



Journal Title: ITU News

Journal Issue: (no. 5) 2009

Article Title: ITU World Telecommunication and Information Society Award 2009: Meet the Laureates

Page number(s): pp. 4- 13

This electronic version (PDF) was scanned by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Library & Archives Service from an original paper document in the ITU Library & Archives collections.

La présente version électronique (PDF) a été numérisée par le Service de la bibliothèque et des archives de l'Union internationale des télécommunications (UIT) à partir d'un document papier original des collections de ce service.

Esta versión electrónica (PDF) ha sido escaneada por el Servicio de Biblioteca y Archivos de la Unión Internacional de Telecomunicaciones (UIT) a partir de un documento impreso original de las colecciones del Servicio de Biblioteca y Archivos de la UIT.

(ITU) للاتصالات الدولي الاتحاد في والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم أجراه الضوئي بالمسح تصوير نتاج (PDF) الإلكترونية النسخة هذه والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم في المتوفرة الوثائق ضمن أصلية ورقية وثيقة من نقلاً.

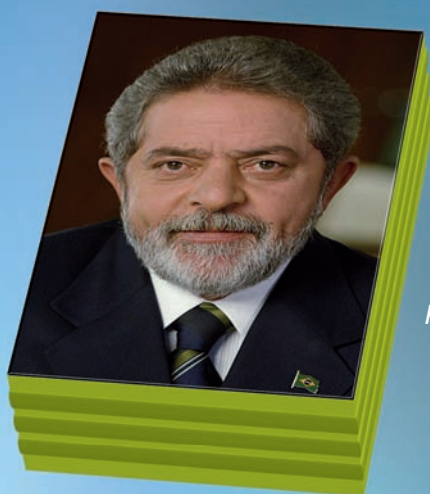
此电子版（PDF版本）由国际电信联盟（ITU）图书馆和档案室利用存于该处的纸质文件扫描提供。

Настоящий электронный вариант (PDF) был подготовлен в библиотечно-архивной службе Международного союза электросвязи путем сканирования исходного документа в бумажной форме из библиотечно-архивной службы МСЭ.

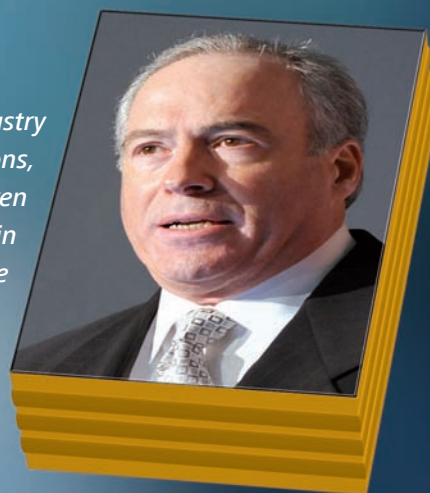
ITU World Telecommunication and Information Society Award 2009

Meet the laureates

The ITU World Telecommunication and Information Society Award is presented on World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. This year, it focused on three eminent personalities who have contributed to protecting children in cyberspace. The Award was presented by ITU Secretary-General Dr Hamadoun I. Touré.



While actively promoting Internet access for all, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil has demonstrated deep concern for children's safety in cyberspace. In 2008, he signed a new law against buying, posting, or storing of child pornography on the Internet.



As Chief Executive Officer of GSMA, the industry association for mobile communications, Robert Conway led efforts to protect children using mobile phones. The Award was given in particular recognition for the GSMA's Mobile Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Content.



When serving as a Commissioner at the United States Federal Communications Commission from 2005 to 2008, Deborah Taylor Tate was often called the "children's commissioner". She is an international advocate for child safety related to information and communication technologies (ICT).



“I am very proud and honoured to receive this Award from ITU.”

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of the Federative Republic of Brazil

The government of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has been active in promoting a digital inclusion programme for the people of Brazil. Its projects include “Computers for all”, which aims to make computers affordable for Brazilians on low incomes. And focusing on school-age children, President Lula has also demonstrated deep concern about their safety in cyberspace. In 2008, he signed a new law against sexual exploitation of children online.

