

e-COMMONWEALTH

A NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMONWEALTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORGANISATION

//MARCH 2019



// CTO PARTICIPATES
IN ICANN 64
COMMONWEALTH GAC
MEETING

// BANGLADESH SIGNS HOST
AGREEMENT FOR CTO FORUM
2019

// CTO WORKS CLOSELY
WITH MALAWI AND
ESWATINI



Gisa Fuatai Purcell, Acting-Secretary General of the CTO meeting the Honourable Minister Mustafa Jabar, Minister of Post, Telecommunication and Information Technology Bangladesh.



COMMONWEALTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
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//EDITORIAL



Gisa Fuatai Purcell
Acting Secretary-General

Dear Readers,

I write this at the end of a busy and successful month for the CTO where we have made much progress in coordinating ICT development across the Commonwealth. I was pleased to be invited to ICANN 64 in Japan earlier this month and participated in the Commonwealth GAC meeting and listened to the leaders of the Commonwealth so we can then take the lead to deliver their needs and wants. The meeting was very successful and I look forward to liaising with our members further on issues raised at ICANN.

The first Commonwealth ICT Roundtable of 2019 will be held in London first week of April and we encourage all our members to participate in this exclusive roundtable and gain knowledge from leaders of ICTs. This is an amazing opportunity for all senior level board members to engage with other CTO members and network for knowledge sharing.

The CTO is also pleased to sign an agreement with the Bangladeshi government to host the next Commonwealth ICT Forum 2019 in Dhaka in October alongside the CTO Council meeting. This is CTO's largest event and the networking and knowledge gaining opportunities that our members can gain from are parallel to none. I was pleased to meet the Honourable Minister Mustafa Jabar, Minister of Post, Telecommunication and Information Technology Bangladesh as well along side Muhammad Jahurul Haque, Chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

We have also been busy with capacity and development and are offering two new courses in Kenya to our PDT members on artificial intelligence and Big Data.

We look forward to seeing all our members in our next upcoming events. //

CTO participates in ICANN 64 Commonwealth GAC Meeting 2019



ICANN meetings are held three times each year in different regions to enable attendees from around the world to participate. ICANN meetings provide an opportunity for face-to-face discussions and airing of opinions for a stable and secure operation of the Domain Name System (DNS). They are often preceded by workshops and working sessions led by volunteer members of ICANN's supporting organisations and advisory committees. These meetings include ICANN's Government Advisory Committee meetings which provide advice on public policy aspects of ICANN's responsibilities with regard to the DNS. The Commonwealth GAC (C-GAC) meeting have helped secure greater Commonwealth participation within the GAC framework and identify key member needs, including capacity development. C-GACs were also essential in successfully securing the UK candidacy as one of five GAC vice-presidents.

The CTO lead and participated in the Commonwealth GAC meeting held in Kobe Japan on 14 March 2019. Representing the CTO was Acting Secretary-General Gisa Fuatai Purcell who lead discussions on the current issues including:

- GDPR and WHOIS
- Geographic names
- gTLD Subsequent Process work
- Draft ICANN Strategic Plan

Discussion on Commonwealth Coordination meeting at CPM in Geneva and preparations for WRC-19 was looked at and how the CTO will be aiding the Commonwealth to take these issues further. Also discussed were 2019 Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) held in Geneva, coordination meeting chaired by Ghana (NCA) and UK (Ofcom), the CTO

collaboration with ITU to start offering spectrum management training programme to the commonwealth countries, and the Commonwealth participation at MWC Barcelona (formerly Mobile World Congress).

Ms Purcell also discussed the CTO Development Assistance Projects for 2019, where the CTO continues to offer technical assistance in collaboration with other development partners to Commonwealth member countries and beyond. There were further discussions and updates on Commonwealth Coordination at the ITU, that were discussed by Paul Blaker, DCMS, United Kingdom.

