

e-COMMONWEALTH

A NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMONWEALTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORGANISATION

//JUNE 2016



COMMONWEALTH ICT MINISTERS FORUM 2016

CELEBRATING
115
Years
1901-2016
FROM SUBSEA TO CYBERSPACE

COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS ENDORSE CTO'S STRATEGY FOR 2016 - 2020

// ITU WELCOMES CTO'S COMMONWEALTH COORDINATION
PLANS FOR ITU CONFERENCES

// CTO BEGINS CYBER STANDARDS PROJECT FOR SMEs IN
BOTSWANA

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

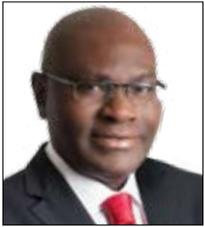


CTO.INT/E-COMMONWEALTH



COMMONWEALTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ORGANISATION

//EDITORIAL



Shola Taylor
Secretary-General

Dear members and readers,

By far, the Commonwealth ICT Ministers Forum that took place on 14 - 16 June in London is the major highlight for the CTO this month. Held once every other year, the outcome of this event, and especially the first day closed-door meeting summarised in the Declaration issued is highly significant. It includes an endorsement of the CTO's Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020; a re-affirmation of the CTO's mandate to coordinate Commonwealth consultations during major international conferences such as ITU's WRC, WTSA and WTDC, ICANN's GAC and IGF; an acknowledgement of India's resumption as Full Member Country of the CTO; and support for the CTO's plans to assess the impact of over-the-top players in Commonwealth markets. The full Declaration is available at www.cto.int, and I am eager to hear from you about any ways in which it might help you in your work.

Whilst we review and start implementing these key decisions, we are also focusing our efforts on the forthcoming Broadband Caribbean Forum (14 - 15 July, Port of Spain) and our annual Forum (12 - 14 September, Nadi) where we hope to meet with as many of you as possible.

In Asia, broadband continues to grow, enabling applications today that were previously impossible, and colleagues and I are looking forward to our Broadband Asia Forum to be hosted by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission on 21 - 23 September in Kuala Lumpur, and where new developments in the region will be presented.

Also, as you most likely know, 2016 is a year of celebrations for the CTO. As part of these celebrations, the first annual Commonwealth ICT & Industry Awards ceremony took place on 14 June. As we report in this issue, this was also an opportunity to recognise special contributions to the CTO's work in recent years by a number of members, as well as contributions by individuals. We look forward to your participation next year, as we hope to make these awards a new tradition for the CTO and its members.

Thank you.



COMMONWEALTH ICT MINISTERS FORUM 2016

Ministers endorse CTO's 2016 - 2020 strategic plan

Commonwealth ICT ministers meeting at a closed-door meeting on 14 June as part of their 2016 biennial forum in London have unanimously endorsed the CTO's strategic plan for the period 2016 to 2020.

Previously approved by members of the CTO Council in March, the plan was presented at the biennial ministerial meeting by the CTO's Secretary-General Shola Taylor.

Ministers "endorse the strategic plan for the CTO for 2016 - 2020, noting in particular the focus on ICT regulation, affordable and universal broadband including bridging the digital divide, and ICT applications," the Declaration issued states.

The ICT ministers of the group of nations included this year ministers of telecommunications and postal services, communications, science and technology, culture and media, digital

economy, and economic development. They convene every two years to share and harmonise views on key global ICT agenda issues. This year's meeting comes after the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals last September which were at the centre of ministers' discussions.

"I was very pleased with the determination each one of the ministers present showed for using ICTs, not just to support, but even to lead their national development agenda in key areas. They were unanimously supportive of our strategic plan and the CTO's senior management team and I are highly encouraged by this," said Mr Taylor who also gave the ministers a report of the CTO's recent Commonwealth coordination

initiatives, including in radio Internet and communications, governance and cybersecurity. Speaking about the



From the left: The Hon Dr Emmanuel Mallia, Minister for Competitiveness and Digital, Maritime and Services Economy and chairman of this year's Commonwealth ICT Ministers Forum, the CTO's Secretary-General Shola Taylor, and the Hon Adebayo Shittu, Minister of Communications of Nigeria and outgoing chairman of the Forum.



Plus...

