

# New Year Message from ITU



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Secretary-General

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It is an honor for me to have this opportunity to greet ITU's Japanese community via the ITU Association of Japan's journal. The ITU Association of Japan (ITU-AJ) has been a key partner in enhancing and promoting ITU's work in technical standardization, radiocommunications management, and information and communication technology penetration in developing countries, helping connect the world and bringing the benefits of modern communication technologies to people everywhere.

Looking back at the events held in 2016, we find that ITU and the world took good steps towards a brighter future, but there's much more work to be done. As the United Nations specialized agency for Telecommunications and ICTs, we have been working towards ensuring that ITU's activities contribute most effectively to the achievement of the goals and objectives set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UNGA Overall Review on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

In May, ITU and other UN agencies successfully organized the WSIS Forum in Geneva with a focus on the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The work of WSIS in strengthening and aligning with the SDGs will be a continued focus in 2017.

I applaud the work done by the ITU-T Review Committee chaired by Mr. Maeda from Japan. The committee's work helped ITU membership call for ITU's standardization arm to expand its study of the wireline networking innovations required to achieve the ambitious performance targets of smart 5G system as an outcome of WTSA-16. ITU celebrated the 60th anniversary of CCITT/ITU-T during WTSA-2016.

The work of the ITU's Radiocommunication sector and the Radio Regulations ensure interference-free operation of radiocommunication systems and provide all countries with equitable access to the radio spectrum — a scarce natural resource that does not distinguish national borders and needs to be harmonized globally.

As we approach 2017 we also celebrate, on 12 December

2016, the 110th anniversary of the ITU Radio Regulations, the essential international treaty governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits for ubiquitous wireless communications.

The work of ITU's Telecommunication Development Sector continues to foster international cooperation in the delivery of technical assistance and in the creation, development and improvement of telecommunication and ICT networks and applications in developing markets. ITU-D successfully organized GSR-2016 and WTIS-2016. The ITU's work on the indicator index has received ever increasing recognition by the global business stakeholder.

As you are well aware, ITU Telecom World was held again in Bangkok last year. Since 2015, ITU Telecom World has taken the initiative to promote SMEs' access to the world ICT market through the event. To our great pleasure, many SMEs were actively utilizing these opportunities and bringing new waves of ideas to ITU, including a successful case of "Japan Battery Regeneration" from Japan.

In all these activities, ITU recognises the active participation of Japan, including its government, industry, academia and ITU-AJ.

In 2017, I hope ITU's members will embrace ITU's commitment to close the digital gender gap in ICT and work hard to help bring the billions of people still without access to ICTs online.

I am confident that Japan will continue to contribute actively to all of ITU's activities, and I would like to thank Japan for its continuous support of ITU ever since joining the Union in 1879.

Lastly, I take this opportunity to wish all of Japanese friends and partners, as well as your families, a peaceful and prosperous 2017.