

e-COMMONWEALTH

A NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMONWEALTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORGANISATION

//OCTOBER 2016

YAOUNDÉ HOSTS FIRST COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE ON SPECTRUM

SECRETARIES-GENERAL SCOTLAND AND
TAYLOR EXPLORE AREAS OF COLLABORATION

CTO LAUNCHES GLOBAL STUDY ON OVER-
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//EDITORIAL



Shola Taylor
Secretary-General

Dear loyal readers,

Welcome to the 12th edition of e-COMMONWEALTH! It is difficult to believe that it has been a year already since we launched the first issue, but I hope that you have found all previous editions helpful, and I would like to thank you for being among our regular readers.

October was full in high-level meetings for me and for the CTO. I had the pleasure to meet with Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC; we discussed new areas of synergies and potential collaborations, and I was excited at her resolve to make the Commonwealth an instrument of positive change. I look forward to reporting here on new joint initiatives in the months to come.

It was also good to be at ITSO's recent Assembly of Parties in Washington DC and see former CTO chairman Patrick Masambu win the race for secretary-general with strong backing from Commonwealth delegates present, and I would like to wish both him and outgoing director-general Jose Toscano every success in their new lives. I joined the delegations from member countries at the recent WTSAs-16 in Tunis where we took the opportunity to convene a meeting to discuss the issues at stake. This meeting was also an ideal platform to launch officially the CTO's much anticipated global over-the-top study.

The first Commonwealth Spectrum Management Forum took place on 2 - 4 November in Yaoundé, early enough to report it in this issue. The event was our first opportunity to hold a high-level discussion since WRC-15 last year, and I am grateful to the Government of Cameroon for the wonderful welcome and hosting arrangements.

Preparations for the 2017-18 cycle of the Programme for Development & Training (PDT) are now under way, with members of this unique programme beginning to submit their requirements, and I look forward to an even better PDT year.

Lastly, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the forthcoming Commonwealth Human Resources and ICT Forum 2016 on 21 - 22 November in Kingstown, Jamaica where we will discuss new trends in technology and their impact on the HR management profession. //

//RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Yaoundé hosts first Commonwealth conference on spectrum management

The first conference on spectrum management organised by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) took place on 2 - 4 November in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The event was attended by over 120 policymakers, regulators, private-sector executives and representatives from interest groups such as GSMA. The International Telecommunication Union and the African Telecommunications Union were among the international and regional organisations also taking part in the event. Private-sector participants included AINMT, ATDI, Avanti Communications, Inmarsat, Facebook and MTN.

"As mobile and wireless communication technologies continue to improve, and as many more of us access and increasingly also depend on these technologies, spectrum is becoming an evermore important resource," said CTO's Secretary-General Shola Taylor in his opening address.

The event was officially opened by the Honourable Minette Libom Li Likeng, Minister of Posts & Telecommunications of Cameroon for whom it was an opportunity to call on regulators to maintain transparency and fairness in assigning spectrum.

"At the very least, spectrum's economic value has increased dramatically from what it was only 20 years ago, and today it is no longer a mere natural resource or commodity for many of our member countries, it is increasingly also a life-critical and life-changing resource. 5G data and

machine-to-machine wireless networks alone will inevitably increase ICTs contribution to the economy of those countries, but the underlying technologies require more spectrum and international consensus on how it should be allocated, hence our decision to dedicate a whole event to this subject," Mr Taylor explained.

During three days, participants discussed a range of issues, including:

- Planning for 5G: global and regional perspectives
- WRC-15's outcomes and implications for spectrum sharing
- Maximising spectrum capacity for broadband development
- Spectrum bands, technologies and solutions
- Efficient spectrum utilisation for universal access
- Spectrum planning for the future of broadcasting
- Spectrum auctions

Over the past three decades, the CTO has run numerous capacity development and training programmes for radio communications engineers and policymakers on spectrum. At one point, the organisation was known mainly for such technical programmes. Recent conferences by the organisation, such as those on digital broadcasting migration or broadband or rural connectivity, have included sessions on spectrum issues. However, the Yaoundé event is the first forum organised specifically on spectrum by the organisation. //



Opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Spectrum Management Forum 2016 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

//RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Secretaries-general Scotland and Taylor explore areas of collaboration

The CTO Secretary-General, Mr Shola Taylor met with the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland QC at the home of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House.

