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Highlights from the Antalya Plenipotentiary Conference

Opening ceremony



Yoshio Utsumi,
ITU Secretary-General

The seventeenth ITU Plenipotentiary Conference was opened by Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on 6 November 2006. In a keynote speech, ITU Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi described how major developments in information and communication technologies (ICT) have occurred since he was first elected at the 1998 Minneapolis Plenipotentiary Conference. He said that the Plenipotentiary at Antalya faced "momentous decisions" and that "if we do not act properly, we will lose our relevance in the growth and blossoming of the information revolution."

Mr Utsumi called for the conference to achieve a consensus vision for achieving common goals. He ended his speech by urging participants to be "bold and progressive" in their decisions, in order to make ITU "not only relevant in the Information Society, but also a vital cog in harnessing the benefits of ICT for the vast multitudes of the world."

Addressing the conference, Prime Minister Erdogan described the progress in his country's ICT infrastructure and services, and declared that "our vision is to make Turkey become a country that is open to the world." Nowadays, he said, one of the most important differences among countries is whether or not they are integrated into the global information network. "The decisions which will be taken in this conference will deeply involve both developed and developing countries," Mr Erdogan added.

These sentiments were echoed by Turkey's Minister of Transport Binali Yildirim, who saw a bright future for ICT in his own country. "Turkey has a dynamic young population which has strong will to use the new technologies," he said.

The conference continues as this edition of *ITU News* goes to press. A full report will be published in the January/February 2007 edition.



Recep Tayyip Erdogan,
Prime Minister



Binali Yildirim,
Minister of Transport



The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Antalya, Turkey



Conference elects new ITU management team



Hamadoun I. Touré,
Secretary-General elect

The Secretary-General elect

Hamadoun I. Touré (Mali) was elected Secretary-General of ITU on 10 November 2006 with 95 votes out of 155 countries voting. The majority emerged in the election's third round, with Mathias Kurth of Germany receiving 60 votes. Two rounds of voting took place on 9 November 2006. After the first round, two candidates withdrew:

Muna Nijem (Jordan) and Montasser Ouali (Tunisia). After the second round, another two candidates withdrew: Roberto Blois (Brazil) and Marc Furrer (Switzerland).

Addressing the conference, Dr Touré told the 1500 delegates from around the world that he would work with transparency, objectivity and vigour to achieve the two main objectives that were central to his campaign: to eliminate the digital divide and to ensure that cyberspace becomes more secure. He said: "The Millennium Development Goals that were endorsed by all the world's leaders, as well as the WSIS resolutions, are the ingredients we need to get down to work."

Dr Touré holds a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from the Technical Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications of Leningrad, and a PhD degree from the University of Electronics, Telecommunications and Informatics of Moscow. After six years at the *Office des Postes et Télécommunications du Mali* (OPT), he joined Intelsat in 1985 and was Group Director and Regional Director, then in 1996 he became Director-General for Africa at ICO Global Communications. In 1998, he was elected Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) at the Plenipotentiary Conference in Minneapolis and re-elected for a second term at Marrakesh in 2002.

The Deputy Secretary-General elect

Houlin Zhao (China) was elected Deputy Secretary-General, also on 10 November, with 93 votes out of 155 countries voting. Carlos Sánchez (Spain) obtained 34 votes, while T. Ayhan Beydogan (Turkey) received 28. John Ray Kwabena Tandoh (Ghana) had withdrawn his candidature before the election.

Speaking after the election, Mr Zhao said that ITU has enjoyed worldwide recognition for its competence in handling global ICT matters, but it faces challenges in today's rapidly changing environment. "To meet the challenges, the ITU members call for a strong and energetic team of ITU leadership," he said, adding that "the post of Deputy Secretary-General has a strategic importance in this team." Mr Zhao promised to do his best to assist the Secretary-General and Bureau Directors, as well as the membership, to make ITU a more dynamic organization that contributes to the emerging global information society. As outgoing Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), he said he was confident that "ITU-T will meet the future challenges of ICT standardization this century."

Mr Zhao graduated from Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications, China, in 1975 and received an MSc degree from the University of Essex (United Kingdom) in 1985. After working in various engineering positions at China's Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, he joined ITU in 1986. He was elected as Director of TSB in 1998, and re-elected to this post at the Marrakesh Plenipotentiary Conference in 2002.



Houlin Zhao,
Deputy Secretary-General elect

Source of photographs in this article: ITU/J.M. Ferré

Directors of the three Bureaux

Radiocommunication Bureau



Valery Timofeev,
Director of BR

Valery Timofeev (Russian Federation) was re-elected Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) on 13 November with 158 votes (with 158 countries voting). Mr Timofeev was the only candidate for the post, which he has held since the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2002. He said he was very pleased to report that BR had carried out all the programmes set four years ago. Speaking of the next term, he told the conference: "I expect once again to fulfil your expectations, owing to the high level of expertise available in BR." For many years, Mr Timofeev was responsible for the international coordination of satellite communication systems, and headed national delegations at frequency assignment coordination meetings. As Deputy Minister for Communications and Informatization of the Russian Federation, he was responsible for radio-frequency spectrum management, the development of television and radio broadcasting and the deployment and operation of national satellite communication and broadcasting systems.

