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WORLD COMMUNICATIONS YEAR

Development of Communications Infrastructures



1983

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the fundamental importance of communications infrastructures as an essential element in the economic and social development of all countries,

Convinced that a World Communications Year would provide the opportunity for all countries to undertake an in-depth review and analysis of their policies on communications development and stimulate the accelerated development of communications infrastructures,

1. Endorses the proposal made by the Economic and Social Council in paragraph 1 of its resolution 1981/60 and proclaims the year 1983 World Communications Year: Development of Communications Infrastructures, with the International Telecommunication Union serving as the lead agency for the Year and having responsibility for co-ordinating the interorganizational aspects of the programmes and activities of other agencies;

2. Requests all States to participate actively in the attainment of the objectives of the World Communications Year;

Extract from United Nations General Assembly resolution 36/40 adopted on 19 November 1981

WCY News

IAL studentship in remote sensing

As part of its contribution to World Communications Year, International Aeradio Limited (IAL) is funding a post-graduate studentship which will allow an overseas student to participate in a one-year M.Sc. course at the University of London.

The course selected, "Remote sensing", reflects developments in the field of environmental sciences and satellite communications. It will be of particular benefit to young scientists from Third World countries since the techniques and skills presented have major applications in these areas.

IAL is one of the United Kingdom's major meteorological service companies and through its American subsidiary, Global Weather Dynamics Inc., has a world-wide capability in meteorological and oceanographic forecast and information services.

It also provides scientific consultancy and turn-key systems to aviation, agricultural and utility, marine, media and multinational organizations.

IAL and the University of London are joining forces to invite students from developing countries to apply for the studentship. The course begins on 1 October 1983.

For further information, please contact: "Mr. P. Lennon, Head of Publicity, IAL, Aeradio House, Hayes Road, Southall, Middx UB2 5NJ (United Kingdom)". Tel.: (441) 843 2411. Telex: 24114.

Advanced study programme of communications technology and policy

Rapid technological changes, changes in the structure of the industry, changes in regulations and international agreements and the growing importance of communications to society have combined in recent years to generate considerable concern with regard to communications policy.

This advanced study programme on communications technology and policy is designed for Government agencies, suppliers and users of communications services and equipment manufacturers who provide the initiative and leadership to improve communications systems and make them more responsive to user needs.

This programme is offered by the Research Programme on Communications Policy and the Centre for Advanced Engineering Study of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The scope of the curriculum includes the economics of modern communications industries; the social effects of telecommuni-

cation and mass media, including satellite broadcasting; new communications technology and the role of computers; audience research; policy evaluation and other courses related to communications policy, technology, research and regulations.

The participants will gain the perspective and depth they need to understand present policies and technologies, propose policy and technological improvements, analyze changes, and anticipate their effects.

Each participant will arrange his/her individual programme in consultation with a faculty member having similar interests. Some with engineering backgrounds will complement their technical expertise by studying the social impact of technological decisions or will further their knowledge on a particular aspect of communications technology. Participants with background and experience in law, management or political science may concentrate on regulation, policy analysis or research methodology.

The programme will take place at the MIT from 12 September to 16 December 1983. For more information, please contact: "Mr. P. E. Brown, Director, Advanced Study Programmes, Centre for Advanced Engineering Study, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139 (United States)". Tel.: (617) 253 6161. Telex: 92 1473.

Eleven countries contribute for the "Youth in the Electronic Age 83" competition

Responding to an appeal made by the WCY's Secretariat to contribute donations to winners of the "Youth in the Electronic Age 83" competition, six administrations (Austria, China, France, Hungary, Switzerland and the United Kingdom), one company (*IBM France*) and two associations (IEEE Canada and the ITU Association of Japan, Inc.) have responded enthusiastically and offered several prizes. A complete list may be obtained from: "TELECOM 83 Secretariat, ITU, Place des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 20 (Switzerland)".

