



ITU ACADEMY EVENT

28 – 29 April 2013

Prague, Czech Republic

Fostering Innovation and Partnerships in Human Capacity Building: Enhanced Engagement of Academia in the International Telecommunication Union

ITU ACADEMY EVENT REPORT

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Report overview



The ITU Academy event on “*Fostering Innovation and Partnerships in Human Capacity Building: Enhanced Engagement of the Academia in the International Telecommunication Union*” was organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau to engage the Academia as well as the private and public sectors in the work of the ITU Academy. This event was held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 28 to 29 April 2013, at the National Library of Technology. This event was organized in collaboration with the Europe region and kindly hosted by the Czech Technical

University (CTU) in Prague.

The purpose of this Report is to present the summary of the sessions carried out during the two-day event and provide information on the main issues raised during each session. Also, the ultimate purpose is to build on the session discussions towards the event outcomes and recommendations. The report also encompasses forum recommendations for the future.

Participation

There was an initial enrolment of 80 participants; however, on average about 40 participants per day attended the event and 10 followed the event remotely. Nevertheless, notwithstanding the numbers that attended, the caliber of these participants and their contributions were of the highest level. Panelists were drawn from almost all regions, representing academia, private sector, training institutions, telecom and ICT organizations and national telecom administrations.

An observation from the event was the low representation of Academia from developing countries and LDCs, particularly from the Africa region. Prof. David Mellor suggested that for future events of this nature awarding of fellowships should be foreseen.

Event Organization

The Czech Technical University in Prague played an important role in this event as well as in other ITU Academy activities. This academic institution made a major contribution to the development of the ITU Academy training products such as Spectrum Management Training Programme and Quality of Service Training Programme. Further, it has also expressed an interest in being part of the Centres of Excellence network for Europe. Therefore, their leading role in hosting of the first ITU Academy event was natural and welcome.

The event comprised of five sessions that were organized in the form of a panel discussion with the possibility of making a presentation. After the presentations were made the floor was open for questions and answers from on site and remote participants.

All the information on the event, including panelists' bios, presentations, photo gallery and other materials, can be viewed at <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Enhanced-Engagement-of-Academia-in-the-International-Telecommunication-Union-.aspx>

ITU ACADEMY EVENT: REPORT

Introduction

The main purpose of the event was to strengthen cooperation between the ITU Academy, Academia and other stakeholders from the private and public sectors. This event was a dialogue between capacity building partners, primarily ITU and Academia, but also private sector and other stakeholders with an interest in collaboration in capacity building. This dialogue was very crucial as the ITU Academy aims to harmonize, integrate and gather under one umbrella all existing ITU training services. It was an opportunity to explore different win-win partnership options for the parties as well as the address the main challenges and barriers on the way to a fruitful collaboration. This event was a good showcasing platform for all stakeholders on how they can add value to the work of the other in the area of capacity building. Every participant could benefit from being a part of the discussion as well as shaping the future of the Academia within the international environment.

The event was honored with the presence of the BDT Director, Mr Brahima Sanou, Prof Toshio Obi, Special Envoy of ITU Secretary General for Academia and Prof David Mellor, Special Envoy of ITU Secretary General for Academia and Chairman of the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives.

Special mention is made of CISCO, Intel, Huawei and O2 for their sponsorship and support of the event.

Sessions overview

Official Opening Ceremony, Monday, 28 April



The Opening Ceremony set the tone for the structured, inclusive dialogues that followed for the rest of the event. The official opening was addressed by Prof. Ing. Zbyněk Škvor, CSc., Vice-Dean, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague, Prof. Ing. Boris Šimák, CSc., Head, 13132 Department of Telecommunications Engineering, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague and Mr Brahim Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU.

Prof. Ing. Škvor welcomed the participants and expressed his wish to see an improvement in communication between all players. Prof. Ing. Šimák wished all participants a fruitful discussion and hoped that they would find new ways and ideas on collaboration between Academia and ITU.



During his opening speech Mr Sanou stressed on the need for the ITU Academy and the Academia to “work together as both parties have a common objective: to build and develop human and institutional capacity for all”. He added that “strengthened partnerships are critical in attaining our common vision of a world where everyone can benefit from ICTs”. He also emphasized that the ITU Academy is not here to compete with the Academia but rather it is a platform for the Academia to get together as well as to bring the private and public sectors together.