- ▶ A re-affirmation of the CTO's mandate to coordinate Commonwealth consultations during major international conferences such as ITU's WRC, WTSA and WTDC, ICANN's GAC and IGF;
- ▶ An acknowledgement of India's resumption as Full Member Country of the CTO;
- ▶ Support for the CTO's plans to assess the impact of over-the-top players in Commonwealth markets.



importance of ICTs and the role of the CTO during the opening of the meeting, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, congratulated the CTO on its 115th anniversary celebrated this year and said that the Organisation "has a most remarkable pedigree and an outstanding record of pioneering and facilitating collaboration between Commonwealth member states and I think it's wonderful to be able to celebrate the 115th anniversary – and in this regard you have beaten Her Majesty. So this remarkable record is our starting point because the impact of our work in building understanding and sharing progress and increasing prosperity for the benefit for all is immense, and it is largely thanks to this organisation that we can speak, to use the words of our 2016 theme, of 'An Inclusive Commonwealth'."

"Of the many government functions in our respective countries, expectations on using information and communication technology to improve the lives of our citizens are particularly high," said Dr Emmanuel Mallia, Malta's Minister for Competitiveness and Digital, Maritime and Services Economy, and Chairman of this year's Commonwealth ICT Ministers Forum.

One key priority for the CTO this year is the coordination of member countries

preparations towards the forthcoming ITU World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA-17) later this year and their participation in the conference.

Unlike the previous meeting, this year's event was followed by a two-day Open Forum on 15 and 16 June, also in London. "We see value in meeting regularly with industry and civil society to gauge whether we are going in the right direction, and the Open Forum is a good opportunity for us to do that," said Harin Fernando, Minister of Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure of Sri Lanka.

"Because of its membership across regions and the driving ethos of the Commonwealth, holding such an event is one important role the CTO plays in securing understanding and goodwill across regions on key issues. This, added to recent developments like India's return, makes a significant difference," said Minette Libom Li Likeng, Minister of Posts & Telecommunications of Cameroon.

The one-day closed-door meeting culminated in the first Commonwealth ICT & Industry Awards ceremony, also in London. For the full text of the 2016 Declaration, visit www.cto.int //



The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth at the closed-door meeting, 14 June 2016, London

ITU welcomes CTO's Commonwealth coordination plans for ITU conferences



Malcolm Johnson delivering his address at the Open Forum, 15 June 2016, London

At their closed-door meeting on 14 June in London, Commonwealth ICT ministers re-affirmed the CTO's mandate to coordinate Commonwealth consultations during major international conferences such as ITU's WRC, WTSA and WTDC, ICANN's GAC and IGF.

Malcolm Johnson, current Deputy Secretary-General, and previously Director of the Telecommunication Standardisation Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union who took part in the two-day Open Forum that followed the ministerial meeting welcomed the Commonwealth plans.

"Commonwealth coordination for ITU conferences has proved to be very effective, both in helping Commonwealth countries achieve their objectives, and to help reach the consensus that is necessary for a successful conclusion to a world conference," Mr Johnson said. //

COMMONWEALTH ICT & INDUSTRY AWARDS 2016



CELEBRATING
115
Years
1901-2016
FROM SUBSEA TO CYBERSPACE

Efforts by Botswana and Ghana recognised

The first Commonwealth ICT & Industry Awards which took place in the evening on 14 June in London saw the award for Best Universal Access Initiative go to the Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) for its wholesale Wi-Fi hotspots in key strategic public areas providing every citizen 30 minutes free browsing every day at a minimum speed of 2 Mbps.

Other awards went to the National Communications Authority of Ghana (Best ICT Policy and Regulatory Initiative for its billing feedback mechanism), Nigerian SME Courteville Business Solutions (Best ICT Application for its Regulated Products Administrative and Management Solution), and Etisalat Nigeria (Best Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative for its Telecommunications Engineering Postgraduate Programme).

Special recognitions

Organisations in member countries were also recognised for their contributions to the CTO in recent years:

- ▶ UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office for its support for cybersecurity
- ▶ Telecommunications Regulatory Board of Cameroon for its efforts in developing national ICT capacity
- ▶ BT for its support to board-level capacity development
- ▶ UK Ofcom for its support to ICT regulatory capacity development
- ▶ UK Department For Culture, Media & Sport for its support in Internet governance
- ▶ Government of Montserrat for its use of ICTs in volcanic eruption emergency communications.