Fellowships offered by India

As part of its World Communications Year programme, the Indian Administration has decided to invite other developing countries to participate in a number of courses and seminars on telecommunications organized in India this year. Some fellowships will also be made available on a bilateral basis.

The Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications will conduct four courses in which two candidates from developing countries will be invited to participate. Each of the eight candidates will receive a fellowship from the Indian Government. In addition, accommodation will be provided by the Institute. These courses are:

- Training course in automatic exchanges for technicians (5 September-15 October 1983)
- Training course in microwave propagation (3 October-30 November 1983)
- Training course in microwave communications for technicians (17 October-30 November 1983)
- Training course on digital electronics (28 November-17 December 1983).

The entry requirements for the engineer level courses are a Bachelor's degree, and for the technician level courses, a diploma in telecommunications engineering. Proficiency in English is required as classes will be held in English. Applications should be sent to: "Mr. V. N. Phadnis, Additional Director (S and T) Railway Board, Rail Bhavan, New Delhi 110001 (India)", not later than 5 July, 3 August, 17 August and 29 September 1983 respectively.

Two training courses will be organized by the Indian Meteorological Department (Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation). In addition, a four-month training course for telecommunications operators was held in mid-July 1983 and will be repeated in November. Entry requirement for these courses is a Bachelor of Science degree in physics. The Department will also hold an advanced course on meteorological telecommunications, which will start in the middle of December 1983. A Master of Science in electronics is a prerequisite to enroll in this class. In both cases, a

full command of the English language is required. As in the programme of the Railways Institute, two fellowships will be awarded for each of the courses; the last date for the receipt of candidatures is set for 15 October for the meteorological training course. In the case of the two other training courses, the deadlines were end of May and end of July. Participants will however have to make their own arrangements for hotel accommodation in New Delhi as the Meteorological Department does not have residential facilities. The officer responsible for these courses is: "Mr. V. K. Bhalla, Meteorologist (ORGN), Indian Meteorological Department, Mansom Bhavan Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003 (India)".

Finally, the Advanced Level Telecommunication Training Centre (ALTTC) at Ghaziabad will hold two seminars in:

- trends in new communication services, and
- frequency management.

The seminars will take place from 12 to 21 September and from 3 to 12 October respectively. Four participants from developing countries will be entitled to attend each seminar provided they are graduates in engineering with eight years experience in a post of responsibility. It will not be possible, however, to provide fellowships for these two seminars. Residential facilities are available at an approximate cost of 2200 rupees (215 US dollars) per week including participation fees, board and lodging. The deadlines for applications for these seminars were 15 July and 1 August 1983 respectively. For further information, please contact: "Mr. S. K. Goyal, Deputy General Manager, ALTTC, Ghaziabad 201002 (India)".

Applications for participation in these seminars and for fellowships if required, should be sent through Indian embassies/missions using appropriate forms available from these offices.

News about the National Committees

Egypt

(Source: WCY National Committee)

The WCY National Committee which was formed to co-ordinate all activities related to World Communications Year (see *Telecommunication Journal* of May 1983, page 240) has held several meetings under the chairmanship of Mr. A. K. Mohamed, also Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Telecommunications Organization. Discussions focussed on the promotion of telecommunications infrastructure projects, and particularly on ways and means to maintain and

upgrade the existing communications facilities while introducing new services and expanding the network to underserved and unserved areas with a view to satisfying the ever-growing requirements of all users.

During 1983, data services will be promoted and an automatic telegraph service will be introduced. The expansion of automatic telephone trunk dialling for all major cities of Egypt should also improve the situation with regard to the trunk telephone service.

International services will also be expanded and improved. In September 1983, a new submarine cable between Alexandria and Athens will be put into operation. This submarine cable will bring up to 1600 the total number of available international voice-grade circuits, representing an overall increase of 60%. In addition, a second INTEL-SAT standard-A station has been contracted and should become operational in April 1984. The use of this second earth station will nearly double the capacity of existing satellite circuits.