Session 1: “Setting the Scene. ITU Academy: Global Platform for Human Capacity Building”, Monday, 28 April

Moderator: Prof David Mellor, Chairman, United Kingdom Telecommunications Academy (UKTA), United Kingdom

Panelists:

- Prof Toni Janevski, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Macedonia
- Mr. Mike Nxele, Human Capacity Building Officer, ITU
- Dr. Toshio Obi, Professor of ICT and Director, Institute of e-Government, Waseda University, Japan
- Prof. Roberto Rossi, Vice Rector of Academic Matters, Universidad Blas Pascal, Argentina

This session presented an overview of the ITU Academy within the context of the BDT's activities, and in particular with respect to the capacity building mandate. It also provided a historical overview of the Academia involvement in the work of ITU. This was followed by a panel discussion where panelists shared their experiences and impressions on the collaboration with the ITU Academy and its platform.



The discussion highlighted the need for the ITU Academy to develop its online content repository as storage of all the training materials. It was also pointed out that partnership is important and that ITU is by the nature of multi-stakeholder membership best placed to bring all parties together, in order for everyone to benefit.

Session 2: “Building win-win Partnerships between ITU Academy, Academia and Other Players”, Monday, 28 April

Moderator: Mr. Mike Nxele, Human Capacity Building Officer, ITU

Panelists:

- Ms. Brenda Aynsley, President, Australian Computer Society, Australia
- Prof. Erik Bohlin, Chair, International Telecommunication Society
- Mr. Robert Horvitz, Director, Open Spectrum Foundation, Netherlands
- Mr. Karol Kniewald, Program Manager, Global Engagement Organization, Corporate Affairs, Cisco Systems
- Prof. David Mellor, Chairman, United Kingdom Telecommunications Academy (UKTA), United Kingdom
- Mr. Richard Womersley, Director, Spectrum Services, LS Telcom AG, Germany



During this session, participants debated on key elements of a successful partnership, as well as types of cooperation to be established between the ITU Academy, the Academia and other players and their benefits for all parties. Possible avenues for accreditation and certification, as well as professionalizing of the ITU Academy training programmes were explored.

The need for the development of specialized training in collaboration between ITU and other stakeholders was clearly pointed out. It was stated that by offering high quality and well-structured training materials, ITU can provide Academia a platform to offer professional degree programmes. Academic partners could set a “golden standard” of practical knowledge, promote global harmonization and improve the quality and value of programmes delivered.



Regarding certification, participants agreed that there is added value in getting achievement and accreditation diplomas or degrees as the result of testing and validation of knowledge, rather than just getting the certificate of attendance. Therefore, ITU training programmes should provide more than just a certificate of attendance.

Participants noted that in the development of training, industry brings practical hands-on experience that the ITU Academy and the Academia cannot put forward. Industry also has

unparalleled global day-to-day knowledge while working with regulators, operators and users (consumers) world-wide. They are at the forefront of new regulatory practices and understand all users' needs. In order for the industry to accept the ITU Academy training the following conditions should be met:

- Embracing of the importance and value of industry-based training in addition to academic training (play to each other's strengths);
- Recognition of the time, effort and IPR embedded in existing course materials;
- Accreditation of industry-based courses by ITU;
- Coordinated timetabling to minimize clashes and perceived competition.

It was noted that from this collaboration the ITU Academy will get joint marketing with a larger budget, highly specialized modules, existing, prepared courses, access to real-world experience and skills, and hands-on access to hardware and software.

Public sector will benefit from this collaboration because contributions into IT education will attract investors. Also, governments could include it in their employment agenda.

At the same time, only the involvement of all partners (academia, private and public sectors' representatives) can create a corresponding environment for the development of high-quality successful training programmes.



Also, participants debated on the need to professionalize the ICT sector. It was noted that, unlike disciplines such as engineering, accounting and others, ICT is not yet recognized in official statistics as a sector in its own right, this is despite (or because of) the fact that there is not even one sector where ICT professionals are not engaged. There is also no common understanding on what is professionalism in the ICT sector. It was proposed that a professional:

- Has highly skilled technical knowledge and competence judged against a common body of knowledge;
- Has made a commitment to ongoing professional development, keeping up to date with advances in the profession;

- Has made a commitment to follow a code of ethics and professional conduct, which subjects him/her to sanctions for unprofessional conduct, demonstrating public accountability;
- Observes a high moral code which means the professional takes personal responsibility for his/her work, making good on any inadequacy or insufficiency.

Therefore, there was a proposal to professionalize the ICT sector, provide a corresponding certification and create a recognition system for ICT professionals. It was also stressed that work should be done on determining mutual recognition provisions for the ICT profession and on agreeing mutual recognition of standards for education in ICT. This however needs the collaboration of many bodies within industry, as well as governments, coming together to address these challenges. Existing organizations such as the International Professional Practice Partnership (IP3) that work to strengthen the ICT profession could help in this regard.