Individual recognitions

In addition, two individuals were recognised for their special contributions to the CTO. Professor Tim Unwin, former Secretary-General of the CTO was presented with a Legacy Award, and Mothusi Lekaukau accepted a posthumous Lifetime Achievement award given to his late father, Cuthbert Lekaukau, former Chairman of the CTO Council and Executive Chairman of Botswana's BOCRA.



//EVENTS & CONFERENCES

Public and private sectors collaborate to accelerate ICT development in Commonwealth countries



The opening of the Open Forum. Inset: Ed Vaizey, UK Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy, 14 June 2016, London

Key outcomes of the Open Forum

- ▶ Competition is an important factor that must be allowed to flourish in order to drive innovation and creativity, especially when we take into consideration the rollout of new fibre networks and the mobile network transition from 3G and 4G to 5G.
- ▶ Bridging the digital divide is profoundly important if we want to transform our global economy to a digital economy. The Internet of Things will see 20 billion devices connected, possibly by the end of the decade.
- ▶ The digital divide still remains large, with 60% of the world population still offline. Four billion people still don't have Internet access, and this gap is visible within individual countries, between the rich and the poor as well as between urban cities and rural villages.
- ▶ With crimes being committed at an alarming rate online, the need for accountability in cyberspace is fundamental.
- ▶ Market liberalisation, independent regulators, encouragement of new technologies, new financing models, making broadband access a legal right, are several key factors that can help reduce the urban/rural digital divide.
- ▶ Giving young people access to broadband technology is a key factor in driving forward the economic development of countries.
- ▶ Due to its decreasing cost of service, high performance, high reliability and capability to provide universal coverage, satellite technology is a very viable option for delivering both fixed and mobile broadband services to rural and remote areas of a country.
- ▶ 5G technology will require large blocks of spectrum within the frequency bands identified by ITU WRC-2015 for study for accommodation of 5G; In addition, the C band, the Ka band and the Ku band will need to be protected due to the large investments that satellite companies have made in satellite systems in these frequency bands. //

Public and private sectors came together recently at the Commonwealth ICT Ministers Forum in London to help accelerate ICT development in Commonwealth countries.

Held every two years as a closed-door meeting (see also page 2), the event included a two-day open conference for the first time. Called the Open Forum, it provided industry and government leaders with an opportunity to discuss challenges and solutions to ICT adoption in the group of nations.

On the eve of the Open Forum, the ministers issued a Declaration at the end of a closed-door meeting that endorsed the CTO's strategy for supporting member countries over the next four years. Key issues addressed in the Declaration included broadband, cybersecurity, applications and Commonwealth coordination.

"Contributions from the private sector at this year's event were very constructive, and from the various comments I've heard during and since the event, the addition of the Open Forum has been a success," said Shola Taylor, Secretary-General of the CTO.

Companies that took part in the Open Forum ranged from service providers and manufacturers, such as Avanti and Huawei, to carriers and operators. International organisations and leading associations such as the ITU, ITSO and GSMA also took part in the event.

David Williams, CEO of Avanti Communications, a UK-based Ka-band satellite operator and CTO sector member said: "Data-hungry consumers, businesses

and government organisations across the Commonwealth require reliable, flexible broadband infrastructure to bridge the digital divide. Avanti's HYLAS satellite fleet is helping to achieve this today, as it covers a significant number of CTO member states. Many more will be included when our latest high-throughput satellite, HYLAS-4 is launched early next year. It was welcome that, during the recent Commonwealth ICT Ministers Forum in London, senior government officials acknowledged Avanti's positive role in addressing the digital strategies of Commonwealth countries."

"We live in an age of global connectivity that is delivering social, health, education and economic benefits to mankind. This connectivity is equally important to developing and developed economies. However, we face a universal threat from cyber attacks, which puts at risk the benefits achieved to date and future opportunities for local and global economies," said David Francis, European Cybersecurity Officer at Huawei Technologies.

"It is vital that all stakeholders play an active role, therefore Huawei commend the Commonwealth ICT policymakers for their recognition of the global nature of the supply chain, and their commitment to a collaborative approach to address the cyber threat," Mr Francis added.

