

Towards Development of Information Society

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The ITU Association of Japan, Inc. (ITU-AJ) was founded on 1 September 1971 with the role of coordinating Japan's activities with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors with those of other countries worldwide.

Today, the principal activities of the ITU-AJ are to cooperate in the various activities of international organizations such as the ITU and to disseminate information about them. The Association also aims to help developing countries by supporting technical assistance, as well as by taking part in general international cooperation, mainly through the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) so as to contribute to the advance of telecommunications and broadcasting throughout the world.

Scope of ITU-AJ Activities

1. Support of ITU:

The ITU-AJ assists Japanese delegations at Plenipotentiary Conferences and other major ITU meetings and it also supports ITU meetings held in Japan.

2. Publishing and information services:

The ITU-AJ collects and archives ITU recommendations and other relevant materials, which are offered for public reading, acts as an intermediary for people wishing to purchase these and, in addition, publishes Japanese and English-language journals as well as several other titles.

3. Spreading knowledge and raising awareness:

The ITU-AJ holds workshops, lectures and seminars to achieve greater public recognition and understanding of the ITU and the importance of telecommunications.

4. Cooperation with developing countries:

The ITU-AJ helps to promote telecommunications in developing countries, mainly in Asia, by for example, holding training seminars in telecommunications technologies.

5. Work entrusted by other bodies:

The ITU-AJ is entrusted to carry out certain training and research activities by organizations like the ITU and APT.

In October last year the ITU-AJ paid a courtesy call on ITU Secretary General Dr Hamadoun I. Touré and other leading executives at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva. A Nishijin brocade tapestry of Katsushika Hokusai's ukiyo-e print 'Red Mt. Fuji' donated by the ITU-AJ in 1999 adorns the ITU Montbrillant Building where numerous international meetings are held and I could feel that we are very closely linked to the ITU Headquarters.

In the almost 40 years since the ITU-AJ was founded, we have provided proactive contributions in support of the high-level international conferences such as ITU Plenipotentiary Conferences (ITU PP) and World Radiocommunication Conferences (ITU WRC). As part of these initiatives, this year we have provided support in cooperation with the Japanese government to the Japanese delegation at the World Telecommunication Development Conferences 2010 (WTDC) thereby helping to show Japan's presence to the world.

Last year we provided secretarial support to events such

as the Focus Group on ICTs and Climate Change, Hiroshima (FG-ICT&CC), ITU/MIC Strategic Dialogue on Safer Internet Environment for Children, and ITU TELECOM WORLD 2009, and helped these meetings to end in success.



*ITU Secretary-general
Dr Hamadoun I. Touré and
ITU-AJ president Kiyoshi Mori*

In addition, we carried out a broad range of other activities ranging from providing the secretariat services for both the 8th Meeting of the APT Wireless Forum (AWF-8) and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunications and ICT Development Forum 2010 (ADF-2010), which were sponsored by the APT as well as the ITU, to arranging training for JICA's Networking of Rural Community Information Infrastructure program.

By activities such as organizing our Practical Seminar which offers practical simulations of international meetings and international negotiations and enables learning by doing, and by sponsoring study groups introducing the latest technologies including one on Smart Grids and one on 4G Mobile Phones, we have been also able to proactively promote the development of standardization experts.

Each year we also hold a ceremony on May 17 to celebrate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day and present the ITU-AJ President's Awards to those who have made contributions to ITU activities and international cooperation activities in order to honor those achievements

In a reading corner set up in the ITU-AJ office, documents relating to the ITU are archived. We also answer a variety of technical questions and issues that we receive. In addition to these services, we issue a monthly publication in Japanese called ITU Journal, and New Breeze which is a quarterly, through which we introduce our broad readership to information about ITU meetings and the latest trends in ICT.

Our association is expanding its collaboration with the Japanese government, private enterprises and academic bodies as it pursues its aim of realizing a world without information divides. While receiving cooperation from related parties and especially from our supporting members and while our focus in on ITU-related activities, I would also like us to positively support various kinds of activities of other international organizations involved in this field.

On the occasion of our visit to Geneva last October I noticed that the cherry tree (sakura) saplings sent by the ITU-AJ in May 1990 to the ITU to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the ITU's existence as in international body had grown into splendid trees in the secretariat garden. I hope that our activities in the world's telecommunications and broadcasting fields will continue to grow and flourish just like these cherry trees.