For more information, please contact the WCY correspondent: "Eng. Abdel-Hafez, Chief, International Communications Operation Sector, Telecommunications Organization, PO Box 795 Cairo (Egypt)".

Finland

(Source: Ministry of Communications)

On 24 February 1983, the Government of Finland appointed Mr. S. Kiuru as President of the WCY National Committee. Mr. Kiuru is the Director General of the Finnish Broadcasting Company. He is assisted by Mr. T. Parikka, researcher at the Ministry of Communications who also acts as the Secretary of the Committee. "Although a quarter of this important World Communications Year is already behind us, we will strive to make our work as effective as possible" declared Mr. Parikka shortly after the establishment of the Committee. Their programme is being finalized and more information will be reported when available.

Gabon

(Source: *Office des postes et télécommunications*)

Twelve representatives from various ministries and agencies of the Gabonese Government formed a WCY National Committee earlier this year. More information will be published when available.

Panama

(Source: *Instituto Nacional de Telecomunicaciones*)

The WCY National Committee established in December 1982 in Panama has initiated its programme of activities by an information campaign on the general theme "Telecommunications and social, political and economic development". In the first phase, from January to May 1983, members of the Committee, in collaboration with schools of social

communication, have participated in radio and television discussions highlighting the theme and interviews have also been published in the national and local press. Television spots and press articles were also prepared and co-ordinated by the National University and the Catholic University. On 17 May, a special decoration was awarded to radio pioneers by a representative of the National Post.

The second and third phases will be held on the themes "Mass communications" and "The importance of social communications". In this connection, a symposium is being organized by the School of social communication of the University Santa María La Antigua from 20 to 23 September next, in conjunction with the anniversary of Instituto Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (INTEL). Special WCY stamps will also be issued towards the end of the year.

Implementation of some 18 telecommunication projects throughout the year is envisaged, one of which is considered a pilot project. This project, of a two-year duration, relates to rural telephony. Upon completion, Panama will have provided 61% of its rural population with telephone services.

Peru

(Source: *Ministerio de Transportes y Comunicaciones*)

On 28 January 1983 the WCY National Committee was officially established in the presence of the Deputy-Minister of Transport and Communications Ing. G. E. Strohmeier and the Director General of Telecommunications, Ing. C. Romero Sanjines, together with several other governmental officials. Mr. Strohmeier has been appointed Chairman of the Committee, and Mr. Sanjines Vice-Chairman. The setting up of the Peruvian Committee is the result of the continuing work of several prominent figures in the field of communications in Peru who have devoted time and energy to work out a programme of activities in line with the objectives of the Year.

The activities planned include two competitions (for radio amateurs and journalists), a series of meetings organized by the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the *Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Capacitación de Telecomunicaciones* (INICTEL), the *Empresa Nacional de Telecomunicaciones* (ENTEL-Perú) and the *Compañía Peruana de Teléfonos, SA* (CPT SA). These organizations will also inaugurate in 1983 various types of infrastructural projects.

In the field of public relations, a number of articles and programmes will be prepared involving the *Instituto Nacional de Comunicación Social* (INTEL); the Catholic University and the University of Lima as well as the broadcasting and television organizations.

Details on these and other activities will be published later.

Poland

(Source: *Ministerstwo Łączności*)

Following the decision to declare 1983 World Communications Year, the Minister of PTT of Poland set up a special National Committee for co-ordinating all national activities in the country.

Mr. W. Gurgul, Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of PTT, has been appointed Chairman of the Committee. The members include representatives from nearly all specialized telecommunications entities in Poland as well as from national tele-electronic industrial enterprises and other institutions involved in telecommunications. The 40-member Committee adopted a comprehensive programme of activities to be undertaken as part of WCY 83. The programme includes scientific conferences, an exhibition of nationally-manufactured telecommunications equipment and celebrations commemorating the 100th anniversary of the installation of the first telephone sets in Warsaw and Lodz. Special events will be staged to attract the interest of young people and to enlist their support to telecommunications development. Press conferences will be held in conjunction with all WCY activities.