There were open discussions led by the Chair about matters currently engaging the Commonwealth countries. Some of the points raised included:

- How can capacity building be more effective?
- For smaller GAC representatives, public policy would include a strong focus on economic growth.
- There is a need to look at the impact of cybersecurity in relation to WHOIS.
- There is a need for greater understanding of data protection and GDPR
- There can be a section on the GAC website for commonwealth matters, whereby documents can be uploaded and communication can be exchanged
- There is a need for greater efforts in avoiding duplication in capacity building. The appointment of a point of contact at the national level can help solve this. //

//CTO FORUM 2019



As we enter the age of all-IP networks, IoT, Cloud computing, Big Data, immersive and machine-to-machine technologies and always-on mobile broadband, new economic opportunities are emerging. But not for everyone. With half of the world's population yet to use the Internet, many are facing further economic and social exclusion, making the need for universal access to the Internet more pressing.

Indeed, while liberalisation and privatisation proved critical instruments in the promotion of access to ICTs over the past two decades, current policy and regulatory models are becoming increasingly inadequate for the emerging technological and market trends that bring with them opportunities as well as threats for existing universal

access funding models and national digital economies.

Turning nations into competitive digital nations is one of our biggest challenges for which Commonwealth ICT policymakers, regulators, industry executives and opinion formers will be meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh In September 2019.

Key discussions will include:

- The digital future
- Universal broadband
- ICT applications
- Regulating virtual environments
- The digital economy
- Machine-to-machine communications
- Security and privacy
- Data protection in the Cloud age
- Investment gaps

The CTO have agreed arrangements for the hosting of the Forum and Council meeting under the theme *Towards a digital Commonwealth*. BTRC have requested that the Forum have a new title *Commonwealth ICT and Telecommunications Forum 2019*.

Gisa Fuatai Purcel, Acting Secretary-general of the CTO met with Minister Mustafa Jabar, Minister of Post, Telecommunication and Information Technology Bangladesh. He expressed delight in the choice of theme as it mirrors the Digital Bangladesh and Vision 2021 that the Bangladeshi government are working towards and an approach that he is particularly passionate about. BTRC confirmed that they wish to hold the 59th CTO Council meeting scheduled for the 3 – 4 October 2019.

For more information about, sponsorships, exhibitions and tickets to the CTO Forum 2019 please contact events@cto.int//

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL DHAKA



We are also pleased to confirm that the Intercontinental Hotel, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka, C 1000 Dhaka will be the location for the Forum and Council meeting. The hotel is the country's oldest five star hotel and a historical landmark for the city. InterContinental Dhaka started its journey in 1966 in Shahbagh on 4.5 acres of land. Sheraton took over for the hotel's management in 1987. In 2011, the hotel came to be known as 'Ruposhi Bangla' after Sheraton stopped operations and Bangladesh Services Limited (BSL)

under Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism took over the administration. Later, the InterContinental signed a 30-year lease deal with the government before starting to renovate the building. The renovation was done impeccably and completed in 2018. For the last five decades, the five-star hotel has been known by many names such as 'InterContinental Dhaka', 'Hotel Sheraton' and 'Ruposhi Bangla'. After almost 30 years, InterContinental has again been reinstated as the official name.



Gisa Fuatai Purcel, Acting-Secretary General of the CTO meeting the Honourable Minister Mustafa Jabar, Minister of Post, Telecommunication and Information Technology Bangladesh.



Gisa Fuatai Purcel, Acting-Secretary General of the CTO meeting the Muhammad Jahurul Haque, Chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

//RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

First 2019 ICT Round Table scheduled for April



The Commonwealth ICT Round Table is a high-level programme designed to provide senior ICT policy and decision-makers with an understanding of the major trends in ICTs and the emerging opportunities for social and economic development, as well as the most pressing and long-term challenges in the sector.

The first round table of 2019 will take place in London on 1 - 4 April 2019 and will combine sessions led by well-established experts in their respective fields with face-to-

face meetings with private-sector executives and visits to key ICT institutions in London.