In a message via video link, President Lula said: “I am very proud and honoured to receive this Award from ITU — particularly because it is in recognition of measures that we have taken in Brazil for digital inclusion and to fight sexual exploitation of children on the worldwide net. Last year, I approved a law that defines as a crime any buying, posting, or storing of material related to child pornography on the Internet. I am very glad to note that we are in tune with ITU’s

concerns, which, for this year, adopted the theme of protecting children in cyberspace to celebrate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. We want to protect, but we also seek to expand access to cyberspace, especially for the less privileged.”

President Lula went on to describe the initiatives being implemented to bridge the digital divide. These include the distribution of computers to Brazil’s 5564 municipalities and expanding broadband access to schools. “Every urban public school will be equipped with broadband access to the Internet. We are also distributing, on an experimental basis, 150 000 notebook computers to students and teachers in the public primary education system,” the President told the audience in Geneva. He was represented at the Award ceremony by Ambassador Roberto Azevêdo of the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Organizations in Geneva.

► Digital Inclusion Programme

The Brazilian Digital Inclusion Programme focuses on ensuring that all citizens and relevant agencies have the means and skills required to access, use, produce and share information and knowledge through communication and information technologies (ICT). In this way, they can take an active and constructive part in the information society. The Digital Inclusion Programme has three core components: expansion of the telecommunication infrastructure; use of ICT in educational policies, and creation of community centres that provide access to the Internet (telecentres). The main projects are described below.

Connected Citizens — Computers for all

This project was launched in 2005 and seeks to combine tax rebates (of around 10 per cent) with financing mechanisms to benefit industry and consumers and allow people on low incomes to buy a computer with free/open source software installed. The initial average interest rate of 6 per cent per month was reduced to 2 per cent for loans to those who qualify to buy computers under the programme. As a direct result, computer sales rose to 10 million units in 2007, against 4 million in 2004. In 2008, the number rose further to around 12 million, making Brazil the largest Latin American computer market and the fifth globally.

Telecentres for community access

Telecentres are an important means of enhancing digital inclusion. These are shared-access facilities that empower citizens and stimulate community development and the improvement of skills. In 2008 alone, Brazil added 5500 telecentres to the already existing 5000. And President Lula recently approved a proposal for an additional 3000 telecentres to be established in 2009.

Expanding broadband access to municipalities and schools

Of the 5564 municipalities, 3439 did not have broadband infrastructure at the beginning of 2008, but all will be covered by 2010, if all goes according to plan. After intense negotiations with incumbent telecommunication operators, one of the initial universal service obligations to install public access terminals in all municipalities by 2010 and provide them with dial-up Internet access has been transformed into parameters for developing infrastructure to support the expansion of broadband.

As a result of these negotiations, broadband Internet access at schools has also become possible. By 2010, all urban public schools will be connected, and the service will be provided without charge until 2025.





Laptops for teachers

Scheduled to start before the end of 2009, the aim of this project is to encourage school teachers to use computers. By partnering with computer manufacturers and financial institutions (including the national postal service), the Brazilian Government will enable teachers to buy laptops, and have them delivered, at discount prices.

One laptop per student

In 2005, Nicholas Negroponte's presentation on *One Laptop per Child* (OLPC) was brought to the Brazilian Government's attention at the World Economic Forum, in Davos, Switzerland. During 2006, research centres were asked to find ways of linking the project to public educational policies. In 2007, pilot projects were started in five schools using three kinds of notebook computers, donated by manufacturers.

The second phase of the project is more daring and involves a partnership between federal, state and municipal governments. The State Education Secretaries Forum and local government representatives have identified schools and municipalities to be covered. The Federal Government will provide equipment and Internet access, and will train teachers and provide project assessment. State and municipal authorities,

in turn, will make available school infrastructure and develop a curriculum. A bidding process is now under way for the supply of 150 000 laptops for 300 schools in 275 municipalities. This will ensure that a minimum of 10 schools per state are covered, both in urban and rural areas and at the state and municipal levels. The goal is to provide every teacher and student in public schools in five municipalities per state with laptops connected to broadband Internet access.

