

e-COMMONWEALTH

A NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMONWEALTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORGANISATION

//SEPTEMBER 2018

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SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT
FORUM 2018

// CTO PARTICIPATES IN
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2018

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COMMONWEALTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ORGANISATION

//EDITORIAL



Gisa Fuatai Purcell
Acting Secretary-General

Dear Readers,

I write this editorial at the end of a busy and successful time for the CTO where we have made much progress in coordinating ICT development across the Commonwealth. During this month the CTO held a Spectrum forum was hosted by the Government of Mauritius. Thank you Mauritius for the excellent manner in which you welcomed participants from the Commonwealth and speakers from around. Everyone had a good time during the forum and shared knowledge in all aspects of Spectrum. It was agreed that the CTO should prepare a paper for the WRC-19 of spectrum commonalities within the 4 regions where the Commonwealth countries are. The CTO has been working hard in preparation of the ICT Forum and Council meeting that will be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in 1-5 October 2018.

During this month also, the CTO was represented by myself and Dr. Martin Koyabe speaking in various sessions and organised a Commonwealth Coordination meeting at the ITU Telecom World, Durban 10-13 September 2018. Bilateral meetings were held including meetings with non-Commonwealth countries enticing them to become CTO members.

Our vision for a digital transformation for development was delivered to the international ICT community at the Telecom World 2018, where I was sure to emphasise the importance of recent developments on the debate on digital skills and lifelong learning and present concrete case studies on projects and activities that have been implemented in Commonwealth members to address the emerging skills gap.

Our partnerships in training and consultancy have continued this month as our technical support team works to assist national governments in the Commonwealth and beyond, develop robust cybersecurity strategies and critical information infrastructure protection. We are also proud to open our fellowship programme to our member countries, and encourage them to apply for the CTO fellowship by the end of October 2018 where fellows have the chance to learn from tailored programmes in the field of ICT4d. I am energised by the successes of this month and excited about working with my team and members to deliver on the plans for the coming year. I hope to take you all in this journey with us.//

commonwealth Spectrum Management'18

5 - 7 SEPTEMBER 2018, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS

The CTO undertakes greater efforts in resolving access accessibility and affordability on spectrum issues

Honourable Yogida Sawmynaden, Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation, Republic of Mauritius, and Gisa Fuatai Purcell, Acting secretary-general of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO), led calls on bridging the digital divide by providing an enabling environment for telecommunication networks providing broadband access throughout the Commonwealth and beyond on the opening day of the Commonwealth Spectrum Management Forum'18 which took place in Mauritius on 4 - 6 October 2018, hosted by the Ministry of Technology Communication and Innovation and the Information and Communication Technologies Authority of Mauritius, under the theme The Resolving access accessibility and affordability: the dynamic spectrum challenge

The event is convened to enable international bodies, policymakers, telecoms regulators and experts from across the Commonwealth to come together and share

experiences in spectrum management.

"Given that our spectrum is, in fact, the core resource for provision of Internet and digital services, it is imperative that it is managed as rationally and scientifically as possible." Said Honourable Yogida

Sawmynaden.

"Harmonizing the use of spectrum for mass applications will require global coordination to adequately treat legacy issues, in order to facilitate the migration of networks using obsolete technologies towards new, harmonized frequency plans. This aspect will also need to be integrated to the studies at regional level and in the ITU-R study

groups to ensure global consensus on these frequency plans", said Joaquin Restrepo, Chief of Outreach and Publication Services Division, ITU.

"The CTO is mandated to coordinate ICT activities across the Commonwealth," Ms Gisa Fuatai Purcell said in the opening ceremony. "As leaders, we know the world is moving towards Internet of Things or IOT and Artificial Intelligence among others, which is powered largely by 5G technology,





Participants at the Commonwealth Spectrum Management Forum 2018.

and therefore we need to think clearly about making decisions that will improve the revenue of government which can be used for moving countries towards the future.”

Speakers and delegates agreed on the need for collaboration in the following areas:

- International processes - the guidance offered by the ITU in the form of the WRC and radio regulations assists nations in their spectrum management efforts and likewise benefits from the inputs of national, regional and pan-Commonwealth views.
- Spectrum sharing - new technologies offer increasing opportunities for efficient spectrum sharing leading to more efficient use of spectrum.
- Best practices - with much good work on spectrum management taking place throughout the international community, countries will benefit from a collaborative platform to share effective techniques.
- Cross-industry - companies should work together within and across sectors to ensure the benefits of the digital society offered by current and future technologies are accessible to all. //



Gisa Futai Purcell, Acting Secretary-General CTO at the opening ceremony/

//CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Commonwealth Data Forum Europe 2019

The CTO is pleased to announce the upcoming 2nd Annual conference series on data.

With Big Data playing an increasingly important role in development, government and national security; data roaming essential to gain the benefits of ICT applications and IoT; open data

enabling technological innovation and data privacy a key issue in security discussions, how to manage data is a vital discussion for today's regulators and policymakers.