Session topics confirmed so far include:

- Overview of ICT policy, regulation and operations
- Economic regulation
- Spectrum and the digital dividend
- Social media and regulation
- Influencing global decisions on ICTs
- Cyberspace and cybersecurity
- Consumer protection
- Universal service

"The CTO has developed this round table series to provide an unrivalled knowledge-building and experience-sharing opportunity for senior decision makers in policy making, regulation and operating to assist them find their way round the ICT landscape" said Gisa Futai Purcell, Acting Secretary-General of the CTO.

For more information, or to register, please write to programmes@cto.int

//CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

CTO to train CAK Kenya on Artificial Intelligence and Big Data

The Programme for Development training department of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation will be holding two courses in April to train Communication Authority Kenya staff on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data.

The first course on AI will take place on 1 - 3 April 2019 in Nairobi at the CAK headquarters. Artificial intelligence (AI) is the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems. The 3-day course explores AI and its applications in functional, non-technical terms. The objective of the course is:

- Be familiar with the fundamental concepts Artificial Intelligence;
- Be competent in recognizing challenges faced by applications enabling AI

- Be able to describe scalable solutions for them; and
- Understand how AI can impact business intelligence.
- Know the enabling technologies to AI
- Be aware of the regulatory impact of AI.

The second course to take place in Kenya will be on Big Data and training will commence on 4 - 10 of April 2019 in Nairobi. The importance of big data doesn't revolve around how much data there is, but what can be done with it.

Data can be taken from any source and can be analyzed to find answers that enable 1) cost reductions, 2) time reductions, 3) new product development and optimized offerings, and 4) smart decision making.

At the end of this course, participants will

- Be familiar with the fundamental concepts

of Big Data management and analytics;

- Be competent in recognizing challenges faced by applications dealing with very large volumes of data
- Be able to describe scalable solutions for them; and
- Understand how Big Data impacts business intelligence, corporate .
- Understand the need for Integration of Big Data components to create an appropriate Data Lake
- Be able to select the correct Big Data stores for disparate data sets
- Be able to plan a Big Data project and strategy for the organization.

For more information about PDT courses please email us at programmes@cto.int

//TECHNICAL SUPPORT & CONSULTANCY

CTO presents final strategic and business plan to Eswatini

The Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation went on a the 4th project mission to Eswatini, to present the final deliverables to Eswatini Post & Telecommunications Corporation (EPTC) for the development of the Strategic and Business Plan for EPTC. Dr Martin Koyabe, Manger Technical Support and Consultancy met and engaged with key ICT stakeholders in Eswatini and discussed both on-going and upcoming CTO activities in the country.

Dr Martin met with Petros Dhlamini,

Managing Director of EPTC and Vusi Magagula, Project Manager, EPTC and discussed high-level expectations from the EPTC project. The EPTC was pleased with the progress made by the CTO with respect to the project deliverables and quality of the work. EPTC will review and comment on the final draft deliverables that have been submitted by the CTO to ensure better understanding and ownership of the outputs.

Petros Dhlamini, Managing Director of EPTC emphasised that the government of

Eswatini is focused towards achieving the digital agenda vision for the country and they are keen to implement the strategy as soon as possible, and the CTO is encouraged to bid when the call is announced.

The CTO was also requested to revise the executive summary deliverable and included relevant pillars for the strategy and relevant benchmarking examples, from similar case studies that the CTO have previously has successful results from.



On the 20 March Dr Koyabe also met with ESCCOM Executive Committee (ExCo) members Lindiwe Dlamini and Lindiwe Malaza. The meeting discussed Eswatini and ESCCOM membership to the CTO and PDT respectively and the discussion also covered updates from the CTO on various on-going activities being conducted by the secretariat.