Protecting children on the Internet

In 2008, a technical cooperation agreement was signed between the government's Special Secretariat for Human Rights, the Federal Police, and Safernet (a non-governmental organization), to create a website for complaints concerning pornography involving children or teenagers. The complaints are received and investigated by Brazilian authorities, in cooperation with public and private organizations.

In addition to these initiatives, President Lula approved (also in 2008) federal legislation on child pornography to better coordinate prosecution of this type of crime. The new law makes it an offence to own or facilitate the production and dissemination of pornographic material involving children and teenagers, through any means.



Robert G. Conway receiving the Award from Dr Touré

Robert G. Conway

Chief Executive Officer, GSM Association

“Online child sexual abuse content has no place on our mobile phones, our computers or anywhere else.”

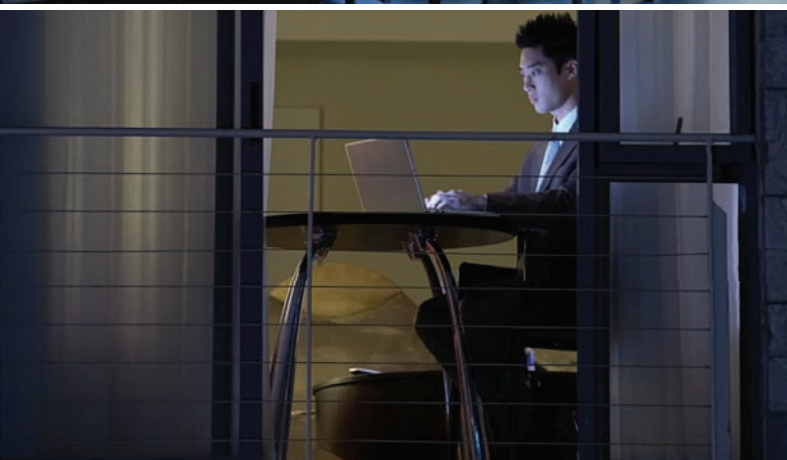
It is a great honour for me to receive the ITU World Telecommunication and Information Society Award on behalf of the GSM Association (GSMA). In February 2008, the GSMA was proud to announce the launch of its Mobile Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Content, at the *Mobile World Congress* in Barcelona. The members of our Alliance include some of the world's largest operators (see box on page 10) and they stood together to stop the insidious use of mobile technology for the unlawful exploitation and abuse of children. At the launch, we were fortunate to have ITU Secretary-General Hamadoun I. Touré, as well as the European Union Commissioner for Information Society and Media Viviane Reding, present and supporting our initiative.

What are we talking about here? We are talking about the unlawful exploitation of children. We are talking about young children, the majority of whom are under 10 years old. We are talking about these young children being sexually abused. We are talking

about pictures of this horrendous abuse being posted online and circulated all over the world, every day.

In mid-May 2009, the United Kingdom reported the conviction of a paedophile ring of nine men, who had abused children and collected over 75 000 images of child sexual abuse which they shared online. We heard how a six-year-old child, an 18-month-old child and a 3-month-old baby were abused by this gang. These men are now behind bars, but the images of these children being abused may continue to be available online, unless we and others act. The Alliance has acted and we will continue to act, and we will support others who do so too. Online child sexual abuse content has no place on our mobile phones, our computers or anywhere else.

So what is the aim of the Alliance and its member operators? We aim to help stem, and ultimately reverse, the growth of online child sexual abuse content around the world. Through a combination of technical measures, cooperation and information sharing, the



GSMA

Alliance seeks to obstruct the misuse of mobile networks and services for hosting, accessing, or profiting from child sexual abuse content.

Today, the problem exists largely on the fixed Internet. For example, one operator noted an average of 5 million attempts to access abusive content on its fixed-line network, but only 25 000 attempts on its mobile network in the same timeframe. However, any attempt is terrible and should not be tolerated. And as our industry rolls out mobile broadband networks that provide quick and easy access to multimedia websites, we must put safeguards in place to obstruct criminals looking to use mobile services as a means of accessing or hosting pictures and videos of children being sexually abused. We call on governments across the world to provide the necessary legal clarity to ensure that mobile operators can act effectively against child sexual abuse content.

