater content choice and inter-active viewing. This new landscape presents broadcasters with both challenges and opportunities and DBAF-16 has provided an important platform to discuss these.*"

The Forum was hosted by the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Information and Culture, the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Communications and Technology, the National Broadcasting Communication and the Nigerian Communications Commission; and sponsored by MTN, Verimatrix, MultiChoice, Inview and the following supporting partners; HbbTV, France 24, BBC News, StarTimes, World Digital Audio Broadcasting, Association for International Broadcasting, Southern African Digital Broadcasting Association (SADIBA), and NigComSat. //

//ANALYSIS
The value of spectrum in digital broadcasting

The demand for spectrum, the radio frequency for all wireless communications has greatly increased over the last decade due to the development of wireless mobile broadband. Spectrum is a finite resource which should be highly valued as a public good. However, the transition of TV broadcasting from analogue to digital frees up some spectrum, which provides a digital dividend. The ITU have allocated the upper portion of the television band for mobile broadband services. As countries switch to digital TV, this part of the spectrum – which is ideal for enabling mobile broadband services – can be licensed to mobile operators. The last World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) took place in Geneva in November 2015, and the outcomes of these negotiations were largely positive for mobile communications. The CTO played a leading role in these negotiations, coordinating Commonwealth positions on many agenda points. However, the conference also shone a light on the value of spectrum, and how

undervalued it has been, especially in Africa.

Spectrum is viewed as a national resource by most countries and, while it is countries' sovereign right to use spectrum as they see fit, it is the CTO's view that it must be made available on sound economic grounds first, including for the broadcasting sector. Spectrum is first and foremost a public good and every citizen in every African country should be able to benefit from its use, be it through free-to-air television content in their own home or access to mobile broadband in hard to reach areas. The challenge to using spectrum to deliver the benefits of ICTs in remote areas is far from over.

In Africa, broadcasting consumers are looking forward to joining those in Europe in accessing better image quality, better sound quality, more channels, and interactive features via free-to-air television. As TV broadcasting moves to digital, more channels and services can be offered using

less spectrum. Digital television also offers the potential for producing and broadcasting more educational, local content and set up channels for health, education, tourism, etc.

It is because of the important role spectrum has to play, not just in digital broadcasting, but also following WRC-15, that the CTO is planning a series of activities to support members in the region on spectrum valuation. A workshop on spectrum auctions will take place in South Africa on 29 August - 2 September in Johannesburg, followed by the first Commonwealth Spectrum Management Forum to take place in Yaounde on 2 to 4 November. The CTO also stand ready to assist in areas such as spectrum audits for members.

The future for digital broadcasting is bright, as is the potential for spectrum to deliver broadband to the four billion currently without access to the Internet. The CTO looks forward to working with Commonwealth countries to make this happen. //

//EVENTS

Commonwealth ministers to convene in London

CT Ministers from the Commonwealth will meet in London from 14 - 16 June 2016. The Commonwealth ICT Ministers Forum 2016 takes place from the 14 - 16 June 2016 in London, with the closed-door Ministerial meeting scheduled for the 14 June to followed by an Open Forum on 15 - 16 June.

"We are pleased to sponsor the forum and look forward to meeting the Commonwealth ICT Ministers and delegations to present our business solutions. Avanti is the leading provider of satellite connectivity for consumers, businesses and governments across EMEA. Our fleet of HYLAS satellites, and range of accompanying services, has the capability and flexibility to address any requirement, regardless of geographic location, circumstance or budget" said David Williams, Chief Executive Officer of Avanti Communications and one of the sopnsors of the event. Other sponsors include BT and the Nigerian Communications Commission.

The Commonwealth ICT Ministers Forum is a biennial forum for the ministers to meet and discuss matters of common interest, paving the way for building Commonwealth consensus. Ministers at this year's event will consider ICT regulation, broadband, cybersecurity and ICT applications. The closed-door meeting on 14 June will be followed by a drinks reception and a dinner at which the Commonwealth ICT Awards for achievements by Member Countries and Industry will be revealed.

As part of the preparations for the June event, Secretary-General Shola Taylor met in Malta on 28 May with the Honourable Dr Emmanuel Mallia, Malta's Minister for

Secretary-General Shola Taylor with the Honourable Dr Emmanuel Mallia, Malta's Minister for Competitiveness and Digital, Maritime and Services Economy, May 2016, Valetta, Malta

Secretary-General Shola Taylor with the Honourable Minister Dr Edward Kofi Omane Boamah discussing plans ahead of the London event.

Competitiveness and Digital, Maritime and Services Economy and Chair of the 2016 Commonwealth Ministers Forum. Prior to visiting Malta, Mr Taylor discussed plans for the London event with other country officials, including most recently the Honourable Dr Edward Kofi Omane Boama, Minister of

Communications of Ghana. On the 15 - 16 June an Open Forum will take place under the theme Enhancing the Commonwealth through innovative ICTs. This event provides an opportunity for the outcomes of the Ministers meeting to be shared with a wider stakeholder group and to engage in discussions with the international ICT sector on issues such as broadband, internet governance and Cybersecurity.

"The Commonwealth represents such a unique s*ubset of the world's countries, so gaining consensus on key issues relating to ICTs among Commonwealth countries can play a critically important role in fostering wider international agreement,*" said Shola Taylor, Secretary-General of the CTO.

