

FIFTY YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT STANDARDS



A short history of ITU-T (1956-2006)

The International Telegraph Union was founded in 1865 by twenty States: Austria, The Netherlands, Baden, Portugal, Bavaria, Prussia, Belgium, Russia, Denmark, Saxony, France, Spain, Greece, Sweden-Norway, Hamburg, Switzerland, Hanover, Turkey, Italy and Württemberg.

In 1924, in Paris, the CCIF (International Telephone Consultative Committee) was created followed in 1925 by the CCIT (International Telegraph Consultative Committee).

At ITU's Plenipotentiary Conference held in Madrid in 1932 the International Telegraph Union changed its name to the **International Telecommunication Union** and in 1947, after World War II, the ITU became the United Nations' specialized agency for telecommunication.

In **1956**, the two separate ITU committees, the CCIF and the CCIT were joined to create the CCITT to more effectively manage telephone and telegraph communications.



Stamps issued by the United Nations
in honour of ITU, 1956

In 1993, the ITU underwent a reorganization and the CCITT was replaced by the new structure as ITU-T, the ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Sector.

Global strategy consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton awarded ITU with the accolade of being one of the world's top ten most enduring institutions in December 2004.

At present, more than 3000 ITU-T Recommendations are in force with a speed of an average time to approve its technical Recommendations as quick as in less than two months.

Members

In 1956 the CCITT membership was of 50 Members (43 of which are still present)

Recognized Operating Agencies (ROAs): 18 (15 of which are still present members):

American Cable and Radio Corp.; AT&T; Cable & Wireless; Compagnie française de câbles sous-marins; T.S.F.; Companhia Portuguesa Radio Marconi; Compañía de Teléfonos de Chile; Telefónica; Cuban Telephone Company; Deutsch-Atlantische Telegraphengesellschaft; Grande Compagnie des télégraphes du Nord; KDD; NTT; Radio Austria; RCA Communications; Societa Italcable; Teléfonos de México S.A.; Telephone Association of Canada.

Scientific or Industrial Organizations (SIOs): 6

Automatic Telephone and Electric Company; Felten & Guillaume, Carlswerk; Felten & Guillaume, Fernmeldeanlagen; N. V. Philip's Telecommunicatie Industrie; Siemens & Halske A.G.; Telefunken G.m.b.H.

International Organizations: 3

IATA; WMO; IRU.

Today membership consists of 190 Member States, 354 Sector Members and 107 Associates.