Our Alliance members support and promote the use of "hotlines" for customers to report child sexual abuse content on the Internet or on mobile services. Members implement "notice and take down"*

* "Notice and take down" procedures take place when an operator or service provider is ordered by national authorities to remove illegal online content.

procedures, to enable the swift removal of abusive content posted on operator-hosted services. They also block access to websites that are known to contain child sexual abuse content, based on lists provided by appropriate agencies or law enforcement organizations.

GSMA provides expertise and tool kits and shares critical information on technology developments and best practice. As well as our comprehensive industry network, we use our *Mobile World Congress* in Barcelona and our *Mobile Asia Congress* in Hong Kong, China, to highlight developments and vigorously promote the programme.

In Europe, many operators are supporting hotlines, have processes in place to remove any child sexual abuse content hosted on their systems, and are restricting access to known sites. Thus, operators such as Vodafone, Telefónica and Orange are working to

"As our industry rolls out mobile broadband networks that provide quick and easy access to multimedia websites, we must put safeguards in place to obstruct criminals looking to use mobile services as a means of accessing or hosting pictures and videos of children being sexually abused."



make sure technical barriers to this unlawful content are in place.

Outside Europe, GSMA is raising awareness and promoting action in the mobile area. In Africa, Alliance members MTN Group and Vodacom SA have hotlines and are implementing measures across the continent.

In Latin America, Telefónica Group is raising awareness of the issues and is working with local stakeholders to help develop hotlines and improve the understanding of legal issues. In Asia, operators such as Dialog Telekom in Sri Lanka have launched an initiative to proactively deny access to websites identified as hosting child sexual abuse content, in conjunction with the Internet Watch Foundation and the national Sri Lankan hotline.

As the global industry association for the mobile ecosystem of over 750 operator members and many

Members of the Mobile Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Content:

- ▶ GSMA
- ▶ Dialog Telekom
- ▶ Hutchison 3G Europe
- ▶ Meteor
- ▶ mobilkom austria group
- ▶ MTN Group
- ▶ Orange FT Group
- ▶ Telecom Italia
- ▶ Telefónica Group
- ▶ Telenor Group
- ▶ TeliaSonera Group
- ▶ T-Mobile Group
- ▶ Vodacom SA
- ▶ Vodafone Group
- ▶ dotMobi

more suppliers, GSMA takes seriously its responsibility to members' customers and to our communities. We want people to benefit from all the positive attributes of mobile communications.

The battle we are waging is clearly not a battle we can win alone. We must, and do, work with other critical players who share a common goal of protecting children from abuse and exploitation online. Therefore, we are pleased that we are able to work in cooperation with the Child Online Protection initiative, launched by ITU in partnership with other players.

At GSMA, we are promoting globally a safe experience for children using mobile communications. We promote age-based classification of content and tools so that parents can control access to it. We seek to educate users on how to deal with spam, theft and inappropriate contact, as well as about safe and appropriate usage in general. We are working with the European Commission to develop self-regulatory frameworks covering children's use of mobile technologies.

The fruits of this work, experience and learning have been put forward to the ITU's Draft Guidelines for industry on protecting children online. We applaud ITU's effort to coalesce the important work of the many players in this area.

For further information on the Mobile Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Content, contact Natasha Jackson at the GSMA (njackson@gsm.org)



Deborah Taylor Tate receiving the Award from Dr Touré

ITUW. Martin

Deborah Taylor Tate

International Advocate for ICT Child Safety Issues

“ I am delighted to have been part of the development of the Child Online Protection initiative launched here at ITU. ”

I most humbly accept this Award on behalf of all those across the world who have been working to provide our children with a safe and positive experience in cyberspace.

Thank you to those who are software and applications developers and engineers; child advocacy organizations and members of the media; chief executive officers and law enforcement officials; teachers and parents. Thank you to researchers, writers — and especially to our young people, who are our best ambassadors to this Internet generation. Together we must ensure safe and peaceful digital citizenship in this new age. This Award is for you.

