

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

17 May 2017



www.itu.int/wtisd
#wtisd



Big Data for Big Impact ;

Every year on 17 May, the ITU membership around the world, celebrate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day – a day to mark the founding of our Union over 150 years ago.

The theme for 2017 is "Big Data for Big Impact," which will explore the power of big data for development and examine the opportunities to convert unprecedented quantities of data into Information that can drive development.

The insight brought about by this analysis of data will enable evidence-based decision-making at national, regional and international levels and help the implementation of all 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

It will also be an occasion to take a closer look at the importance of governance and regulation, and the implications for personal privacy and security given the future exponential growth in data and connectivity.

Countless opportunities will also be identified as we learn to better perfect and harness big data, and understand the impact big data can have as a global good.

Activities undertaken by the ITU membership will contribute towards building momentum to embrace big data on a global scale and to seize new opportunities to address development challenges.

**Secretary General
International Telecommunication Union**

The theme for WTISD-17, "Big Data for Big Impact," focuses on the power of Big Data for development and aims to explore how to turn imperfect, complex, often unstructured data into actionable information in a development context. The insight brought on by advanced analysis can strongly complement the evidence-based nature of decision-making that can be leveraged at national, regional, and international levels to drive success towards attaining all 17 of the United

Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030.

The theme for WTISD-17 is in line with ITU's work highlighting the technological developments that have facilitated the emergence of Big Data, developing standards related to Big Data and identifying sources and uses of Big Data, including use of Big Data technologies for developing and monitoring improvements in information societies.

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.

Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka
No 276, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08. Sri Lanka
www.trc.gov.lk