

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY (WT&ISD)

17TH MAY 2020

THEME "CONNECT 2030: ICTS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
(SDGS)"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WT&ISD) marks the foundation of ITU on 17 May 1865 when the first International Telegraph Convention was signed in Paris. This day is celebrated by IETE, every year, at its HQs and 63 centres across the country by organizing lectures from eminent experts and scientists, on the theme selected by International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The theme chosen for this year is "Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS)". However, this year, due to the current circumstances caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we have modified our behaviour and have started holding such events electronically. We shall be organizing this event through Video Conferencing across all our centers.

The theme "Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" highlights the ICT advances for transition to smart and sustainable development. It will focus on specific ICT-enabled solutions and emerging trends for fostering economic, environmental and social sustainability. The year 2020 represents a unique opportunity for ITU membership to commemorate ICT's contribution to the advancement of the Information Society, and to present the 'Connect 2030 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development' now linked to the Strategic Plan of the Union for the period 2020-2023, and specifically focusing on how technological advances in the coming 10 years will contribute to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The theme accentuates on how technological advances in the coming 10 years will contribute to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

No doubt the role of ICT in our daily lives has always been unprecedented. But during the on-going Covid19 pandemic, when the entire world is adopting the measures of lockdown and social distancing to fight this disaster, the importance of ICT is all the more comprehended by people across the globe. Information technology has been a beacon of hope, allowing billions of people around the world to connect. During the Covid-19 pandemic these connections... are more important than ever.

On this World Telecommunication and Information Society Day and for this new decade, let's harness information and communication technology to accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and inclusive development for everyone, everywhere.



Prof (Dr) J W Bakal
President, IETE