

Human Capacity Building Coventry, United Kingdom, 21 –25 July 2008

Introduction

The global symposium on Human Capacity Building was organized by the Human Capacity Building (HCB) division of the Bureau for Telecommunications Development (BDT) of the ITU, in collaboration with the United Kingdom Telecommunication Academy (UKTA) and hosted at the Warwick University Campus in Coventry, United Kingdom, from 21 to 25 July 2008

The purpose of this symposium was to discuss ways of managing and developing human capital within the context of the challenges facing the ICT sector today. Related topics that were covered during the Symposium are:

- The policy and regulatory challenges,
- Technology trends and related HR requirements
- Strategic HR management
- ICT applications and their impact on human capital
- Knowledge transfer

Proceedings

The five-day symposium was attended by 174 participants from 62 countries. The participants represented administrations, regional organizations, operators, academia, manufacturers, etc. from every region of the world. Of the total number of participants, 57 were women.

The global symposium was officially opened by Mr. Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau who stressed the importance of human capacity building and in particular, talent management in the telecom/ict sector. The keynote speech at the opening of the symposium was given by the Honourable Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Scientific Research of Rwanda, Professor Romain Murenzi.

During the opening ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ITU, the United Kingdom Telecommunications Academy (UKTA) and the Open University of Tanzania (OUT), to strengthen their cooperation in education in the delivery of legal, regulatory and management programs in Africa.

The Chairman of UKTA, Professor David Mellor, OBE, gave an overview of the Symposium. He was also elected chair of the meeting, and Dr. Ahmed Al-Sherbini of Egypt, who is the Chairman of the TDAG Working Group on Human Resources Development (WGHRD), was elected vice chair.

For the very first time, the Symposium was conducted as a paperless event, in keeping with the new thinking within the ITU to conserve the environment as well as lead in the exploitation of the ICT tools available. A website was established where all documents were posted and easily downloadable by the participants. The ITU would like to thank the participants for easily adapting to this change

Each day of the programme focused on a different facet of Human Capital Development. With the exception of Monday, all the other days had plenary sessions in the mornings, focusing on the day's theme, followed by uni-lingual working groups the afternoons, focusing on that theme. The

results of the afternoon deliberations as well as the conclusions and recommendations of these working groups are consolidated into a single document.

The WGHRD held its second meeting during the afternoon of Wednesday 23rd July under the chairmanship of Dr. A Sherbini. The meeting was attended by 25 participants from 17 countries. The meeting elected vice-chairpersons to represent the various regions.

Hospitality

The participants of the symposium thank whole-heartedly their hosts for the excellent hospitality and kindness shown to them during their stay in Coventry. UKTA, Warwick Conference Park, and all the sponsors who hosted special evening meals and events will forever be remembered for their generosity and hospitality.

Acknowledgements

The ITU would like to thank our host, UKTA, for their support and cooperation during the preparatory phase and during the symposium itself. The organisers and their support staff were key to the success of the conference, and in this regard, special reference is made to the sterling work by Parkes' Office and Event Solutions Ltd. They, as well as the campus staff, did their utmost to ensure that all participants enjoyed their week in Coventry.

Other documents that are part of this report:

- Agenda
 - List of participants
 - List of documents
 - Opening speeches
 - Working Group questions
 - Conclusions and recommendations of the Working Groups
 - Outcome of the 2nd meeting of the TDAG Working Group on Human Resources Development (WGHRD)
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