SUMMARY REPORT OF SOME CITEL ACTIVITIES

CITEL programs aim at awareness, capacity building and analysis of relevant and critical telecommunication issues. Please see below some of the main activities underway:

- **Modernization of national laws, as appropriate, based on principles such as:** permanence of strong and independent regulatory bodies; a pro-competitive approach, including the adoption of rules on dominant operators and a flexible regulatory framework consistent with technological convergence.
  - Update of the Blue Book “Telecommunication Policies for the Americas”. A major challenge for every entity today is the dwindling of revenues as a result of a stiff market competition. It is necessary to assist Member States to review their own policy and regulatory frameworks so as to help attract investments in telecommunications infrastructure and encourage competition and innovation.
  - Harmonization of region views on key issues of interest for international conferences such as: frequency attributions corresponding to radiocommunications services, coordination of standards on telecommunication services and networks, policies for telecommunication development, distribution of resources of the international telecommunications services, and problems associated with international Internet interconnections and services that use IP.
  - Development of a hemispheric Agenda for Connectivity and a Plan of Action (ACAPAQ) encompassing principles, opinions, definitions, objectives and procedures for formulating and carrying out connectivity-related activities taking into account the cross-sectoral nature of connectivity.
  - Study on economic aspects of telecommunications such as: cost models for the different telecommunication services; tariffs, such as rates, access charges, etc.; Internet protocol telephony and telecommunications market competition including the effects of anti-competitive practices and the regulatory actions aimed at preventing them.

- **Clarification and simplification of appropriate regulations governing the provision of satellite services in our countries to foster the development of broadband satellite applications.**
  - Development and update of a Hemispheric Web site containing the laws and regulations governing the provision of satellite services with all the information needed by parties interested in applying for permits in the countries of the Americas for licensing to provide satellite-based telecommunications services.
  - Preparation of a report based on an approved recommendation with guidelines to promote the development of satellite services. In particular, the following issues are being included: “Block” or “Generic” Earth Station Licensing, Regional or International Hub Requirements, availability of

- Maintain a high-quality training program of courses prepared based on the priorities indicated by the Member States, to meet the growing need for telecommunications professionals. The program is offered in conjunction with fifteen recognized training centers in the region, and in particular with the Center for Excellence for the Americas of the International Telecommunication Union’s (ITU).
  
  - Fifteen courses (10 online and 5 onsite) were planned for 2004, on telecommunication policy, regulation, management and technology and nearly 300 scholarships will be awarded in the entire region. Please see in the Annex the list of courses.

- Discussion of adequate standards to ensure interoperability for existing and future telecommunications networks and the timely introduction of technology in new and existing markets.

  - Nine standard coordination documents and two technical handbooks have been approved. Based in the countries’ requirements CITEL continues with the preparation of technical notebooks (e.g. the development of Technical Notebooks on Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting Technical, Communication Systems Security in the Americas, etc.) and coordination of standards (e.g. related to: Metropolitan and Long haul optical transport networks, Access network transport (LANs, xDSL, Ethernet, cable modem, fiber, Wireless LANs, etc.); Numbering, Naming and Addressing (ENUM); Performance and QoS; Multimedia service definition and architectures; Signaling requirements and protocols (Intelligent networks); IP-based services (Voice over IP, Video over IP, etc.); Emergency services; Network aspects of IMT-2000 and beyond (wireless Internet, harmonization and Convergence, network control, mobility, roaming, etc.) and Interworking between traditional telecommunication networks and evolving networks).
  
  - A fundamental aspect in this development is the identification and evaluation of technical issues related to the standards required to support interconnectivity and interoperability of existing and future transport networks across the region that will ultimately result in the emergence of an end-to-end optical network.

- Preparation of guidelines on Universal Service and Access and development of a clear definition of the responsibilities of governments and private entities.

  - Development of a study on economic aspects of universal service in order to further its development.
  
  - Update of the publication “Universal Service for the Americas”.

- Promotion of the modernization and expansion of telecommunications infrastructure through timely introduction of new technologies and services, in particular broadband technologies, the adoption of new standards on telecasting, Web casting, and Internet Protocol (IP).

  - Preparation of a status report on the situation of broadband in the Americas.
  
