World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
17 May 2018
Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All
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Enabling the Positive Artificial Intelligence for All

Every year on May 17, ITU Members around the world celebrate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.

Artificial Intelligence, or AI, is taking center stage with a lot of impact on people's lives. AI's potential power is being exploited and developed at an unprecedented speed. AI brings us many opportunities and challenges. AI will greatly change our economy and society.

ITU, in its role of Specialized UN Agency for ICT services and technologies, wishes to work with Academia, researchers, industries, Administrations and Governments, UN Agencies, as well as other stakeholders and partners, to facilitate the AI development, to bring the benefits of AI to all.

ITU invites you to join us to celebrate WTISD 2018 !

Houlin Zhao
Secretary General
International Telecommunication Union

Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All is the theme of WTISD-18 and will focus on the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to accelerate the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In recent years there has been significant progress in AI technology, made possible by tremendous advances in contributing fields, such as Big Data, machine learning, computing power, storage capacity and cloud computing, among others. AI-based technologies are already emerging as a key component of proactive tools and applications being used to help people lead better lives by improving healthcare, education, finance, agriculture, transportation, and a wide range of other services.

The 2018 theme will allow ITU Membership and other key stakeholders to focus on the opportunities for how AI can help accelerate the achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

About the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day;

17 May marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union.

World Telecommunication Day
World Telecommunication Day has been celebrated annually on 17 May **since 1969**, marking the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. It was instituted by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Malaga-Torremolinos in 1973.

World Information Society Day
In **November 2005**, the World Summit on the Information Society called upon the UN General Assembly to declare 17 May as World Information Society Day to focus on the importance of ICT and the wide range of issues related to the Information Society raised by WSIS. The General Assembly adopted a resolution in March 2006 stipulating that World Information Society Day shall be celebrated every year on 17 May.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
In **November 2006**, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Antalya, Turkey, decided to celebrate both events on 17 May as World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.

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