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(ITU) للاتصالات الدولي الاتحاد في والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم أجراه الضوئي بالمسح تصوير نتاج (PDF) الإلكترونية النسخة هذه والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم في المتوفرة الوثائق ضمن أصلية ورقية وثيقة من نقلاً.

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ITU leads first World Information Society Day celebrations

One of the many results of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was a call for the United Nations to declare 17 May as World Information Society Day.



The intention is to focus global attention every year on "the possibilities that the use of the internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide." The date was selected in recognition of ITU's central role in this mission; 17 May is the anniversary of the founding of ITU in 1865. Geneva was the venue for a cluster of activities to mark the occasion during the period 9–19 May 2006. Among them were an ITU-UNESCO Global Symposium on the Multilingual Internet (see pages 12–14), and the presentation of a new, ITU World Information Society Award.

Outstanding individuals recognized for their achievements

In marking the first World Information Society Day on 17 May, ITU Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi presented the first-ever *ITU World Information Society Award* to two outstanding individuals who have furthered the cause of building a more inclusive and equitable

information society: President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal and Professor Muhammad Yunus, Managing Director of Grameen Bank, Bangladesh (see pages 4–10).

Mr Utsumi said that the purpose of the *ITU World Information Society Award* "is to accord the highest recog-

nition to those who have used their creativity and resources to harness the enormous potential of ICT, so that millions of people can achieve their development goals." A message from United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan congratulated the laureates and said "Let us all... be inspired by their example and reiterate our pledge to connect the unconnected, build a free and safe information society, and thereby spur development for all the world's people." The message was read on his behalf by Sergei Ordzhonikidze, the Director General of the United Nations Office in Geneva.

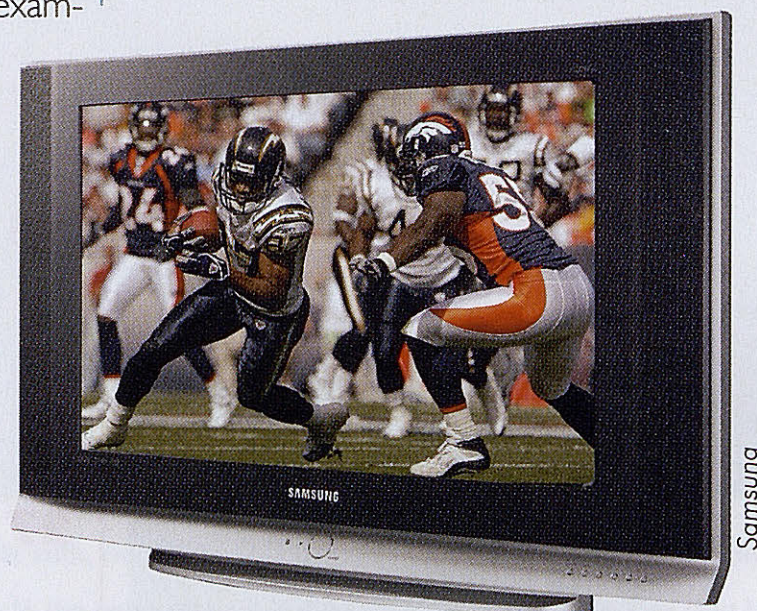
In addition, a message from the President of Switzerland Moritz Leuenberger was presented by the Director of the Federal Office for Communications Marc Furrer, and Tunisia's Minister of Communications Technologies, Montassar Ouaili, read a message from his country's President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Switzerland and Tunisia

hosted the two phases of WSIS, in Geneva in 2003 and Tunis in 2005.

Radiocommunication Conference focuses on all-digital television broadcasting

The ITU Regional Radiocommunication Conference (RRC-06) meeting in Geneva on 15 May – 16 June 2006 is undertaking intensive work to help introduce "all-digital" terrestrial broadcasting for radio and television in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Islamic Republic of Iran. A regional agreement for the digital service, planned in the frequency bands 174–230 MHz and 470–862 MHz, should be reached at the end of the conference.

Digital broadcasting is roughly six times more efficient than analogue, allowing more channels to be carried across less bandwidth. This will lead to a "digital dividend" that will open the way for wireless innovations and new services. Conference Chairman Kavouss Arasteh, of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said the overall objective of RRC-06 must be to meet current broadcasting requirements



Digital broadcasting is more efficient than analogue, allowing more channels to be carried across less bandwidth

while gaining the maximum flexibility for using this "dividend" in line with technological and commercial developments. ■