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### Message

The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WT&ISD) is been celebrated annually on 17<sup>th</sup> May, marking the foundation of ITU and signing of the first Telegraph Convention in 1865, to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of Internet and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as to develop technical standards that make it easier to spread the benefits of ICT worldwide. IETE, being one of the leading technical and Scientific Institutions, celebrate this day every year. This year IETE will be celebrating its 51<sup>st</sup> WT&ISD on the theme “Bridging the Standardization Gap” chosen by International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Access to ICT standards is a critical factor in a country’s global economic competitiveness. These standards can provide a common platform on which innovation can proceed, giving developing countries the opportunity to create products for a world market. Global ICT standards are not only necessary for ensuring interoperability and connectivity within a universal information infrastructure; their use can also have significant impact on the economic development and technological innovation of a nation.

However, there is a disparity between developed and developing countries in how far they are involved in the process. Such inequality is a factor in the persistence of the digital divide. All countries need to be able to help determine standards, and know how to implement them, in order to reflect their interests and enjoy better opportunities for the comprehensive development of the country. In India too, a lot of efforts are being reflected from the various initiatives taken by the government and private sectors for bridging the digital divide.

I hope the deliberations on the selected theme, on this day, at all our centres, will enlighten us with effective ideas and solutions to overcome the obstacles, to enable us to frame a global standard policy so that even the developing countries can actively participate in the standardization work and can benefit economically and socially by bridging the gap.

Prof (Dr) K T V Reddy  
President

WTISD 2019: Message from ITU Secretary-General, Houlin Zhao  
Bridging the standardization gap



On 17 May, we will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.

This year, we will focus on “bridging the standardization gap.”

Setting standards is a fundamental pillar of ITU's mission as the specialized agency of the United Nations for information and communication technologies.

You want to connect to the internet, enjoy a sports event on TV, listen to radio in your car or watch a video on your smartphone ? ITU standards make it possible.

The upcoming 5G standards, especially if coupled with artificial intelligence, will support a new range of applications which we will soon take for granted: from self-driving cars to safer and smart cities.

ITU standards ensure interoperability, open up global markets and spur innovation and growth. They are good for developed and developing countries.

They help accelerate ICTs for all Sustainable Development Goals.

I call upon ITU Member States, industry members, small and big companies and academia, together with UN sister agencies, our partners and all stakeholders, to support ITU's “Bridging the Standardization gap” programme and prosperity and well-being for all.

**17 May 2019, World Telecommunication and Information Society Day**  
**(WTISD 2019)**

**Theme 2019: Bridging the standardization gap**

Setting standards is a fundamental pillar of ITU's mission as the specialized agency of the United Nations for information and communication technologies (ICTs). ITU standards help accelerate ICTs for all Sustainable Development Goals. The 2019 theme will allow ITU Membership and other key stakeholders to focus on the opportunities for :-

- participation of developing countries in ITU's standards-making process.
- empowering local experts in the standardization process at the national, regional and international levels.
- promoting the implementation of international standards in developing countries.