  
  - Assistance in reducing the vulnerability of critical telecommunications infrastructures to natural disasters.
  
  - Assistance in the development of emergency communications alternatives in the hemisphere.
• Implementation of a comprehensive inter-American strategy to combat threats to cybersecurity including technical and regulatory aspects.

• Preparation of a study of domain name and Internet governance and in particular analyze topics related to the Country-Code Top-Level Domain Names (ccTLD) and IP Addresses, in order to draw up guidelines to be considered to help the Member States of CITEL to deal with matters related to the administration of these resources.

• Study and development of issues relating to electronic signature certification, online transaction security and authenticity of players therein.

- **Assist in the implementation of the Mutual Recognition Agreement for Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment (MRA) and in the review being conducted to harmonize the arrangements necessary to certify equipment in the region, through the preparation of the Yellow Book. The goal is obtaining economies of scale and reducing time to market and costs, while still complying with national technical regulations.**

  • Three countries are already taking part in Phase I and two countries are participating in Phase II. Several other countries are adopting measures to implement the MRA, as domestic laws have to be adjusted.

  • Creation and update of the database on-line on conformity assessment processes and regulations, including the certification processes applicable.

- **Encourage increased competitiveness and productivity of all sectors through applications such as distance education and tele-health and promote the creation of domestic activities dedicated to the generation of Internet-based industries.**

  • Books on Tele-education and telehealth have already been published and circulated among Member States.

- **Assist in the fulfillment of the objectives contained in the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action approved at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to apply that vision and deliver the benefits of ICT to underprivileged communities prior to 2015.**

  • A report is being prepared by the Chair of COM/CITEL which will cover the progress made in fulfilling the objectives contained in the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action of Geneva at the regional, subregional and national level.

Several of the reports or documents indicated in this report are available at: [http://citel.oas.org](http://citel.oas.org).
### Annex: Training program of CITEL 2004

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<th>Course</th>
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| **Spectrum management with emphasis in space services** | ITU Center of Excellence for the Americas region  
Distance learning (5 weeks) |
| **New Technologies of broadcasting**        | Broadcasting Board of Governors, US International Broadcasting/Voice of America in partnership with the IEEE through the United States  
Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI)  
Washington, D.C., USA, 10 to 26 May 2004 |
| **VOIP technologies**                       | ITU Center of Excellence for the Americas region through ICE Costa Rica  
San José, Costa Rica 12 to 16 July 2004 |
| **Telecommunication networks for non-technical** | Technical Commission of telecommunications of Central America (COMTELCA)  
Distance learning (10 weeks) |
| **Competitive strategy of e-business**      | ITU Center of Excellence for the Americas region through the National Telecommunications Administration of Uruguay (ANTEL), Association of Telecommunication Companies of the Andean Community (ASETA) y la Universidad Blas Pascal (UBP)  
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 18 to 20 August 2004 |
| **Network interconnection (second level)**  | Association of Engineers of Colombia (ACIEM)  
Distance learning (6 weeks) |
| **Next generation networks**                | ITU Center of Excellence for the Americas region  
San José, Costa Rica, 27 September to 1 October 2004 |
| **Negotiation strategies**                  | Association of Engineers of Colombia (ACIEM)  
Distance learning (6 weeks) |
| **Integrated Project management**           | National Telecommunication Administration of Uruguay  
Distance learning (8 weeks) |
| **Planning mobile networks**                | Engineering and technology University - Catholic University of Uruguay  
Distance learning (8 weeks) |
| **Cost and evaluation of projects of network services** | Engineering and technology University - Catholic University of Uruguay  
Distance learning (7 weeks) |
| **Telecommunication Price and Cost Analysis** | Federal Telecommunications Commission of México (COFETEL) México DF, México, 22 to 24 November 2004 |
| **Digital signature: use, meaning and significance – topics** | ITU Center of Excellence for the Americas region  
Distance learning ((7 weeks)) |
| **The digital subscriber line (dsl) as a support of multimedia services** | ITU Center of Excellence for the Americas region  
Distance learning ((7 weeks)) |
| **Regulation in the telecommunications sector** | National Institute of Telecommunication Research and Training of Peru (INICTEL)  
Distance learning ((7 weeks)) |