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இலங்கையின் பிரதம அமைச்சர்  
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

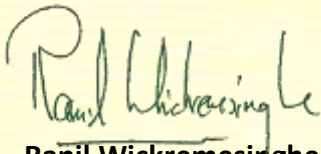
**MESSAGE FROM THE HON. PRIME MINISTER**

Telecommunication, information and communication technology (ICT) have become drivers for innovation. Communication has impacted all aspects of our lives exposing us to information continuously, making it difficult to avoid.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD), which has been celebrated every year on 17<sup>th</sup> May since the formation of the International Telegraph Union in 1865, emphasises the importance of ICT services and technologies in terms of their societal and economic impacts.

Telecommunication, starting from the invention of telephone, through to the launch of the first satellite and up to the birth of the World Wide Web, has evolved at an unprecedented rate. This has opened up opportunities but has also presented us with the challenge of rethinking and understanding our own development so that we can utilise the latest artificial intelligence technologies for planning and organisation, monitoring and evaluation, and ensuring that we bring its benefits to our country.

It gives me pleasure to congratulate all those involved in commemorating the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day and I wish them great success in achieving their goals for this year's theme, "Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence to all".

  
**Ranil Wickremesinghe**  
Prime Minister

May 04<sup>th</sup>, 2018