The Commonwealth Data Forum'19 will aid these discussions when it take place early next year in 2019.//



//RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

CTO participants in ITU Telecom World 2018



Taking part in a high-level discussion on “lifelong learning and skills development in the digital era”, Acting Secretary-General Gisa Fuatai Purcell highlighted critical factors that must be considered by governments and policymakers to extend for the development of ICT skills in the Commonwealth and beyond.

The panel discussed the emerging technology trends related to the digital

transformation, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, IoT, and big data analytics, that have profound implications for skills required for the evolving digital economy. The notion of how lifelong learning has emerged as one of the key strategies for job security and employment in the digital era was looked at and discussions around ways the CTO is empowering Members to develop these skill sets within their countries

was discussed.

Conversations on how educational institutions and training providers can address these skills gaps were raised. The CTO provided an overview of recent developments on the debate on digital skills and lifelong learning and present concrete case studies on projects and activities that have been implemented to members to address the emerging skills gap.//



//ITU ELECTIONS

Candidates for ITU Election 2018



Malcolm Johnson is running for a second term as deputy secretary-general of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). *"My vision for the ITU is to play an*

integrated part in having an interconnected world where ICTs underpin social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth to provide fairer and more empowered information society for all", said Mr Johnson. Working alongside ITU's vision he is committed to connecting the unconnected which will create high-impact entrepreneurship and socio-economic growth. With the ITU he wants to deliver affordable and readily available access to broadband networks to ensure the necessary scaling up of key areas such as e-learning, e-health and mobile financial services. Malcolm wants to collaborate, cooperate and coordinate, further within the ITU family and with other UN agencies and standards development organisations to improve the work the ITU does globally.



Dr Cosmas Zavazava, the Zimbabwean candidate is running for position of director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the ITU.

Dr Zavazava wants to ensure that the BDT contributes to connecting all the world's people and fosters equitable and affordable access to ICTs if elected, and help all countries to achieve social, economic, and

environmental sustainability. He will ensure that the BDT is accountable, transparent, efficient, adaptable, and responsive to the needs of the member states.

With more than 30 years of experience as a telecommunications/ICT practitioner, he has been with the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the ITU for seventeen years.



Simon Bugaba, the candidate for Radio Regulation Board from Uganda is an expert with intensive knowledge in spectrum management and ICT Regulation. He is committed to further

streamlining radio regulation and enhancing strategic partnerships among ITU Member States and private sector. Mr Bugaba's wealth of experience and expertise of over three decades in the ITU's business, operations and discussions has positioned him as an expert opinion leader on ICT matters from the Africa region.



Samuel Mchunu has more than 20 years experience in radio-communications and telecoms sector. He is currently employed by the Independent

Communications Authority of South Africa Regulatory Authority, as a Manager responsible for radiocommunications. His vision if chosen as a member of the radio regulations board ITU would be to evaluate the Rules of Procedure, which complement the Radio Regulations, to ensure that they are

adequate in addressing current and future challenges on the application of the Radio Regulations.



Mr William Ijeh is the Nigerian candidate running for position of Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT). He is committed to global ICT

innovation and investment that is fully integrated with strategic planning for the Sustainable Development Goals. To achieve them, he states that the BDT must be at the service of all the ITU's members and partners, with a governance framework of consultation, transparency and accountability, so that all can move forward together, and no country is left behind. Central to this ambition he will be fostering public-private partnerships to make affordable broadband services available to all people. If chosen, Mr Ijeh's record of fiscal responsibility, effective resource mobilization and co-operation with partners will reinforce the BDT's ability to meet these global challenges. In his current position, Mr Ijeh has delivered innovation and enhanced operational capability within tight financial constraints, managing a budget reduction of more than 30% at the same time as increasing the ITU's core languages from three to six.

The following are Commonwealth Candidates for ITU Council:

- Bahamas
- Canada
- Cameroon
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Rwanda
- South Africa
- Uganda //

//CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Third 2018 ICT Round Table scheduled for October 2018



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 third round table of 2018 will take place in London on 22 - 26 October 2018 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//

CTO VACANCIES

Senior Events Officer

Closing date: 25 October 2018

Manager Capacity Development

Closing date: 15 October 2018

Senior Programme Officer – Cybersecurity and Global ICT Agenda Coordination

Closing date: 25 October 2018

For full details on job openings and applications please visit our website at:

<https://cto.int/about-the-cto/working-with-us/current-vacancies/>

Please download the application form and job description to apply.



CTO Fellowship Programme 2019

The CTO offers an opportunity for suitably qualified professionals to benefit from the experience of working in an international organisation, whilst also contributing significantly to our work in supporting the delivery of effective ICT4D interventions across the Commonwealth.