Secretary-General Scotland assumed office as the first woman Secretary-General of the Commonwealth in April this year. Upon assumption of office, the Commonwealth Secretary-General immediately announced her four priorities for her term of office: tackling violence against women; action on climate change; boosting trade and governance; and creating better opportunities for young people.

At their meeting, the two secretaries-general discussed how the CTO's work can support the priorities of the Commonwealth to deliver greater value to the family of nations.

"I greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet with Secretary-General Scotland to discuss ways in which the CTO can



Patricia Scotland and Shola Taylor meeting at the Commonwealth Secretariat Headquarters in London

collaborate with the Commonwealth Secretariat to deliver greater value to the Commonwealth family," Mr Taylor said after the meeting on 4 October. *"It was encouraging to note the congruence*

between the Commonwealth Secretariat's priorities and the CTO's Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 and I look forward to working closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat in the future." //

Commonwealth candidate elected as director-general of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization

Patrick Masambu, a Uganda citizen and former chairman of the Council of the CTO has been elected director-general of the US-based International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO).

Mr Masambu was the only Commonwealth candidate for the position. A former communications regulator for Uganda, he brings to the role over 30 years of experience, including over six years as ITSO's current deputy director-general and director of technical affairs. He is the first sub-Saharan African to be elected to the position.

During his time as chairman of the CTO Council on behalf of Uganda, Mr Masambu

presided over important transformations to turn the CTO into a more member-centric organisation.



"It is important to the CTO that Commonwealth values and shared interests are represented at the highest level in international forums, in order to strengthen the position of the Commonwealth"

CTO Secretary-General, **Shola Taylor**



"The election was exciting with three strong candidates. I am delighted to see Patrick elected. He brings tremendous

experience to ITSO and I look forward to working with him," said Shola Taylor shortly after Mr Masambu's election.

In his acceptance remarks, Mr Masambu thanked all ITSO members for their support and looked forward to partnerships with international and regional organisations, including CTO, in areas such as capacity building to achieve the objectives of ITSO.

The Honourable Frank Tumwebaze, Uganda's Minister of Information Technology & Communications equally thanked all the member states and also Mr Taylor SG for the excellent support given to Uganda to improve the ICT sector in Uganda. //



//TECHNICAL SUPPORT & CONSULTANCY

Botswana turns to CTO for national broadband strategy

The CTO presented a draft broadband strategy to the Government of Botswana and the country's ICT stakeholders at a meeting held in Gaborone on 24 October. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to have a say. The strategy aims to provide bandwidth ranges from 5Mbps to 100Mbps by 2020 to dense urban areas, suburban areas and rural low density areas.

The proposed strategy has been developed in a flexible manner to adapt to technological evolutions. An environment conducive to private sector investment through enabling legislation, policies and regulations is also among the key recommendations.

The country is determined to use technology in its national development efforts. "We will leverage leading

information and communication technology as a key contributor to economic growth" states the country's Vision 2036 released by the country's government in July. The country's communications regulator, the Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BCRA), was the winner of the 2016 Commonwealth Award for Best Universal Access Initiative, at the Commonwealth ICT Awards 2016.//

CTO presents options to Swaziland for unbundling incumbent SPTC



The Honourable Minister for ICT Mr Dumisani Ndlangamandla, Swaziland, unveiling a five year strategic plan initiative.

The CTO has completed a project detailing options to the Government of Swaziland for the unbundling of the Swaziland Post & Telecommunications Corporation (SPTC).

Three draft texts for legislation to create separate unbundled entities were produced and a CTO expert undertook a mission to Mbabane where a series of stakeholder workshops were held to present and refine the proposed legislation.

SPTC was established in 1986 and is made up of two business units, SwaziTelecom and SwaziPost.

Until the recent creation of Swaziland Communications Commission, the company doubled up as the national regulator of communications.

SwaziTelecom provides a range of telecommunication services with direct dialling to over 200 countries, as well as

ADSL broadband to businesses and homes. Businesses services include PABX solutions, ISDN, and managed data services and video conferencing and toll free services.

