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**ITU·PP94
KYOTO**

■ Opening of the Plenipotentiary Conference

"Telecommunications play a valuable role in many different fields ... serving as a kind of neural network"

**His Imperial Highness
the Crown Prince
of Japan**

On 19 September 1994, His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Japan inaugurated the 14th ITU Plenipotentiary Conference and declared to an audience of over 1200 delegates that "Telecommunications is expected to achieve further strides as the 21st century approaches by continuing to make full use of the fruits of technological innovations. It is hoped that the activities of the International Telecommunication Union will enable all people of the world to enjoy the benefits of that progress".

His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Japan and his wife

Technological innovations and progress soon became key words for most of the speakers at the opening ceremony.

Mr Hakuo Yaganisawa, Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, underlined the key role of telecommunications in all sectors of the economy and of society. He paid tribute to the ITU for its efforts in bringing about a global network through international standards, the coordinated use of frequencies and through the assistance extended to developing countries. He stressed that whatever strategies and plan of action are adopted for the ITU should lead to the further development of global telecommunications and to the prosperity of the peoples of the world.

The Japanese Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Mr Shun Oide, recalled the dramatic strides in telecommunication technologies in recent years, adding that they would soon enable the construction of information superhighways. Mr Oide further stressed that, as the first Plenipotentiary Conference since ITU's reorganization, the Kyoto Conference would no doubt set the direction for international cooperation in telecommunications in the coming age. The ITU Secretary-General, Pekka Tarjanne, said that one of the main purposes of the Conference was to determine the best strategies and plans for future ITU activities. The strategic issues being discussed include increased participation by the private sector, the enhancement of the ITU's policy mission and how to build the global information structure. Recalling that the Asia-Pacific Region is currently the most dynamic in the world and that Kyoto is still the spiritual capital of Japan, Dr Tarjanne called upon delegates to draw on the experience of that region and to seek inspiration from the

surroundings to have a conference which is dynamic and forward-looking, but which also reflects the best traditions of ITU.

Structure of the Conference

The first Plenary Meeting elected as Conference Chairman Mr Yoshio Utsumi, Director-General, International Affairs Department, Ministry of P&T. He will be assisted by five Vice-Chairmen: Messrs Jichuan Wu (China), Fernando Mendes (Portugal), Vladimir B. M. Boulgak (Russia), Abdoulaye Elimane Kane (Senegal) and Jeffrey H. Smulyan (United States).

The structure of the Conference was as follows:

Committee I — Steering Committee

Mandate: To coordinate all matters connected with the smooth execution of work and to plan the order and number of meetings.

It is composed of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference and of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the other committees.

Committee 2 — Credentials

Mandate: To verify the credentials of delegations.

Chairman: Mr Michael Frendo (Malta).
Vice-Chairman: Mr Leander A. Bethel (Bahamas).

Committee 3 — Budget Control

Mandate: To determine the organization and the facilities available to the delegates, to examine and approve the accounts of expenditure incurred throughout the duration of the Conference.
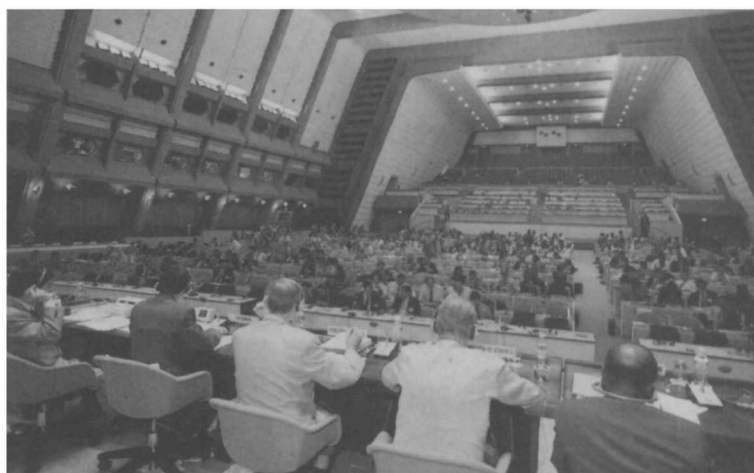
Chairman: Mr Krastju Mirski (Bulgaria).
Vice-Chairman: Mr Adolar B. Mapunda (Tanzania).