With the outbreak of H1N1 flu, I wondered if I would be here to receive the Award. Several schools were closed in my hometown of Nashville, Tennessee. However, thanks in part to our global communications infrastructure, we were able as schools, cities, regions, and nations — indeed as the world — to act immediately and take necessary precautions to reduce the

spread of disease as much as possible. The benefits that global communications provide are precisely why I am able to participate in this event. It is our duty to learn from the efforts of our healthcare colleagues and ensure that children reap the benefits of this new digital age without becoming infected by what have become the viral diseases of the online world.

Child Online Protection initiative

I am therefore delighted to have been part of the development of the Child Online Protection (COP) initiative launched here at ITU. The COP initiative is an international collaborative network that is striving to promote the infinite possibilities offered by information and communication technologies (ICT), while keeping in mind that online dangers are a very real threat. I am confident that COP can provide a global response to the new risks our children face — risks that once were only experienced in the real world but are alive and well in cyberspace.



► For too long we have lived under a myth — the myth that our children are safe as long as they are in their own homes. We now realize that this is not the case, as, through the Internet, they can travel anywhere in the world, from within their own rooms.

Broadband opportunities

This new digital age offers us incredible opportunities. As a state and federal official in the United States, I used every resource to extol the virtues of advances in technology. As nations and leaders, one of our critical goals is to connect all of our citizens to the Internet; to establish appropriate policies that encourage innovation and incentives to deploy broadband to the last mile, the last house, the last village, the last mountaintop, so that every single citizen in our world can reap the dazzling benefits which broadband and the Internet have to offer. From telehealth and remote surgery, to e-commerce and distance learning, our people can improve their health, enhance their education, attain prosperity and compete globally while remaining in contact with family and friends, no matter how many miles may come between them.

Dangers in cyberspace

Online technologies give us new possibilities to communicate, learn new skills, be creative and contribute to creating a better society for all. But often they open the door to new and dangerous risks. Cybersecurity threats can steal our identities, appropriate our finances, and even threaten our homeland security. We have a special responsibility to protect children from these risks.

Just as in the H1N1 example, we must use the knowledge and research that we have gained regarding cybersecurity threats and provide it to the world — from predatory behaviour and illegal uses of the Internet, to the proliferation of extremely damaging personal information, and even entirely new problems such as cyberbullying and addiction. And we must respond — as parents, teachers, engineers, telecommunication providers, the media and leaders — just as we would to any health issues.

We must acknowledge the threats, discover the universe of possible responses to each of them — and then empower ourselves with the tools to eradicate them.



© Greenshadows Communications/Alamy

Unique role of ITU

That is why ITU has a unique role to play — and all those organizations that have joined in this effort are crucial to the full maximization of these spectacular technological advances for our children. I am encouraged that COP is working towards the goal of becoming a world repository of information. Whether you are a government minister or a parent; whether you are looking for in-depth research, a public service announcement for any medium, or a curriculum for your classroom — COP aims to provide a vast menu of tools and information from all parts of the globe.

For this reason, I commend ITU and all COP members for their efforts to promote online safety and for their willingness to work together towards the simple but profound principle of being safe and civil citizens online; towards a goal of “good digital citizenship” for all.

A call to action

To those of you who are leaders: we must have rules for the roads of cyberspace just as we have rules for our highways. For parents and teachers and all caregivers: we must have rules of acceptable behaviour online as we do offline — you must be involved in your child’s life online. For creators and entrepreneurs:

we must have new tools and devices to protect our children, and they will need to evolve as new and brilliant minds create even more innovative ways of communicating.

For companies and chief executive officers who are profiting from these new services and technologies: you need to be part of the solution. You need to provide funding for research, tools, and educational opportunities — it is not only a good thing to do, but good for the bottom line as well.

I strongly urge global leaders to support this extremely important and timely Child Online Protection initiative, because there is an urgent need to ensure that all the good work being done globally is brought together in a coordinated effort for all to access.

Join COP so we can ensure these miraculous and dynamic means of communication instil and inspire the best and the brightest; providing a safe environment in which children can learn and grow to meet their full potential, whether online or offline. These are all our children, the world’s children, the hope of tomorrow and the future leaders of your nation and mine. They deserve nothing less.