12ᵗʰ Global Symposium for Regulators (Colombo, 2012)

Why regulate in a Networked Society?

Speeches

Global Symposium for Regulators 2012

Colombo, Sri Lanka

2-4 October 2012

Message of GSR Chairman Mr Lalith Weeratunga

Global Symposium of Regulators,

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2-4 October 2012

The global economy, underpinned by spectacular digital growth, today offers virtually unlimited scope for socio – economic development, rapid delivery of services, expeditious conduct of research, superior management of industrial processes, and more importantly, opportunities for tapping the creative and innovative potential of humankind, as never before.

The rapid explosion of broadband and concomitant acceptance in principle of broadband as the right of every citizen in our networked societies, places on regulators an obligation to devise effectual regulation that will allow greater freedom for investment, competition and dynamism, while at the same time minimizing any possible negative consequences that may flow from the exercise of such freedom.

While it is essential that telecommunication networks, in the course of their growth and expansion, cater inclusively to all segments of the community to access information and enrich their choice of varied pursuits, as regulators we must take cognizance of the absence of an ideal road map for best practices in the telecommunications field.

The 12th Global Symposium for Regulators offers a great opportunity for participants to make known and share their knowledge of practices to collectively take forward the momentum to establish guidelines for regulatory best practice, to ensure maximum utilization of broadband, promote innovation and uphold non – discriminatory and inclusive policies on the spread of digital technology.

I welcome you all to Sri Lanka and eagerly look forward to meeting you at the Global Symposium.

International Telecommunication Union

Global Symposium for Regulators 2012

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Message of Dr Hamadoun Touré

Global Symposium of Regulators,

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2-4 October 2012

Today's regulators face the daunting task of defining national broadband goals while ensuring markets benefit from the healthy competition that stimulates innovation and delivers digital inclusion for all. Successfully implementing national broadband strategies means working in partnership with all stakeholders in today's complex ICT ecosystem – fixed and mobile operators, VNOs, ISPs, broadcasters and other emerging network service and content providers. Understanding the complex changes that are constantly reshaping the ICT landscape, and adopting innovative and timely regulatory measures and tools that take into account the transnational aspects of our digital society, is a constant challenge.

ITU's Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) is the pre-eminent international event for the regulatory community around the world. Hosted by the UN specialized agency for information and communication technology, the GSR has become the must-attend event for heads of regulatory agencies, industry CEOs, and top management from leading industry and regional organizations.

With a stimulating programme focused around the hot topics of concern to regulators worldwide, the GSR offers a privileged forum for participants to exchange views with leading experts and peers on topics from net neutrality, spectrum policy and roaming charges to cloud computing, international and regional IP interconnection, investment and public-private-partnership. This year's GSR will also open with a special High-Level Segment focusing on transnational regulatory issues in a converged digital era, looking in-depth at changing business dynamics and the vital role of regulation.

I look forward to joining you in Colombo on October 2-4.

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré
ITU Secretary-General

International Telecommunication Union

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Message of Mr Brahima Sanou

Global Symposium of Regulators,

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2-4 October 2012

The development of broadband and the increasing convergence of services, networks and devices are opening up new perspectives and opportunities for the ICT sector.

They also raise challenges for policy makers and regulators that call for close liaison with industry in order to get the fullest understanding of the changes that are taking place in the market, and to adopt the appropriate regulatory measures and tools.I am very proud that ITU can offer a platform for our members to share their views on major issues facing the ICT sector for further sustainable development of this sector and, not least, to meet the MDG targets.

The GSR is designed to facilitate precisely this process. It is a unique event that brings together regulators, policy makers, industry leaders and other key ICT stakeholders from around the world. This annual get together has earned a reputation as the global annual venue for regulators and ITU sector members to share their views and experiences in a dynamic global dialogue.

The first two days of GSR, the Global Dialogue (2-3 October 2012) will be open to regulators, policy makers, and ITU–D Sector Members.
The third day (4 October 2012) will remain closed for regulators and policy makers. The focus of the discussions will be on 'Why regulate in a global networked society?'.

Creating an enabling environment for ICT development is one of ITU's main priorities. It is for this reason that ITU works closely with regulators, policy makers and industry to develop and share guidelines and best practices, and the GSR is the single most important mechanism we have of accomplishing this work.

I look forward to joining you in Colombo on 2 – 4 October 2012.

International Telecommunication Union