In Summary the CTO and ESCCOM

discussed on improving and expanding the portfolio of courses of the PDT, The need to harmonise the Southern Africa Region PDT membership, in terms of collaboration and partnerships and how that can be taken forward in the new financial year. They also want the CTO to engage and involve their members more with day to day activities and member needs. The CTO agreed to

have regular conference calls with members to address any concerns or needs they would have to improve the work of the CTO. The CTO has also invited ESCCOM to key CTO meetings/conferences including the upcoming Spectrum Forum 2019 to get their input and high-level delegation to attend and participate in the conference. //

Upcoming events

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
Commonwealth Spectrum Management Forum 2017	19 – 21 June 2019	London, UK
Commonwealth Broadband Forum'19	30 July – 2 August 2019	Sierra Leone
Commonwealth ICT and Telecommunications Forum '19	30 September – 2 October 2019	Dhaka, Bangladesh
Commonwealth Data Forum '19	12-14 November 2019	TBC
Commonwealth Data Forum 2017	Commonwealth HR & ICT Forum'20	Botswana

For more information on events, contact us at events@cto.int//

//EVENTS

The CTO assists Malawi with their Universal Service Funds



MW-PPPC with the CTO: Isaac Chimutu, Chimwemwe Matemba, Daniel Masiye, Clemence Mvonye, Mirriam Kasiya, CTO - Martin Koyabe, Ryan Kilpatrick, Rex Wonga

The research and consultancy division of the CTO was involved in another mission this month in Africa. Dr Martin Koyabe, Manager - Technical Support and Consultancy met with the Malawi Public Private Partnership Commission (MW-PPPC) on 21 - 22 March 2019 for a contract negotiation meeting with their board members and directors.

The CTO presented its vision, objectives,

approach and methodology it intends to adopt in assisting Malawi to establish a Universal Service Fund (USF) by implementing strategies and best use and practices the CTO can assist them with. Malawi was pleased that the CTO is keen to go ahead with the negotiation, which is funded by the World Bank and expects the contract to be signed by 4 April of 2019 next month.

The CTO discussed with the board members who will be the project lead for the project. In conclusion the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) will be the lead agency in Malawi for the project.

For more information about research and consultancy please e-mail us at consultancy@cto.int.

//MEMBER NEWS

Huawei releases its 2018 Annual Report

Huawei released its 2018 Annual Report end of March. According to the report, the company maintained strong business growth in 2018. Its sales revenue rounded off at CNY721.2 billion, up 19.5% year-on-year; its net profit reached CNY59.3 billion, up 25.1% year-on-year.

In 2018, Huawei invested CNY101.5 billion (14.1% of its sales revenue) in R&D, ranking fifth globally in The 2018 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard. Over the last ten years, Huawei's R&D expenditure has reached more than CNY480 billion. According to official data released by the World Intellectual Property

Organization (WIPO), Huawei filed 5,405 patent applications to this organization in 2018, ranking first among all companies globally.

At the release of its annual report, Guo Ping, Huawei's Rotating Chairman, said, "Information communications technology is rapidly working its way into every industry. This has triggered a digital, intelligent transformation – the driving force behind our digital economy. Through heavy, consistent investment in 5G innovation, alongside large-scale commercial deployment, Huawei is committed to building the world's best network connections."

SES Reach Grows to 355 Million Homes Worldwide

SES strengthens its position as the world's leading video distributor via satellite as the number of TV households it serves increased by more than 4 million to over 355 million in 2018.

The results from the SES's annual market research highlighted further growth in SES's technical reach and underlined the important role of satellite in delivering video to large

audiences directly and indirectly in a reliable and cost-effective manner.

The results showed an increase in SES's technical reach in Europe, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, and Africa. In Africa, this included the addition of Kenya to the survey where more than 2 million TV homes across the country rely on SES for their TV content."

Vodafone deploys 4G+ and pre-5G mobile network in Fiji

Mobile network operator Vodafone Fiji has announced that it has upgraded its infrastructure with 4G+ and pre-5G technology as part of continuing efforts to bridge the digital divide in the country – in particular north Fiji.