Telecommunication Standardization Bureau



Malcolm Johnson,
Director elect of TSB

Malcolm Johnson (United Kingdom) was elected Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) on 14 November with 83 votes (with 162 countries voting). The result came in a third round of voting, with Yuji Inoue (Japan) receiving 79 votes. After the second round, Kishik Park (Republic of Korea) withdrew his candidature. Fabio Bigi (Italy) withdrew after the first round.

Mr Johnson said: "I feel very humbled by the Plenipotentiary's confidence in me and I shall be determined to meet expectations." After obtaining an MSc degree, Mr Johnson joined the UK government and in 1992 became Director of the Radiocommunications Agency. In 2003, he joined the Office of Communications (Ofcom), where he was International Coordinator with responsibility for the UK in ITU and at the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT). He initiated many reforms to speed up TSB's work and increase participation by the private sector.

Telecommunication Development Bureau



Sami S. Al-Basheer,
Director elect of BDT

Sami S. Al-Basheer (Saudi Arabia) was elected Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) on 14 November with 91 votes (with 161 countries voting) in a third ballot. Patrick Masambu (Uganda) received 70 votes. After the second round of voting, Najat Rochdi (Morocco) withdrew her candidature. Abdelkrim Karim Boussaid (Algeria) withdrew after the first round. Mr Al-Basheer pledged to work as a member of the team to achieve ITU's goals and objectives. "The challenge is great, the task is heavy, but I am confident in our ability to serve the Union and all mankind," he said. After earning a Master's degree in Economics and Political Science from San Jose State University, in the United States, Mr Al-Basheer joined the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Saudi Arabia. As Director of International Relations he coordinated with regional and global telecommunication organizations. He was also responsible for telecommunication policy and investment matters at the national, regional and international level.

Speaking after the election of the Directors of the Bureaux, Secretary-General elect Hamadoun Touré congratulated each of them, as well as Deputy Secretary-General elect Mr Zhao. He said: "I wish them every possible success in their new duties, and invite them to demonstrate exemplary collegiality. For my part, I am committed to directing the team equitably, fairly and responsibly." He took the opportunity to assure the Union's staff that one of his priorities would be to establish constructive dialogue and a climate of mutual confidence between the management and staff. Dr Touré also expressed his gratitude to the outgoing team of Mr Utsumi and Mr Blois and thanked them for their assistance and support. ■

Full details of the election results can be viewed on the ITU website at
<http://www.itu.int/plenipotentiary/2006/newsroom/elections/results/index.html>

RRB and Council

The 12-member Radio Regulations Board (RRB)

Region A: Americas (2 seats)	Votes	Region D: Africa (3 seats)	Votes
Julie Napier ZOLLER (United States)	122	Hassan LEBBADI (Morocco)	154
Robert W. JONES (Canada)	94	Shola TAYLOR (Nigeria)	154
Region B: Western Europe (2 seats)		Aboubakar ZOURMBA (Cameroon)	151
Mindaugas ZILINSKAS (Lithuania)	154	Region E: Asia and Australasia (3 seats)	
Martine LIMODIN (France)	151	Ali EBADI (Malaysia)	117
Region C: Eastern Europe (2 seats)		Shahzada Alam MALIK (Pakistan)	110
Baiysh NURMATOV (Kyrgyzstan)	122	P.K. GARG (India)	103
Wladyslaw MORON (Poland)	93		

Member States of the Council (46 seats)

Region A: Americas (8 seats)	Votes	Region D: Africa (13 seats)	Votes
Brazil *	143	Morocco *	117
Mexico *	131	Senegal *	117
Argentina *	129	Algeria *	115
United States *	128	Nigeria *	114
Canada *	124	Mali *	113
Cuba *	115	Tunisia *	113
Trinidad and Tobago	103	South Africa *	112
Venezuela *	100	Egypt *	111
Region B: Western Europe (8 seats)		Ghana *	107
France *	140	Burkina Faso *	103
Spain *	134	Kenya *	97
Switzerland *	133	Tanzania	97
Germany *	132	Cameroon *	95
Sweden	132	Region E: Asia and Australasia (12 seats)	
Italy *	123	Japan *	140
Portugal *	121	Korea (Republic of) *	133
Turkey *	120	China *	132
Region C: Eastern Europe (5 seats)		Thailand *	125
Russian Federation *	135	Malaysia *	122
Romania *	102	United Arab Emirates	119
Bulgaria *	99	Indonesia *	118
Czech Republic *	96	Pakistan *	117
Ukraine	77	India *	113
		Philippines	113
		Saudi Arabia *	110
		Australia *	106

* Council Member State during the period 2002–2006