With 33 major outlets and 69 agencies, SwaziPost serves remote and rural parts of the country and has introduced mail room management and post direct, as well as banking and hybrid mail services through a major computerisation initiative.//

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//CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening national governance capacity for ICTs



The fourth and last Regulating ICTs Round Table series for 2016 hosted by the CTO took place in London on 17 - 21 October, with a dozen participants from seven countries taking part in the programme. Altogether, 15 countries have taken part in the programme this year (Bangladesh, Botswana, Cameroon, Cayman Islands, Ghana, Jamaica, Malawi, Mauritius, Montserrat, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, and the United Kingdom).

"This programme is an essential part of our

support to member countries, and we are very pleased at the level of participation this year," said Shola Taylor, Secretary-General.

"The training was indeed invaluable, fun, engaging and reflective. I was especially happy to have participated in this forum and would recommend this type of training to relevant stakeholders," said Tupoutua'h L. Baravilala, Senior Legal Officer, Office of the Attorney-General, Fiji.

"CTO enhances its members capacity to keep their ICTs environment secure."

"The workshop enhanced my knowledge in security as well as regulation," said Lusungu Mkandawire, Assistant Information Manager at Airtel Malawi.

"Great workshop! Very useful information delivered in an excellent manner. I would highly recommend this workshop to anyone who is interested in ICTs for development," said Kumarasinghe Sirisena, Chairman - Sri Lanka Telecom Group.

The first round-table event of 2017 will take place in April.//

//EVENTS & CONFERENCES

CTO and members to exhibit at the Commonwealth pavilion at ITU Telecom World 2016

The CTO and members will be exhibiting ICT initiatives for social and economic development at the heart of ITU Telecom World 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, where policymakers and regulators meet industry experts, investors, SMEs, entrepreneurs, innovators and ICT

stakeholders from across the world.

Exhibitors including Telecommunications Regulatory Board Cameroon, Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, Agence Nationale des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication

(of Cameroon), the Digital Bridge Institute (of Nigeria), the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority of the Bahamas and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer of Vanuatu will present their most recent initiatives at the Commonwealth Pavilion.//



//TECHNICAL SUPPORT & CONSULTANCY

CTO launches global study on over-the-top services



The CTO launched a global study on over-the-top (OTT) services in Tunis, during the Commonwealth coordination meeting held at the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly in Tunis. The study was mandated by Commonwealth ICT ministers meeting at their June 2016 meeting in London.

The study aims to understand the market dynamics and policy and regulatory issues of OTTs, both in the context of their impact on traditional business models and of opportunities for innovation and stimulating economic growth.

Adopting a multistakeholder approach, the first stage of the study aims to gather the views of policymakers, regulators, network operators, OTT service providers, consumers and others via an online survey. The outcomes of the survey, which will be available at the end of the year,

will provide the foundation for further consultations, with a view to identifying key interests, concerns and issues. The final report is due by the second quarter of 2017.

"I cannot think of a more appropriate forum than WTS 16 to launch this initiative, on a technology that holds

much promise while impacting on complex interests. As an intergovernmental organisation that has served its stakeholders for over 100 years and steeped in the principles of the Commonwealth,

one of which is working on the basis of consensus, the CTO is ideally placed to carry out this study. We look forward to the active participation of stakeholders, from the Commonwealth and beyond, so that the study will truly reflect the needs of the Global ICT sector and addresses its priorities," said Shola Taylor, Secretary-General of the CTO at the launch. //

CTO COURSES 2016

Quality of Service Monitoring

3 - 7 October 2016, Port Louis, Mauritius*

Talent Management, Knowledge Management and Change in a Dynamic Environment

3 - 7 October 2016, Johannesburg, South Africa*

Regulating ICTs Roundtable

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Licensing in a Converged Environment

17 - 21 October 2016, Port Louis, Mauritius*

Session Initiation Protocol

07 - 11 November 2016, Gaborone, Botswana*

Introduction to ICT Policy and Regulation

7 - 11 November 2016, Johannesburg, South Africa*

To register, or for more details visit www.cto.int

*These programmes are delivered as part of the CTO's Programme for Development & Training, a programme which provides specialised ICT capacity development to ministries, regulatory agencies and operators around the world. Delivered in over thirty countries, the PDT provides bespoke professional training, consultancy and advisory services in policy and regulation, business development and management and technology.

