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Message from the Secretary-General of the ITU



13th World Telecommunication Day

“Telecommunications and health”: the theme of the 13th World Telecommunication Day highlights the importance attached by the countries Members of the International Telecommunication Union to the use of modern communication facilities to preserve one of our most precious possessions—health.

Telecommunications are indispensable to modern medical services. The services of a doctor or first aid information can be promptly obtained by anyone with a telephone at home or with access to a public telephone booth. The doctor can telephone a diagnosis or transmit to remote specialized centres the information needed to give medical advice.

The life of a sick or injured person isolated in the bush can be saved by means of an ordinary portable transceiver which can call an ambulance plane or helicopter. Telecommunication equipment also offers a means of treating sick or injured sailors on board ships far out at sea.

Thanks to sound or television broadcasting, specialists can inform the population about health care or, if necessary, the action to be taken in the event of an epidemic or endemic disease. The development of telecommunications in any country or region thus extends the facilities available to the medical and public health authorities and contributes to the improvement of sanitary conditions—and hence living conditions—throughout the world.

It is for these reasons that the World Health Organization—the WHO—is associating itself with the ITU in the celebration of the 13th World Telecommunication Day.

M. MILI