The full report of the event will be published in early July by the CTO at www.cto.int

The next Commonwealth ICT Ministers Forum will take place in 2018. //

//CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth Fellows from Rwanda and Trinidad present final reports in presence of their High Commissioners



Commonwealth Fellows. From the left: Brice Murara, Jerome Lynch and Solange Ningabire

At a ceremony held on 17 June in London, Commonwealth Fellows Solange Ningabire and Brice Murara of the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority presented the outcome of their three-month research on digital switchover and on stakeholder engagement respectively.

On the same occasion, Jerome Lynch of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago presented his work on building an ICT knowledge base. Hosted by the CTO for the duration of their projects, the three Fellows were beneficiaries of professional fellowships from the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC).

Special guests present at the ceremony were Her Excellency Yamina Claris Karitanyi, High Commissioner for the Republic of Rwanda and Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner for Trinidad & Tobago to the UK.

“The CTO is delighted to host CSC Fellows from our member countries each year,” said Mr Shola Taylor, Secretary-General of the CTO. “These Fellows research and build solutions on topics that are of great benefit, not only to the CTO, but also to their employer and their home countries,” he concluded.

“I am very impressed by the work carried out by the Fellows,” said HE Karitanyi. “These projects will contribute to the development of ICTs in Rwanda and throughout the Commonwealth.”

The CSC awards over 900 scholarships and fellowships every year to Commonwealth citizens for postgraduate study and professional development. The CTO host around six Fellows every year from CTO Full Member Countries, who work on a range of ICT-related research topics including capacity development, cybersecurity and broadband //

CTO appoints first regional advisors



Dr Marianne Treschow and Gisa Fuatai Purcell

The CTO's activities throughout the Commonwealth cross national and regional boundaries, but there is a need for the Organisation to stay abreast of the regional priorities of its members in their wider regional context. This month the CTO announced the appointment of two regional advisors on ICTs to further the interests of members at regional level. Gisa Fuatai Purcell, former ITU divisional head, has been appointed as regional advisor for the South Pacific, and Dr Marianne Treschow, former director-general and member of the board of the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority will take up the post of regional advisor for Scandinavia and Northern Europe.

“I am delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Treschow and Ms Purcell,” said Secretary-General Shola Taylor. “The CTO's mandate to coordinate Commonwealth positions at international ICT events necessitates us staying up-to-date with regional issues, and our regional advisors will ensure our engagement in these areas.”

“I am greatly honoured to be appointed as regional advisor for Scandinavia and Northern Europe,” Dr Treschow said. “I strongly believe in the work of the CTO, building ICT capacity across the Commonwealth and look forward to working further with the CTO, building on my work as an Ambassador for the Organisation” //

BoFiNet employees to benefit from CTO's training programmes every year

Botswana Fibre Networks (BoFiNet) has recently become a member of the Programme for Development & Training (PDT), the largest ICT professional training programme run by the CTO.

“In the fast-paced world of ICT development it is essential that BoFiNet employees are able to keep abreast of new technologies

and the telecommunications regulatory environment,” Mr Mabua Lesego Mabua, Chief Executive Officer of BoFiNet said.

“This is why we have joined the CTO's well regarded Programme for Development and Training,” he expounded. He went on to highlight that the attractiveness of the training programme was that it was bespoke and targeted at governments, addressing the

challenges the ICT sector faces.

“The PDT provides technical expertise in ICTs to stakeholders across the world by facilitating cooperation among members,” said CTO Secretary-General Shola Taylor. “BoFiNet's membership of our main capacity development programme strengthens our training scheme while also offering BoFiNet the training their staff require to continue to be leaders in their field in Botswana. We welcome BoFiNet to the PDT family” //



//TECHNICAL SUPPORT & CONSULTANCY

CTO begins cyber standards project for SMEs in Botswana

This month saw the CTO begin work with Botswana on a project to promote cyber standards across the SME sector.

With support from the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, and working in partnership with Information Assurance for SMEs (IASME), the CTO will work with stakeholders in business and ICT communities in Botswana to promote Cyber Essentials, the UK Government's standard in cybersecurity.

"SMEs play a major role in most economies, particularly in developing countries," said Dr Martin Koyabe, Manager, Technical Support & Consultancy who led the work for the CTO in Botswana.

