



Busan 25–28 September



BETTER. SOONER.

ITU TELECOM WORLD 2017 POST EVENT REPORT

The global event for governments,
corporates and tech SMEs



ITU TELECOM WORLD 2017



ITU Telecom World 2017 took place from 25–28 September in Busan, Republic of Korea, on the theme of “Smart digital transformation, global opportunities”.

As the global platform for accelerating ICT innovation for social good, it brought together governments, corporates and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from emerging and developed markets around the world. It combined an Exhibition for digital solutions, a Forum for sharing knowledge, an Awards programme recognizing excellence and innovation in ICT solutions with social impact and a Networking hub for nations, organizations and individuals.

By accelerating ICT innovation to improve lives faster, ITU Telecom World 2017 aimed to make the world better, sooner.

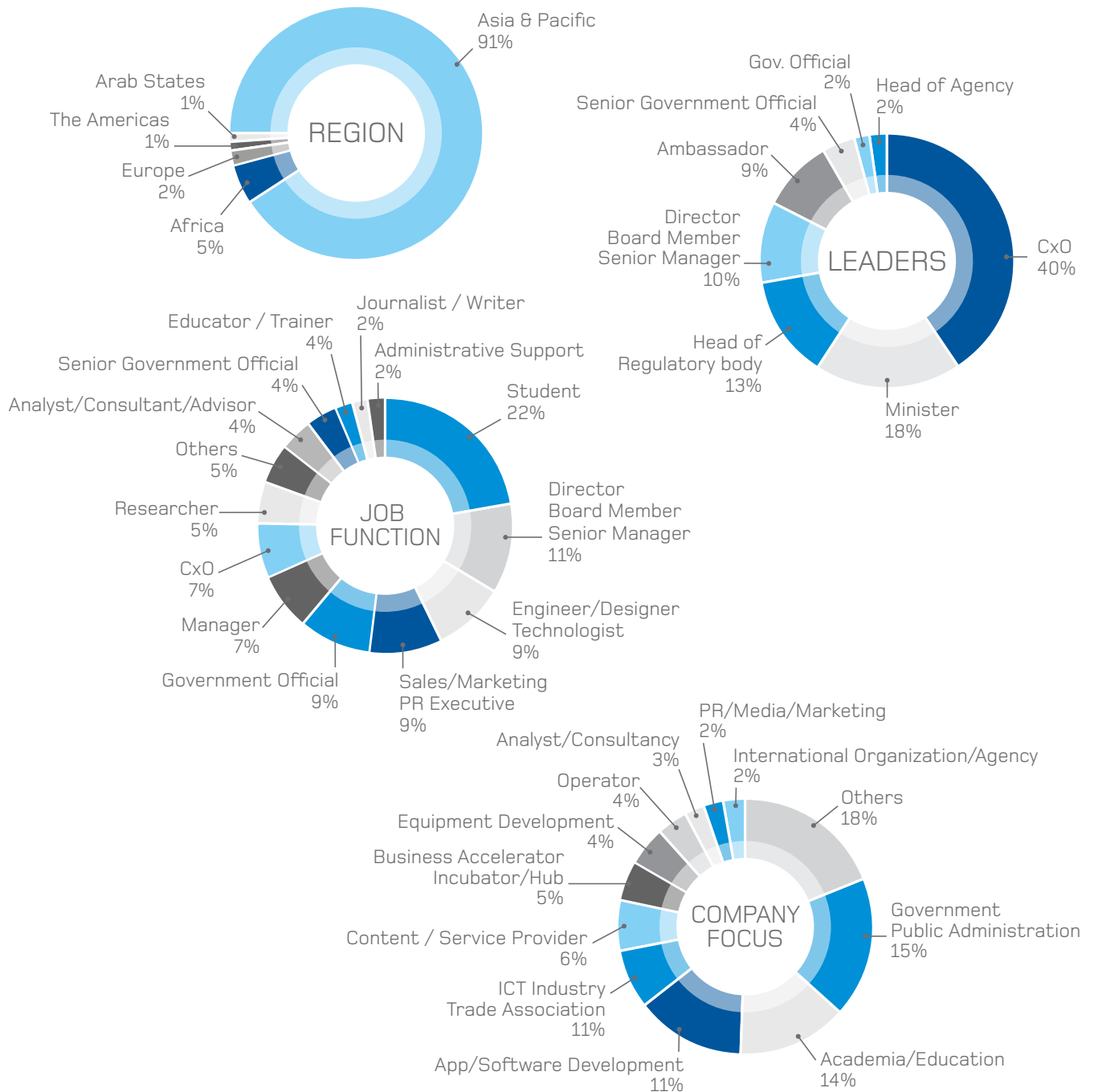
ITU TELECOM WORLD 2017 IN NUMBERS

- Over **9,100 participants** from 126 countries
- **458 exhibitors** from 35 countries, including 271 SME exhibitors
- **31 National and Thematic Pavilions**
- **125 speakers** from 41 countries
- **151 accredited media**

“ It is a common platform bringing people in government, people in business, and also people in the different industry areas – all of us on one platform. It is an international platform where we are trying to coordinate and with this kind of coordination we will be able to make the world better, sooner rather than later. ”

Abraham Kofi Asante, CEO, GIFEC, Ghana

AUDIENCE



ITU Telecom World 2017 brought together nations, leading players and SMEs from around the world, from public and private sectors. High-level participants included **Young Min You, Minister of Science and ICT, Republic of Korea**; **Byung-soo Suh, Mayor of Busan Metropolitan City**; **Abdulaziz Bin Salem Al Ruwais, Governor, Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC), Saudi Arabia**; **Majed Al Mesmar, Deputy Director General, Telecom Sector, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, United Arab Emirates**; **Rudiantara, Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Indonesia**; **Siyabonga Cyprian Cwele, Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, South Africa**; **István Mikola, Minister of State for Security and International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary**; and **Edwin Estrada Hernández, Deputy Minister of Telecommunications, Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications, Costa Rica**.