"*I look forward to discussing crucial ICT issues with Commonwealth Ministers and sharing these outcomes with the wider ICT community.*" //

//CONSULTANCY

CTO increases cybersecurity work with members

The CTO is continuing with its ground breaking work assisting member countries with Cybersecurity and tackling cyber crime. With assistance from the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) the CTO's Technical Support & Consultancy (TS&C) is embarking on projects to assist Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique on developing their national cybersecurity strategies. "*As the world becomes more interconnected*

and dependant on the internet for business and personal use, so too does Cybersecurity become ever more important," said Lasantha De Alwis, Director of ICT Development. "*The FCO recognise that, in cybersecurity terms, we are only as strong as our weakest link. We are pleased to work with the FCO and our member countries in assisting an improved Cybersecurity posture for the international community*."

The work on Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique's Cybersecurity strategies builds on the implementation support the CTO are offering to Botswana, Cameroon, Uganda and Rwanda for their Cybersecurity strategies. The CTO are also developing projects to tackle cyber crime with Pakistan and Bangladesh and the TS&C team are also developing cyber standards as a template for all Commonwealth countries and beyond. //

//MEMBERS' NEWS

Myanmar implements Intelsat's satellite solutions to advance 2G and 3G wireless network infrastructure deployment goals

Intelsat have announced that the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MOTC) of Myanmar will use services on two Intelsat satellites to advance the deployment of the Southeast Asian country's wireless communications infrastructure and expand broadband access for businesses. The multi-year, multi-transponder agreement awarded under the authority of the MOTC will allow the Government of Myanmar to significantly enhance the Myanmar government's network as well as other mobile operators' networks, hastening the expansion of high-speed broadband and Internet connectivity to business and communities throughout Myanmar. //

Safaricom's MySafaricom app launched

Safaricom Kenya have announced the launch of a new interactive app named MySafaricom. The application is expected to enables the operator's 7.8 million smartphone users to perform a wide range of operations, including purchase of data bundles, access of information on data bundle balance, redemption and transfer of Bonga points, access to M-PESA statements and topping up other numbers. Through the app, pre-paid users can view their airtime balance in real time while post-paid users can view usage or request a detailed invoice to be sent to their own email addresses. //

BT launches security consulting offer for businesses

In early May, BT announced the launch of Cyber Roadmap Consulting, a new consultancy programme designed to give large organisations a better understanding of their own cybersecurity risks and implement measures to mitigate these. The new service leverages highly skilled consultants from BT's global security consulting team to work with customers all over the world and identify risks in existing systems and processes. //

//FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Event	Date & Location	Event Type
Commonwealth ICT Ministers Forum 2016	14 - 16 Jun 2016, London, UK	Conference
Broadband Caribbean Forum 2016	14 - 15 Jul 2016, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago	Conference
Regulatory Boards Workshop	18 - 22 Jul 2016, London, UK	Workshop
Commonwealth Spectrum Auction Workshop	29 Aug - 2 Sep 2016, Johannesburg, South Africa	Workshop
Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation Forum 2016	12 - 14 Sep 2016, Nadi, Fiji (incl. Council)	Conference
Broadband Asia Forum 2016	21 - 23 Sep 2016. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Conference
Commonwealth Spectrum Management Conference 2016	2 - 4 Nov 2016, Yaounde, Cameroon	Conference
Commonwealth Human Resources and ICTs Forum 2016	21 - 22 Nov 2016, Kingston, Jamaica	Conference
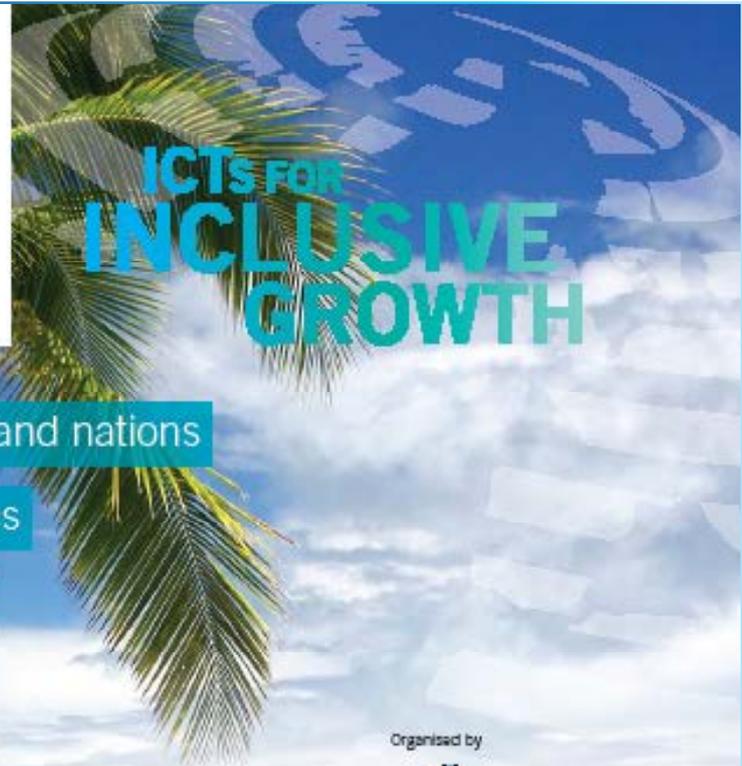
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