Session 3: “New Paradigm for Centers of Excellence as an Effective Mechanism for Training Delivery at Regional and Global Level”, Monday 28 April

Moderator: Prof. David Mellor, Chairman, United Kingdom Telecommunications Academy (UKTA), United Kingdom

Panelists:

- Mr. João Chaves, External Affairs Expert, ICP-ANACOM, Portugal
- Prof. Toni Janevski Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Macedonia
- Prof. Leonardo Luciano de Almeida Maia, International Affairs Advisor International Office, Instituto Nacional de Telecomunicações – INATEL, Brazil
- Mr. Mike Nxele, Human Capacity Building Officer, ITU
- Prof. Roberto Rossi, Vice Rector of Academic Matters Universidad Blas Pascal, Argentina
- Mr. Ericc Sanchez, Training Project Manager, the ICT Research and Development Center of Colombia (CINTEL), Colombia



During this session, ITU gave a presentation on the new Centres of Excellence (CoEs) strategy as well as the processes and procedures to be followed in its implementation. Panelists for this session were drawn mainly from existing CoEs and they gave a testimony of their experiences as a CoE. Discussions were focused on understanding the new strategy for CoE and how Academia and other interested (non-academic) bodies could participate in the CoE work. Panelists and

other stakeholders shared their knowledge, experiences and ideas on developing a self-sustainable model for the new CoE network.

The model for the new CoE strategy was explained with emphasis placed on self-sustainability. In order to achieve this self-sustainability the following was proposed by participants:

- Business model for CoEs should take into account academic activities and participants according to local prices.
- Local partnerships can be the key for sustainability.
- There is need to focus on Training of Trainers

Participants further debated on the effectiveness of the delivery options for the future CoEs. E-Learning is often considered to be cost efficient because of its potential to benefit from economies of scale (one course drawing students from many locations). However, e-Learning course enrollments are not restricted by classroom size therefore costs decrease as enrollment increases. It was also proposed to make some changes in the face-to face training and move it to another level. There were proposed two options, in this regard:

- Option 1: short dedicated training (1 week) with evaluation and certification through the ITU Academy;
- Option 2: forum type of events for exchange of ideas (the initial approach of face to face workshops).

Participants also highlighted the importance of the establishment of online content repository within the ITU Academy platform.

Session 4: “Fostering partnerships through the development of training materials and delivery of training programmes with ITU Academy, Academia and other stakeholders”, Tuesday, 29 April

Moderator: Dr. Toshio Obi, Professor of ICT and Director, Institute of e-Government, Waseda University, Japan

Panelists:

- Dr. Robert Bestak, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Dept. of Telecommunication, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic
- Mr Michał Dżoga, Corporate Affairs Manager, Intel Corporation
- Dr. Jan Holub, Associate Professor, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Dept. of Measurement K13138, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic
- Dr. Susana Almeida Lopes, Director, Vieira de Almeida & Associados (VdA), Portugal

The session highlighted the importance of multistakeholder partnerships and the inclusion of the Academia and other players in the development and the delivery of training materials. Areas of joint research in capacity building between the ITU Academy and the Academia were explored.

The Spectrum Management Training Programme (SMTP) and the Quality of Service Training Programme (QoSTP), two new ITU Academy training products were introduced. It was highlighted that a number of academic institutions had participated in the development of the SMTP either directly or as peer reviewers, with the Czech Technical University given as an example. The involvement of the Academia helps to structure modules in a learning style as they have instructional design competencies. The panelists highlighted the need for the development of such programmes and their specific place



on the market of training programmes. Participants were acquainted with the structure of these programmes and they debated the different ways for their implementation.

It was proposed that the next step in the implementation of these programmes can be the establishment of a partnership with academic institutions and awarding of diploma combining a recognized academic level, such as a Master's degree, with ITU endorsement of curriculum and course content. An alternative can be awarding of certificate representing partial completion of internationally (ITU) vetted course modules with transferable credits which could count towards a Master's degree at some other academic institution.

However, it was pointed out that in order for the academic institution to adopt the training programme, the respective national accrediting institutions such as Ministry of education may take up to four years. Therefore, it was suggested to start with involving the industry while approaching the Academia.

At the same time, some participants shared their success stories in implementing training programmes in collaboration with different stakeholders.

Session 5: "Role of Academia and Other Players in ITU: Opportunities and Challenges",
Tuesday, 29 April

Moderator: Prof. David Mellor, Chairman, United Kingdom Telecommunications Academy (UKTA), United Kingdom

Panelists:

- Mr. Martin Buscher, Research Assistant at Chair of Space Technology, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany
- Prof. Toni Janevski Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Macedonia
- Dr. Toshio Obi, Professor of ICT and Director, Institute of e-Government, Waseda University, Japan
- Prof. Boris Simak, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Department of Telecommunications Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic
- Mr. Richard Womersley, Director, Spectrum Services, LS telcom AG, Germany
- Mr. Karsten Simons, Strategic Operations Lead Cisco Corporate Affairs Europe, Cisco Systems

This session lifted the curtain on expectations and advantages of collaboration between Academia, private and public sector and ITU Academy. It looked for best solutions and options in order to overcome the main challenges and barriers on the way to a successful collaboration among these parties.