Participating leaders at the event spanned ministers and regulators, CEOs and CTOs of major ICT players, heads of international organizations and UN agencies, Ambassadors, Mayors, academics and SMEs from around the world.

EXHIBITION



450 exhibitors, sponsors and partners, including National Pavilions, Thematic Pavilions, world famous tech brands and SMEs, demonstrated innovation, talent and investment opportunities from around the world. Technologies on show included 5G, AI, virtual reality, smart health, smart finance, IoT, radio frequency spectrum solutions, spectrum management and smart city technologies.

Leading names present included ATDI, CATD, China Mobile, China Telecom, China Unicom, GEW Technologies, Ericsson-LG Korea, GSMA, Huawei, KT, Inmarsat, LG Uplus, LS telcom, Microwave Vision Group, Nokia, Rohde & Schwarz, Samsung Electronics, SK telecom, Swisscom and Vodafone Egypt.

Must-see pavilions showcased national strategies, projects and innovations from corporates and SMEs alike, sharing their key messages and highlighting partnership, collaboration and investment opportunities.

Pavilions featured included Azerbaijan, Cameroon, China, China SME, Gabon, Ghana, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan and Zimbabwe, with first time participation from Benin, Brazil, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Mozambique, Philippines and Sierra Leone. Thematic Pavilions joining the event included CSAIA (China Satellite Application Industry Association), KT, ITU-R-ITU-D, K-ICT Week Zone and TIAA. ITU-T's Smart ABC Programme included a pavilion showcasing initiatives and technologies focused on three core themes: Smart AI, Smart Banking and Smart Cities.

[List of exhibitors](#)

This global platform is an opportunity to introduce ourselves and get to know other companies and innovative solution providers, to bridge the gap, identify resources that we can use in our country, and look for investors and partnerships in our development.

H.E. Debretsion G. Michael,
Minister of MCIT, Ethiopia

ITU Telecom World 2017 has presented Indonesia with extensive opportunities to showcase our ICT SMEs to a global audience and to discuss how to reduce the gap of wealth and income inequality.

H.E. Rudiantara, Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Indonesia

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



EXCEL TOGETHER



The Leadership Summit, moderated by Jeremy Wilks of Euronews, convened leading representatives from government, regulatory bodies, the ICT industry and international organizations to explore different visions of smart societies, identifying how best to turn smart digital transformation into global opportunity and meet the challenges of building a resilient digital future.

