



Journal Title: Telecommunication Journal

Journal Issue: Vol. 43, no. 12 (1976)

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Article Title: Editorial: World Telecommunication Day 1977

Page number(s): p. 702

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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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Editorial

World Telecommunication Day 1977

"Telecommunication and development", put forward by several members of the Administrative Council at its latest session as the theme of the next World Telecommunication Day, testifies to the wish of administrations to harness telecommunications for development.

Is this a new departure? Not really; but it is rather a new facet of the philosophy underlying the development of the telecommunication sector itself. In fact, a lengthy process of study and reflection has enabled the Member countries of the Union to arrive at a specific and practical definition of the relationship between economic and social development and the development of telecommunications.*

But practical experience in technical co-operation has also brought home to senior government officials the importance of telecommunications as an instrument of progress. From the early projects undertaken by the ITU in 1959, at a cost of some hundreds of thousands of dollars, to the present activities accounting for some 20 million dollars a year, a real development policy can be seen to have taken shape, leading to a radical change in the concept of international co-operation, and especially in telecommunications. This policy is particularly exemplified by the establishment of a large number of training centres and by pre-investment studies for the co-ordinated development of networks in Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

At the same time, the well-known combination of "bilateral and multilateral co-operation", which was encountered only too frequently some years back, has been supplanted by a better evaluation of the different available sources of assistance, resulting in their more effective deployment.

There has also been a development in the countries receiving international assistance, which have evolved from beneficiaries into genuine partners. It was in this spirit that the United Nations Development Programme reviewed all the procedures for the distribution of aid at the national level in the different countries concerned, the governments themselves being responsible for programming.

Since the ITU is responsible for carrying out telecommunication projects assisted by UNDP, it is not surprising that UNDP and the Union are working closely together in preparations for the World Day in 1977. As in 1975 for meteorology with WMO and in 1976 for information with UNESCO, it was clearly desirable to establish practical co-operation with UNDP to celebrate the Day in 1977. Indeed, effective action could be achieved only by co-ordinating all the efforts directed towards the same goal. In this connection, mention should also be made of the close co-operation established between our Union and various regional governmental institutions, both technical (regional telecommunication unions) and financial (regional development banks).

In this modern age, the fantastic development of telecommunication techniques and the unprecedented increase in demand raise delicate problems for the senior officials who have to take the decisions and who are constantly forced to make difficult choices, particularly with regard to equipment. Indeed, too many people use telecommunications, rather than serving telecommunications. It is therefore essential for those who are responsible to be provided with impartial and thorough information to enable them to reach the wisest possible decisions, in particular, those calculated to make telecommunications an instrument of development. World Telecommunication Day, 1977, can play an extremely constructive part in bringing this about.

M. MILI

* See the GAS 5 publication entitled "Economic studies at the national level in the field of telecommunications".