"These SMEs also contribute to and participate in the global value-chain, supplying goods and services in various sectors. Establishing cyber standards applicable to the SME sectors across borders is therefore critical in building a trusted borderless business environment, delivering prosperity

to countries, communities and entrepreneurs. This project is a part of CTO's contribution to help promote e-commerce in the Commonwealth."

Work also took place in June on projects with Pakistan and Bangladesh on tackling cyber crime, as well as the kick-starting of projects to develop the national cybersecurity strategies of Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique.

Malawi Minister of Information, Honourable Patricia Kaliati, who attended the official opening ceremony for the workshop in her country, congratulated the CTO on assisting countries across the Commonwealth in various aspects of cybersecurity.

"I am very impressed by the quality of the CTO's initial work on Malawi's National Cybersecurity Strategy," said Hon Kaliati. "The consultations with stakeholders have been most valuable and I look forward to hearing the recommendations on the way forward." //

CTO VACANCIES

Manager, Human Resources and Administration

Closing date: 15 July 2016

Programme Officer, International Coordination – Spectrum

Closing date: 30 July 2016

Senior Communications and Events Officer

Closing date: 31 July 2016

Programme Officer, International Coordination – Cyber

Closing date: 31 July 2016

Programme Officer, International Coordination – Standards

Closing date: 31 July 2016

Senior Programme Officer, Cybersecurity and Global ICT Agenda Coordination

Closing date: 31 July 2016

Senior IT officer

Closing date: 31 July 2016

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

//MEMBER NEWS

Vodafone and Sky to merge New Zealand operations



Vodafone Group and Sky Network Television announced this month that they have reached an agreement to create a leading integrated telecommunications and media group in New Zealand, via a combination of Sky and Vodafone New Zealand. //

Uganda seeks government e-procurement solution

The National Information Technology Authority – Uganda (NITA-U) has invited bids for the supply, installation, commissioning and maintenance of a national e-government procurement system (e-GP system) for Uganda. The e-GP system sought must function as a full unitary e-Procurement System to assist the government to carry out complete public procurements electronically, and should include an procurement portal, registration for bidders, e-auctioning and contract management. //

Nigeria's NCC receives European recognition for best practice

The European Awards for Best Practices 2016 run by the European Society for Quality Research aim to recognise outstanding commitment, support and results in quality management strategies. The award was given in recognition for NCC's transparency in its regulatory activities. According the organisers, the European Awards for Best Practices programme takes a comprehensive look at the initiatives and strategies that business leaders implement in their companies and organisations. //

//FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Event	Date & Location	Format
Regulatory Boards Workshop	4 - 8 Jul 2016, London, UK	Workshop
Broadband Caribbean Forum 2016	14 - 15 Jul 2016, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago	Conference
Commonwealth Spectrum Auction Workshop	29 Aug - 2 Sep 2016, Johannesburg, South Africa	Workshop
Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation Forum 2016	12 - 14 Sep 2016, Nadi, Fiji (incl. Council)	Conference
Broadband Asia Forum 2016	21 - 23 Sep 2016, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Conference
Commonwealth Spectrum Management Conference 2016	2 - 4 Nov 2016, Yaounde, Cameroon	Conference
Commonwealth Human Resources and ICTs Forum 2016	21 - 22 Nov 2016, Kingston, Jamaica	Conference



BROADBAND ASIA FORUM 2016

21 - 23 SEPTEMBER 2016, KUALA LUMPUR

CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Organised by



COMMONWEALTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ORGANISATION

Hosted by



To **speak, exhibit** or **sponsor** this event, contact **Robert Hayman** at events@cto.int or call +44 20 8600 3800.

cto.int/events/upcoming-events/



COMMONWEALTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORGANISATION FORUM 2016

12 - 14 SEPTEMBER 2016, NADI, FIJI

CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

ICTs FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Broadband strategies for small island nations

Successful cybersecurity strategies

IoT and regulatory environments

e-applications

Organised by



COMMONWEALTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ORGANISATION

Hosted by

The Government of Fiji

To **speak, exhibit** or **sponsor** this event, contact **Robert Hayman** at events@cto.int or call +44 20 8600 3800.

cto.int/events/upcoming-events/