All matters relating to WCY should be directed to the WCY correspondent: "Mr. G. Wisniewski, Director of the Department of Telecommunications Services, Ministry of PTT, Pl. Malachowskiego 2, 00-940 Warsaw (Poland)".

Syria

(Source: WCY National Committee)

A 22-member WCY National Committee has been set up in Syria under the chairmanship of Mr. M. R. Al-Kurdi, Minister of Communications.

The composition of the Syrian National Committee reflects the importance this country places on the development of communications as it represents policy-makers, legislators and users. In addition to the telecommunications and postal sectors, senior officials of the State Planning Commission as well as representatives of the ministries of Industry, Agriculture, Transport (Civil Aviation and Sea-ports), Internal Affairs, Defence and Culture, participate in the work of the Committee. The press is represented by the Radio and Television Broadcasting Commission and the Syrian Arab News Agency and the academic sector takes an active part through the Ministry of Higher Education. A full programme of the activities planned or under way in Syria for World Communications Year will be published at a later date.

Uruguay

(Source: *Administración Nacional de Telecomunicaciones*)

The Government of Uruguay has established a WCY National Committee which brings together national authorities that provide

communications services (National Telecommunications Administration, Postal Directorate and radio broadcasting entities) on the one hand and major users on the other. These include the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Armed Forces, the National Directorate of Meteorology, the State Railways Administration and the Public Relations Directorate.

The action taken by the Committee focusses on two main targets: the general public and the policy-makers. With regard to the first aspect, a campaign to increase the awareness of the population to the vital importance of communications has been launched in the first semester of the Year. The second aspect, aimed at policy-makers, concerns the in-depth review of communications policies, including related issues such as their impact on overall development.

WCY in Uruguay coincides with the celebration of major events in the country:

- 1983 marks the 50th anniversary of the automatic telephone, the completion of a microwave network linking all cities of Uruguay and the inauguration of the new headquarters of the Administración Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (ANTEL) and of the *Unión Postal de las Américas y España* (UPAE);
- in addition to a telecommunications exhibition scheduled to be held next October, the Committee has planned to hold conferences and symposia and to broadcast radio/television programmes produced by State and private broadcasting organizations and radio amateurs.

Pilot projects

Central African Republic

Following a working session between the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of the Central African Rep. and the ITU Secretary-General last April, two pilot projects related to international and interurban transmission links have been proposed for possible financing:

- *Interurban transmission link between Bangui and M'Baiki (WCY-RCA-1)*

This project proposes the installation of a two-hop digital microwave system to connect the telephone switching facilities of the M'Baiki area, located 10 km from Bangui, to the trunk switching centre of the capital. This transmission link is indispensable to interconnect the region Bangui—M'Baiki to the national telecommunication network.

The project is estimated at 300 000 US dollars including all required studies and the preparation of specifications.

- *International transmission link between Bangui (Central African Rep.) and Impfondo (Congo) (WCY-RCA-2)*

The objective is to provide international circuits facilities between the Central African

Rep. and the Congo. The required inputs consist of troposcatter terminal to be installed near Bangui at an estimated cost of 1 000 000 dollars.

Interested potential donors may obtain the complete description of any WCY pilot project from: "WCY Secretariat, ITU, Place des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 20 (Switzerland)".

News in brief

UNIC in Rome...

The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Rome has prepared and widely circulated in Italy and Malta a 60-page kit con-

cerning World Communications Year 83. The kit, produced in Italian, is based on material provided by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations and by the WCY Secretariat.

A copy of the kit may be obtained from: "Sig. G. Pagnanelli, Director, UNIC, Piazza San Marco, 50, I-00186 Rome (Italy)".

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