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(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.

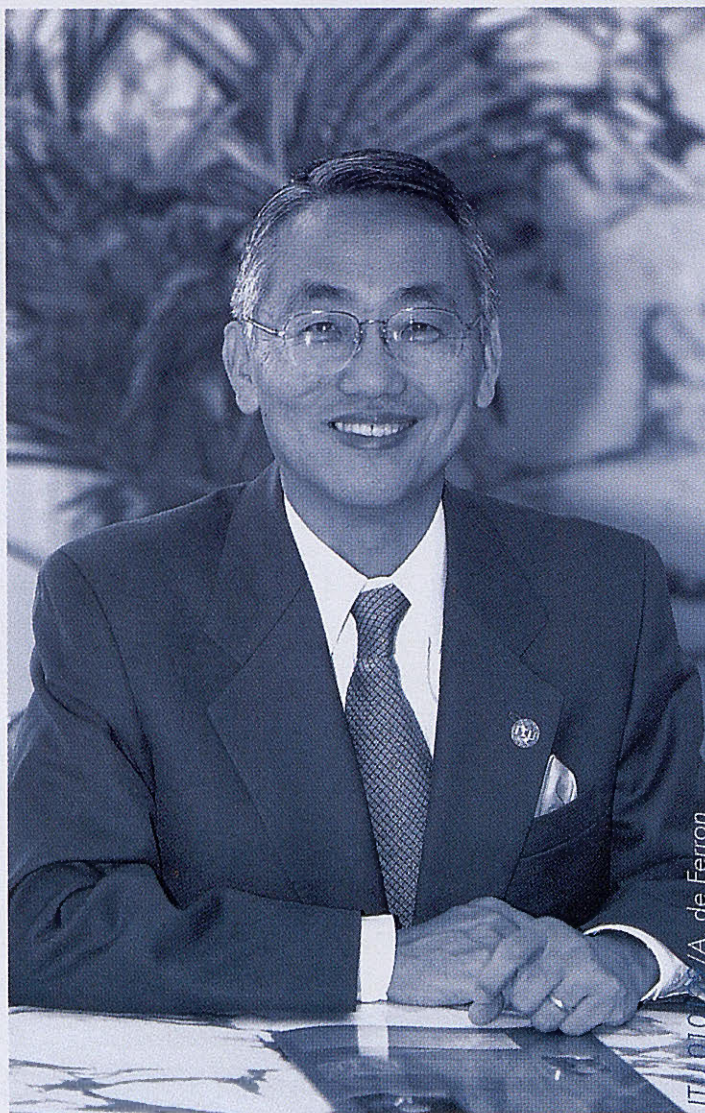
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World Telecommunication Day
17 May 2003

Helping all of the world's people to communicate

*Message from Yoshio Utsumi
Secretary-General
International Telecommunication Union*



The history of humanity has been marked by fundamental changes in the way we live, work and play. Many of these changes were brought about by revolutions in communication technology and are reflected in the history of ITU since its creation on 17 May 1865.

While our role has broadened and expanded over the years, our main mission remains to help the world's people to communicate. This need is as basic to humanity as its quest for prosperity and peace.

That purpose may have been best expressed by one of our founding members when he addressed the representatives of the 20 countries gathered in Paris to create ITU. "We have met here as a veritable Peace Congress," he said because the means of communication

provide "the speedy and unbroken link to the scattered members of the human race". He stressed the fact that, through communications, people can exchange ideas and thoughts and therefore "reduce misunderstandings which are frequently the cause of war".

By reaffirming ITU's commitment to "Helping all of the world's people to communicate", this year's theme for World Telecommunication Day serves to remind us of the noble purpose of our organization and the potential for greater human understanding.

The year 2003 will be another notable year in ITU's history. Political, business, media and civil society leaders will gather in Geneva from 10 to 12 December for the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society. This historic Summit aims to create a shared vision of the "information age" we are entering, and an action plan to ensure everyone benefits from the technologies that have created it. ITU is playing the leading managerial role in the organization of the Summit.

The United Nations views information and communication technologies, or ICTs, as critical tools for the achievement of our common objectives of sustainable development for all peoples. The United Nations "Millennium Development Goals" provide specific milestones for the alleviation of poverty, hunger and disease and the World Summit on the Information Society will provide the direction needed to ensure that ICTs help fulfil them.

The Summit gives us the opportunity to create strategies to address the digital divide by identifying policies that will enable all of humanity to have access to the basic tools of communication.

The Summit also holds the promise of creating an information society that provides new business opportunities and innovative ways to create prosperity while respecting the interests and cultural heritage of all nations. But in order to transform our hopes for the information society into reality, the declaration and action plan of the Summit must be anchored in a clear vision of the future.

By working together and by "Helping all of the world's people to communicate", I am sure we can create a vision that will fulfil the great promise of the information society — a future where improved communication will make the world a more equitable, peaceful and sustainable place for all.

Yoshio Utsumi