The CTO been supported by the Commonwealth Professional Fellowship scheme since 2004 in providing placements for Fellows with tailored programmes in the field of ICT4D. These Fellowships have been specifically designed to benefit the Fellows, their organisations and ultimately their home countries. The call for fellowships for 2019 is now open and the CTO would like to reach out to their Member Counties and encourage them to apply by October 2019.

Fellowships are typically three months but can be between one and six months

in length, and can include limited time for attendance at short courses or conferences, as well as visits to other organisations. More information about the scheme is available at Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom.

The CTO will design bespoke work

programmes and calls for applications where Each programme is structured around a focused area of ICT4D. Selected Fellows work at the CTO's headquarters in London on the work programmes under the supervision of



CTO staff, and they also have an opportunity to engage with other organisations and experts in the chosen field. The intended outcome is that the Fellows will be able to implement the experiences gained during the Fellowship on their return to their home countries, thereby contributing significantly to their countries' development.//

//MEMBER NEWS

Digicel targets nationwide T&T LTE coverage by November

Digicel Trinidad and Tobago, which launched its long-awaited LTE network in July expects to achieve a nationwide 4G footprint by November. Newly appointed CEO Jabbar Kayumov said that the cellco seeks to deploy 100 additional cell sites over the next 45 days, complementing its 300 existing LTE base stations.

Digicel's Trinidadian unit is outperforming its more established rivals in terms of 4G uptake. In a recent presentation to investors, however, Irish-owned Digicel Group noted that only 4% of its customer base is using

LTE networks, despite the company having invested heavily in its deployment. Digicel added that, in markets where it does have a 4G network, only 56% of customers are using smartphones and only one-third of those are 4G-enabled. Digicel is committed to revamping its data packages to drive uptake. Panama – another 2018 LTE launch market – was named as a market where Digicel has experienced some success, claiming 10% LTE penetration since the service's introduction in June. //

AirtelTigo begins network upgrade in Western, Central, Greater Accra regions

AirtelTigo, Ghana's third largest mobile network operator (MNO) by subscribers, has announced that it has initiated network integration and upgrades in the Western, Central and Greater Accra regions of the country, with the work set to be completed next month. The network consolidation comes after completed upgrades already carried out in the Northern, Upper East, Upper West, Brong Ahafo, Ashanti, Eastern and Volta regions. //



Kenya unveils new framework for QoS assessment

The Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) has launched a new system to measure the quality of service (QoS) provided to consumers on mobile networks. The new Quality of Service Monitoring System (QSMS) is based on three key components: network performance, customer experience and end-to-end performance that analyses the rate of dropped calls, call connection time and voice/data quality.

The CA has also broadened the services under assessment to include SMS and mobile internet services. Under the previous system, only voice call quality was measured on eight indicators, including call success rate, call drop rate and completed calls.

Wireless operators are now required to



submit raw data on their network performance on an hourly basis to the CA, which will also incorporate the findings of its annual customer satisfaction surveys in the final QoS report. The new framework, which was operationalised on 1 July 2018, is expected to be fully adopted over three years.

Once the framework is fully in place, the end-to-end QoS measure will account for 60% of the score awarded to operators, while network performance and customer experience will account for 25% and 15%, respectively. Operators will have to score an overall 80% to meet the standards and avoid penalties. //

Pakistan Federal IT Minister promotes entrepreneurship

The Federal Minister of Information and Technology and Telecom, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, visited The Nest I/O, P@SHA's Tech Incubator to discuss the needs of the startup ecosystem. The highlight of the meeting was the discussion on how the Pakistani Government, the startup ecosystem and the broader IT industry could come together to solve commonplace problems through the use of cutting-edge technology. Jehan Ara, President P@SHA and Founder of The Nest I/O, briefed them about the work The Nest I/O has been doing for the past 4 years to promote entrepreneurship in Pakistan.

Khalid Siddiqui enquired about the challenges that startups face and what steps could be taken by the Ministry of IT to improve on the ease of doing business for the IT sector as a whole. The Minister was informed that some major issues that needed to be tackled were the establishment of a one-window operation, the development of Software Technology parks and Special Economic Zones, effective online payment systems and focused training on high tech skills.

Following his first official interaction with young technologists, the Minister said, *"It is heartening to see young entrepreneurs pursuing their dreams with such passion and vigour. I am thoroughly impressed by the calibre of startups and I have high hopes for their trajectory. I personally believe that closer collaboration of the Government with the brilliant minds in IT will drive economic growth and development."* The meeting is a great step forward for Pakistan's IT sector as it could potentially lead to collaboration between the government and the IT community to enable affordable housing, better governance, improvements in education delivery and more inclusive healthcare.

"It was good to see the Minister take such an active interest in the local startup ecosystem and the growing tech community. Pakistan has an abundance of talented entrepreneurs who have the potential to improve the livelihood of millions through technology", commented Jehan Ara. She further added that *"We at The Nest I/O strive to support the startup ecosystem and hope more government bodies will join this initiative to make Pakistan a more attractive place for entrepreneurs". //*