This session tied together ideas drawn from all the sessions covered in the past two days, identified quick wins for the short term, and mapped out strategies for collaboration in the medium and long term. It drew on contributions from all stakeholders: Academia, private sector and other regional and international bodies.

In order to enrich the Academia's role and mission within ITU participants proposed to discuss and find answers on several questions and topics such as:

- The present state and experiences of the Academia membership within ITU and its broader participation in the work of ITU.
- The Academia preparation for the PP 14 –options for the modification of the Resolution 169 (PP 10) or a new one and for the amendment of relevant PP resolutions and CS/CV.
- Possible management of the Academia membership affairs.

It was stated that before starting collaboration with other stakeholders it is important to ensure that they understand clearly the goal and the vision of the ITU Academy.

The Academia can assist the ITU Academy by providing networking on the local level. More qualified experts should be involved in the work of ITU Academy.

The event also provided a platform not only for discussion and exchange of views, but also for networking amongst participants from different parts of the world

Main outcomes

The points below are only a summary of the many ideas exchanged in the two days:

- The ITU Academy is a platform for the Academia to get together and to bring private and public sectors together. In this regard, it should be seen more as a trade fair for training opportunities.
- The ITU Academy produces training materials that are not found elsewhere. (Example: Spectrum Management Training Programme, Quality of Service Training Programme). Therefore, the ITU Academy training programmes occupy a special niche, complementing, rather than competing with, the work of the Academia and other stakeholders.
- A unique feature of the ITU Academy programmes is that the ITU Academy brings together all players (private and public sectors, academia, etc.) into the development and delivery of the training products, thus blending the pedagogical and the practical dimensions.
- In order to integrate the ITU Academy training programmes in the universities' curricula, we may need up to 4 years due to the process that has to be followed. In this regard, a shorter route would be to start by offering ITU certificates of achievements, or for the ITU Academy to start collaborating with the private sector in the delivery of training.
- More work needs to be done on professionalizing the ICT sector.
- Meetings like the one that has been held in Prague are needed for the Academia in order to network and communicate with each other. ITU could take a leading role in organizing these meetings.
- The host, the Czech Technical University in Prague, suggested that the academia membership should be clearly defined in the ITU documents. It was suggested to establish a steering committee that can communicate between ITU and 63 academia members.
- Academia members should be allowed to advertise their programmes on the ITU Academy website, but they in turn should also be encouraged to offer fellowships, especially to LDCs.

Recommendations and steps to be taken

Specifically the following should be done:

- Identify and work with Academic institutions who want to jointly work with ITU Academy to develop and deliver programmes in areas of priority to ITU members.
- Identify and work with private sector institutions that are involved in capacity building activities in their core areas of competence and who are willing to work with the ITU Academy and share their existing training materials.
- Incorporate within the ITU Academy, programmes developed by other institutions which are being offered to the ITU Academy for joint use.
- Develop a Processes Manual for evaluating existing programmes offered to the ITU Academy by other institutions to assess their qualification and suitability for the ITU Academy.
- Work with experts from the Academia, private and public sectors to review materials developed by the ITU Academy or others to ensure highest level of quality.
- Involve more the Academia and the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives in the work of the ITU Academy.
- As a way to involve the Academia in the human capacity building activities of the ITU, there is an intention to invite them to participate in such activities as the Global ICT Forum on Human Capacity Development, a biannual capacity building knowledge sharing platform.
- Explore possibility of opening a webpage on the ITU Academy platform and grant members of the Academia and ITU Academy partner institutions access to advertise their programmes and provide links to their webpages.
- Identify consortium of the Academia willing to adopt ITU programmes such as SMTP and deliver them on a pilot basis either as a whole or in parts.

Quotes from the participants:

“The Workshop on Academia in Prague was extremely successful and productive”.

Dr. Toshio Obi, Professor of ICT and Director, Institute of e-Government, Waseda University, Japan

“I found it very productive and learned a lot from other colleagues’ experience”.

Prof. Roberto Rossi, Vice Rector of Academic Matters Universidad Blas Pascal, Argentina

Conclusion:

The event was a success in that it met the objectives for which it was organized. It established the basis for an ongoing dialogue between the ITU Academy and the Academia. Being the first of such a formal gathering, lessons were learnt regarding the needs of the Academia in strengthening this collaboration and in organizing any such future events. However this was an excellent start. The participation of the private sector was extremely enriching, as they are a critical element in the capacity building process as a source of industrial and market expertise. A special word of thanks goes to our hosts, the Czech Technical University, as well as our Co-Moderators, Professors Obi and Mellor, for their commitment to the event.

Annex: Evaluation forms analysis