World class speakers including:

- Debretsion G. Michael, Deputy Prime Minister, Finance and Economy Cluster Coordinator and Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Ethiopia
- Hossein Moiin, Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer for Nokia Mobile Networks, Nokia
- Patrick Masambu, Director General and CEO, International Telecommunications Satellite Organization
- Beate Degen, Partner, EY
- Houlin Zhao, Secretary General, International Telecommunication Union
- Sébastien Soriano, BEREC Chair and President, Autorité de Régulation des Communications électroniques et des Postes (ARCEP)
- Yasmin Mahmood, CEO, Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation
- Ammar Alkassar, CEO, Rohde & Schwarz Cybersecurity GmbH
- Shola Taylor, Secretary-General, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation
- Siyabonga Cyprian Cwele, Minister, Ministry of Telecommunications and Postal Services, South Africa

“It’s a one-stop shop. You can meet ministers, you can meet entrepreneurs, you can close deals, you can find out what is happening with new technologies, coming here is always a wonderful networking and knowledge-sharing opportunity, it is fantastic.”

Shola Taylor, Secretary General, CTO

FORUM



125 speakers from 41 countries took part in plenaries, panel debates, workshops, high-level roundtables and networking sessions in the Forum and at the Leadership Summit.

Forum sessions explored topics crucial to smart digital transformation, including new approaches to connectivity; the development of new technologies such as AI, IoT and 5G; the importance of content and capacity; digital literacy and skills for the smart era; the reinvention of telcos; digital resilience and cybersecurity.

Other Forum highlights included Ministerial Roundtables on transforming the ICT sector, shaping smart industries, and digital citizens, as well as the Third Economic Industry Expert Roundtable exploring the economic impact of AI.

Partner sessions with KT, TDIA, Nigeria, IMDA, MSIT, MIAC and CSAIA debated issues such as AI in smart cities, intelligent networks, TDD spectrum and 5G, the 4th industrial revolution and the role and functions of satellite applications in the Belt and Road initiative.



“ITU Telecom World gives me inspiration and insights each year. We get to see what other developed and innovative countries are applying in emerging technologies, and it is also a platform for all parties and stakeholders to discuss future development.”

Yang Hua, Secretary-General, TDIA

ITU TELECOM WORLD AWARDS 2017



The ITU Telecom World Awards – now in its third successful year – showcased innovative digital solutions with social impact from SMEs and corporations alike. During the week of the event, selected finalists pitched their ideas and innovations and fielded tough questions from a jury of experts.

Winners and finalists in several categories were presented with trophies and certificates by ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao in a high-profile ceremony on the last day of the event in the presence of ministers, industry leaders, representatives of media, academia and international organizations from across the globe.

Winning entries spanned areas from micro-lending to a location-based shopping platform, an artificial intelligence-powered concierge robot, a digital data analytics solution and a voice recognition-based diagnostic system for babies.

[See the full list of winners and finalists](#)

“ This award will inspire me and my team to continue fighting for SMEs in South East Asia. I am proud to be here to see the exciting innovations – the new era of technology here inspires me to do more and want to achieve more for society. ”

Iwan Kurniawan, Co-founder and CEO, Modalku, Indonesia & Global SME Excellence Award Winner



SME PROGRAMME



As well as the opportunity to enter the ITU Telecom World Awards, participating SMEs also took part in a special SME Programme of masterclasses, matchmaking, networking, and debate.

Capacity-building investor-led masterclasses were aimed at developing skills, making connections and establishing partnerships for success as an SME emerging on the world stage. Themes included supporting participating firms to better communicate the core value proposition of their business, developing materials for use when pitching to deal makers or investors, and helping participants to improve coherence and coordination within their teams to deliver on the company's vision and objectives.

SME-focused Forum sessions included Tech SMEs and innovation: Boosting investor confidence in emerging and frontier markets and Tech SMEs and innovation: Founders' panel: from startup to scaleup, providing insights and advice from successful entrepreneurs. Networking and matchmaking activities helping SMEs connect with relevant buyers and investors took place in the dedicated SME Space on the exhibition floor.