The US \$ 98.6 million upgrade programme will keep pace with demand for data from users, which has grown from 10TB to 400TB in the last two years. Further, the celco confirmed that upon completion roughly 50% of Fijians will be able to access a pre-5G service after the upgrade.

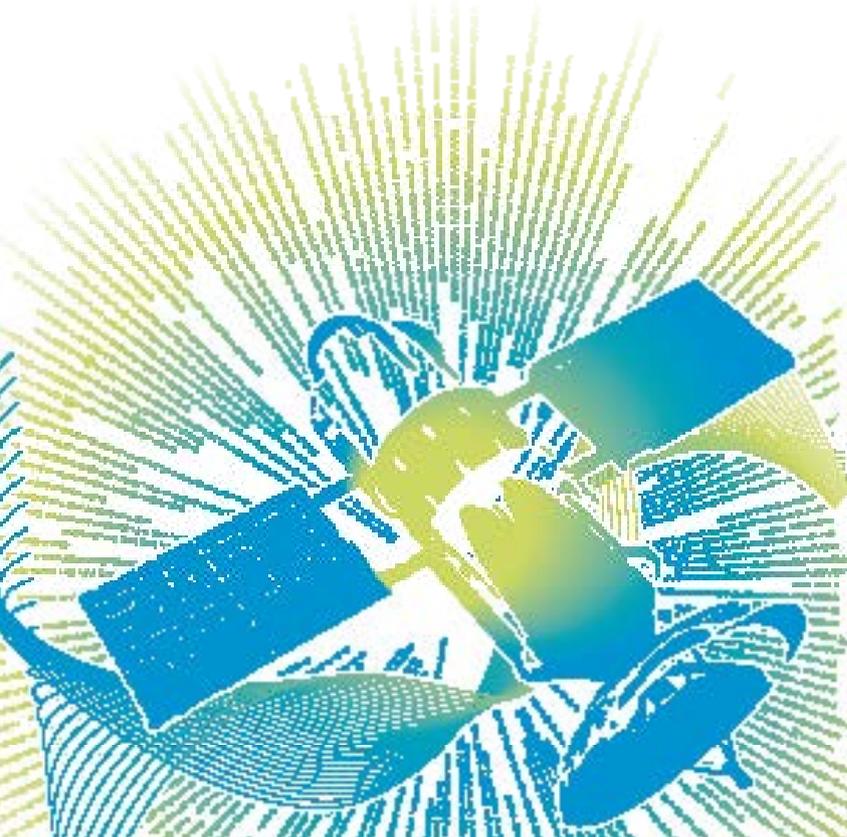
Vodafone Fiji also announced that as a further strand of the investment, it will complete the Savusavu Submarine Fibre Project which will enable high speed internet connection to Vanua Levu.

'Whilst the landing station is Savusavu, Vodafone is setting up a high capacity transmission link between Savusavu to Labasa to bring high speed internet services to Labasa and the rest of Vanua Levu,' Mr Lal confirmed."

commonwealth

Spectrum Management'19

19 - 21 JUNE 2019, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM



Policy and regulatory strategy

Spectrum harmonisation

Connectivity applications

Technology and Innovation

Commercial opportunities

Implementation and deployment

Preparing for WRC-19

Committed to helping its member achieve universal broadband access, the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) has, over the past couple of years, organised and presented the "Commonwealth Spectrum Management Forum" to bring together policy-makers, regulators, service providers and solutions providers as well as governmental organisations and civil society to network and share latest market innovations, solutions, technologies and strategies.

Why attend

- Listen to insightful keynotes from thought-leaders and innovators
- Gather information about new markets, competitors, legislation, policies and opportunities
- Learn 'best practices' to effectively develop cybersecurity initiatives
- Discover new technologies which help improve the way you do your business
- Gain practical advice from experts in the sector
- Build long-lasting and meaningful relationships with prospective clients, partners and suppliers
- Meet policy makers and government officials who aren't usually available for meetings
- Benchmark yourself against leaders in your industry
- Develop innovative ways to improve your organisation's performance

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