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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

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## Message from the Secretary-General of ITU on the occasion of the 7th World Telecommunication Day

For World Telecommunication Day this year, a theme common to the International Telecommunication Union and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has been chosen. The ITU Administrative Council and the WMO Executive Committee have both approved this joint action, which has made it possible to co-ordinate the public information activities and to strengthen co-operation between our two agencies.

This was the background to the simple ceremony held on 24 March at WMO headquarters to mark World Meteorological Day, to which the ITU had been invited and at which emphasis was laid on the interdependence of meteorology and telecommunications.

While the transmission of meteorological information—weather data used to establish forecasts, or the forecasts themselves—clearly depends on reliable telecommunications, it is also a fact that telecommunications themselves are greatly affected by meteorological phenomena.

History shows how closely meteorological and telegraph services have been associated as soon as any attempt was made to organize them at either national or international level.

From their inception, radiocommunications provided meteorologists with a new and potent transmission medium which gave greater scope to their activities. What then should we say of the advent of the space



age, thanks to which we now receive photographs of the earth's cloud cover seen from above? Never before have human eyes had such a view of the earth and its atmosphere...

In the modern world, where the technical miracles of yesterday are the commonplaces of to-day, the public finds it perfectly natural to be able to listen each day to the weather forecast on their transistor sets...

In many countries, the very latest weather forecast can be obtained at any time of the day or night simply by dialling two or three digits.

Of course, even the best techniques are fallible and we all know how unpleasant it is to be drenched in a downpour when we expected to be basking in the sun.

In the same way, it is annoying when a conversation over the telephone is inaudible or even cut off owing to poor radio wave propagation caused by meteorological phenomena.

More often than not, unfortunately, it is only at such times that the general public realizes the enormous effort made every day by these two services, for we are so accustomed to their smooth and efficient oper-

ation that it rarely occurs to us that they too are subject to occasional failures.

World Telecommunication Day may therefore be an opportunity for the administrations of the countries Members of the ITU to illustrate their constant endeavours to improve telecommunication services both nationally and internationally and to emphasize how radio wave propagation can be affected by meteorological phenomena.

Furthermore, the theme selected this year lends itself admirably to the provision of concrete evidence of international co-operation.

This day may also provide an opportunity of bringing home to the public the fact that the international co-operation conducted by such century old organizations as WMO and ITU is entirely devoted to its service. In any case, this is the idea which the founders of the Union had in mind when, in framing the first truly international convention in 1865, they stated that they were "animated by the wish to secure for telegraph correspondence between their States the advantages of a simple and low tariff, to improve the existing conditions of international telegraphy and to establish a permanent understanding between their States..."

**M. MILI**