Committee 4 — Strategic Policy and Plans

Mandate: To consider the draft strategic plan presented by Council, other reports and proposals related to the Union's strategic policies and plans.

Chairman: Mr Abderrazak Berrada (Morocco).
Vice-Chairmen: Mr Colin Oliver (Australia) and Mr Ulrich Mohr (Germany).

Committee 5 — Constitution and Convention

Mandate: To examine proposals for amending the instruments (Constitution, Convention, Optional Protocol).

Chairman: Mr Lorenço Chehab (Brazil).
Vice-Chairman: Mr Dakole Daissala (Cameroon).

Committee 6 — Staff Matters

Mandate: To examine questions and proposals on staff matters such as staffing policies, grading of posts, United Nations common system, geographical distribution.

Chairman: Mr Sami El-Basheer (Saudi Arabia).
Vice-Chairman: Mr Wojciech M. Halka (Poland).

Committee 7 — Finances of the Union

Mandate: To examine the financial management of the Union and approve the accounts for the years 1989 to 1993; to study the financial position of the Union and proposals affecting the finances of the Union and to determine the financial needs of the Union for the period up to the next Plenipotentiary Conference.

Chairman: Mr Pierre A. Gagné (Canada).
Vice-Chairman: Mr Hossein Shahabeddin (Islamic Republic of Iran).

Committee 8 — Editorial Committee

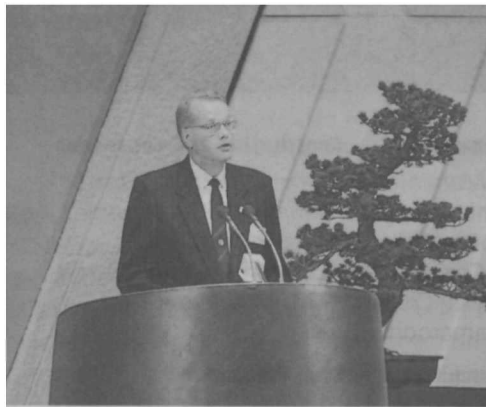*Mandate:* To perfect the form of the texts to be included in the Final Acts of the Conference.

Chairman: Mr Lucien Bourgeat (France).
Vice-Chairmen: Mr Michael Goddard (United Kingdom) and Mr Vicente Rubio Carretón (Spain).

■ Elections

Pekka Tarjanne re-elected

Standing as the only candidate, Pekka Tarjanne was re-elected Secretary-General of the Union by 123 out of a total of 132 votes cast.

Pekka Tarjanne was elected to this post by the Nice Plenipotentiary Conference in 1989, and took up his duties on 1 November 1989. Of Finnish nationality, he had previously occupied a number of government posts, and before joining the ITU he was Director-General of Finnish Posts and Telecommunications.

During the past four years, in accordance with the recommendations of the High Level Committee, Pekka Tarjanne has presided over the restructuring of the Union. This has involved rationalizing and modernizing working methods in order to facilitate the Union's tasks of standardization, regulation and development, in spite of an unfavourable economic climate (for several years now, the ITU has had a zero-growth budget). The next four years should also be rich in innovations.

Much will depend on the decisions taken by the Conference with respect to strategic planning, the rights and obligations of entities and organizations other than administrations, and the budgetary resources that can be released according to priorities.

Henry Chasia (Kenya) becomes Deputy Secretary-General

Following two rounds of voting, Henry Chasia (Kenya) was elected Deputy Secretary-General by 83 votes, against 37 for Mohamed Harbi (Algeria) and 15 for Valery Timofeev (Russia). Fazlur Rahman (Bangladesh) had withdrawn his candidacy following the first ballot. Mr Chasia replaces Jean Jipguep (Cameroon), who has occupied the post since January 1983.