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//MEMBER NEWS

Montserrat Tourism Division to host a social media training workshop for residents

On the 21 - 22 November 2016 the Tourism Division under the Office of the Premier will host "Social Power For The Future Of Your Business." The two-day workshop taking place at the Montserrat Cultural Center in Little Bay, will focus on Social Media Training and will include sessions focusing on Facebook, Instagram and

the power of Google+.

The workshop is sponsored by The Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME) which will be presented by Tim Quinton, who is a internet entrepreneur operating Electric Villages, a marketing and technology agency. //

Satellite communications - an alternative for the Haitian population after Hurricane Matthew

Hurricane Matthew, considered the most damaging hurricane to hit the Caribbean since 2007, had a significant impact in Haiti, a country where infrastructure is already limited.

In crises and disasters like this one, connectivity is a critical element to enable humanitarian aid efforts, support the rebuilding of infrastructure and contribute to the speedy recovery of the affected territories. Télémots Sans Frontières (TSF), the NGO specialising in emergency telecommunications, together with Eutelsat and Elara Comunicaciones, arrived in southern Haiti earlier this month to help begin

restoring telecommunications on the island.

Eutelsat's experience in satellite communications and its 10-year relationship with Télémots Sans Frontières have enabled services to be routed through the EUTELSAT 117 West A satellite and an IP cloud configured by Elara Comunicaciones, which consolidates and increases communications efforts in Haiti.

In leveraging the combined expertise of the three organizations communications can be established within hours, enabling vital relief work to get underway. //

Uganda helps the IWF mark 20 years of fighting online child sexual abuse imagery

Uganda Reporting Portal was established in September 2015 to provide a quick and easy way for citizens to report online images and videos of child sexual abuse, to a safe and anonymous hotline.

The National Information Technology Authority - Uganda (NITA-U) and Uganda's National Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT.UG) joined forces with the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) in the global battle to remove online imagery of child sexual abuse, and in doing so, becomes a big part of their history. The IWF has done an incredible job in identifying and removing a huge number of images and videos of online child sexual abuse.

Uganda is now part of that history, and a joint mission help protect victims of this abuse and make the internet a safer place.

"*The Online Child Sexual Abuse Reporting Portal enables us as a country contribute to making the internet a safer place*" said James Saaka. //

Intelsat 36 enters service: delivering high definition entertainment in Sub-Saharan Africa

Intelsat, operator of the world's first Globalized Network, powered by its leading satellite backbone, announced on 6 October 2016 that the Intelsat 36 satellite entered service, and has started to provide broadcasting and direct-to-home (DTH) services for Africa's MultiChoice, which is the leading DTH platform in South Africa.

Built for Intelsat by Space Systems/Loral (SSL), Intelsat 36 was launched aboard

an Ariane 5 launch vehicle in August. The satellite, co-located with Intelsat 20 at 68.5° East, includes a Ku-band payload used by MultiChoice and a C-band payload that provides in-orbit resilience for Intelsat's media neighbourhoods serving Africa and the Indian Ocean regions.

"There are dynamic changes taking place across the global media landscape, and Intelsat 36 supports our customers as they

address the growing demand for content throughout the African continent," said Brian Jakins, Regional Vice-President, Africa Sales, Intelsat. *"This satellite will enable our customer, MultiChoice, to extend high-definition channels throughout the region. The C-band payload will provide additional redundancy for media customers to ensure that all viewers have access to reliable, high quality content."* //

BT lands transformation deal with Randstad

BT announced on the 5 October 2016 that they have signed a contract with Randstad Group, one of the world's leading HR services providers, to build a new global IT infrastructure providing cloud connectivity to more than 3,500 sites across 37 countries in Europe, North- and South-America, Middle East and Asia-Pacific.

BT will consolidate, centralise and standardise Randstad's network infrastructure, currently sourced from

multiple domestic and regional providers. The new infrastructure uses BT's IP



Connect and Internet Connect services to combine the reliability and security of

IP-based Virtual Private Networks (VPN) with the flexibility of internet connections.

Fabrice De Windt, BT's CEO for the Benelux, said "*I am proud that a global leader such as Randstad has chosen BT and sees the benefits of our Cloud of Clouds portfolio strategy. Our ambition is to be the leading global cloud services integrator, offering customers unparalleled choice, security, resilience, speed, flexibility and agility on their digital transformation journey.*" //



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