Born on 17 February 1940, Mr Chasia studied at the University of London's Imperial College of Science and Technology, where he obtained a PhD in electrical engineering in 1974. From 1964 to 1974, he occupied a variety of posts in the East African Posts and Telecommunications Corporation. He went on to join the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT) where he became Manager of the Orbital Resources Department in 1985.

In his statement of intent, Mr. Chasia stressed three points which he considered to be of particular importance:
- The ITU's strategic planning must be strengthened so that the Union can adopt a well-defined course in a rapidly developing environment.
- The Union must be more sensitive to the needs of its Members, particularly with respect to development and above all in the countries of the Third World.

- Synergy among the three Sectors of the ITU must be enhanced in order to improve the organization's efficiency.

Following his election, Mr Chasia stated that coming from a member with a small "m", he fully understood the expectations and needs of bodies other than the administrations. If the ITU was to survive, it had to do its utmost to integrate these new members, and to strike a balance between the governmental nature of the organization and the expectations of industry. He admitted that he was not fully conversant with the difficulties which the ITU staff had been experiencing over the past few years and the restrictions imposed by the common system, but he stressed that without efforts on the part of the ITU staff, the Union could not accomplish its mission successfully. Everything would therefore have to be done to increase staff productivity, to boost morale and ensure greater job satisfaction. Mr Chasia said that his door would always be open and that he attached great importance to staff matters.

Radiocommunication Bureau

Robert W. Jones (Canada) has been elected Director of BR in the first round of elections with 79 votes against 59 for Harold G. Kimball (United States). Mr Jones replaces Richard C. Kirby (United States) who took up the post on 1 September 1974.

Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

Theodor Irmer (Germany) has been re-elected Director of TSB with 128 votes for 139 votes cast. Mr Irmer was the sole candidate for this post.

Telecommunication Development Bureau

In the third round of elections, Ahmed Laouyane (Tunisia) has been elected Director of BDT with 86 votes against 56 for Arnold Djiwatampu (Indonesia). Mr Laouyane replaces Mr Djiwatampu who took up his duties on 30 January 1993.

We hope to be able to publish interviews with the successful candidates in the near future.

Radio Regulations Board

The Plenipotentiary Conference then elected the RRB which is composed of nine part-time members who shall perform their duties for the Union independently.

The BR Director being from the Americas, only one member from that region can sit on the Board. The results are as follows:

- Region A (Americas)
  João C. F. Albernaz (Brazil)
- Region B (Western Europe)
  Thormod Bøe (Norway)
  Henry Kieffer (Switzerland)
- Region C (Eastern Europe)
  Ryszard G. Struzak (Poland)
  Valery Timofeev (Russia)
- Region D (Africa)
  Gerard Mutti (Zambia)
  Kouakou J.-B. Yao (Côte d'Ivoire)
- Region E (Asia and Australasia)
  Makoto Miura (Japan)
  Sanbao Zhu (China)

■ Other news

Portugal and South Africa increase their contributions

Portugal announced that it was increasing its contribution from one to two units.

South Africa also announced its intention of increasing its contribution to the ITU budget, from one to three units.

46 countries will participate in the work of the Council

The Plenipotentiary Conference decided to modify the ITU's regional groupings in response to requests that had been made. Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, and Bosnia and Herzegovina now form part of Region B (Western Europe). Mongolia has been included in Region E (Asia and Australasia). As a result of these changes, the Conference decided that the ITU Council

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would henceforth comprise 46 Members, distributed as follows:

- Region A (Americas): 8 seats
- Region B (Western Europe): 8 seats
- Region C (Eastern Europe): 5 seats
- Region D (Africa): 13 seats
- Region E (Asia and Australasia): 12 seats.

Results to the elections of the Council will be published in a future issue.

Al Gore addresses the plenipotentiaries

Vice-President Al Gore of the United States addressed the Conference via a satellite link.

In a 15-minute speech relayed on a giant screen, the Vice-President recalled his support for what he called the global information infrastructure, or GII, as a means of promoting health, education, environmental protection and development.

The GII was based on five principles adopted at the Buenos Aires Conference last March: private investment, market-based competition, flexible regulation systems, free access for all and a universal service.

Al Gore went on to invite the next Plenipotentiary Conference to the United States.