“ Being at the ITU conference has been extremely mind blowing for me, I have learnt so much in terms of SME programmes, technology and awareness of what other countries are doing, and I think the best thing for me is the just the togetherness of every country. It has been a really great platform and it has been really, really well organised. ”

Temitope Awosika, MEDSAF, Nigeria, Global SME Award Greatest Social Impact Winner

B2B B2G CONNECTIONS



As the international platform connecting ICT SMEs with corporations and governments, networking took centre stage at the event. A dedicated business matchmaking service, organized by MSIT and Busan Metropolitan City, provided targeted B2B and B2G matchmaking opportunities in a specially-designed space for national delegations and exhibiting companies or organizations. A total of 70 meetings were held, enabling 67 large and small companies and organizations from 20 countries across the world to meet and talk business.

A lunch hosted by Senegal facilitated networking and discussion, along with high profile networking occasions such as the Event Opening Ceremony, Welcome Reception and Farewell Reception. Networking breaks and happy hours sponsored by Inmarsat and Subah helped ensure conversations continued during and after Forum sessions.

“The network and connections you can build at an event like this are invaluable, from a business perspective, from an investor perspective, from a networking perspective. There is so much synergy that we can definitely strengthen partnerships.”

Matthias Brodner, Simplus Innovation,
Global SME Award Best Business Model Winner,
South Africa

“We have benefited a lot in terms of networking, and in terms of business expansion. This is the right place for us, it provides exposure and it provides experience, we will take it back to Sudan and implement what we can do and make a difference.”

Bazara Imam Ali Barry,
Business Development DPT. Director, NCTR, Sudan



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Taking advantage of the global visibility which the event offered, participants used the occasion to conclude business agreements and make key announcements.

The ITU Journal: ICT discoveries was launched at a ceremony which introduced this brand-new publication and previewed its first special issue on “The impact of Artificial Intelligence on communication networks and services”. MoUs were signed between ITU-R and Central Radio Management Service of the Republic of Korea on space radio frequency monitoring, and between ITU-T and the Korea Institute of Finance to formalise the intentions to work together on digital finance research and study. A number of press conferences took place throughout the week, ensuring the flow of news and information from Indonesia, Huawei and South Africa.

Nigeria Day marked the official opening of the Nigeria Pavilion, presenting the country's leading ICT companies, SMEs, project and initiatives, whilst Ghana Day showcased the country's key national ICT projects and players.

MoUs were signed between:

- ITU-R and Central Radio Management Service of the Republic of Korea on space radio frequency monitoring
- ITU-T and the Korea Institute of Finance to formalise the intentions to work together on digital finance research and study
- TIAA, The Federation of Korean Information Industries and KT, to enhance cooperation about connected car technology and facilitate exchange of technology, platform and applications for 5G-based autonomous driving
- Busan City, XnTree, and WeGO (World e-Governments Organization of Cities and Local Governments), to accelerate Busan city's start up-ecosystem, promote Busan city's smart city project to WeGO membership and attract more Public Private Partnerships (PPP)



“ It is so exciting to be here, it is a great, great, great conference and exhibition!

All these different experts from around the world come together to share ideas, collaborate and evolve the discussion, all these stakeholders come together to further science and innovation. No other entity can do that in the same fashion worldwide.

Stephen Ibaraki, Founder of AI for Global Good Summit



ITU-WIDE AGENDA



ITU sectors were represented throughout the event. Hyundai-Motors, HEAD Acoustics, APT, DASAN, Global Plan, KISA, NICT, NTT Korea, OKI, Swisscom, Vodafone Egypt, and the digital mayor's office of Seoul exhibited at the ITU Standardization Sector (ITU-T) Smart ABC pavilion, alongside AI and fintech start-ups showcasing social robots, intelligent scheduling assistants and AI-powered financial inclusion. ITU's Development Sector (ITU-D) showcased the work done with its members to accelerate digital inclusion and catalyse

digital transformation, while building innovation capacity towards the realization of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ITU's Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) featured a panel session "Enabling and shaping the wireless ecosystem: Celebrating the 90th anniversary of CCIR/ITU-R Study Groups", which highlighted the role of the ITU-R process in supporting global regulations.

SIDE EVENTS

A series of side events provided perspectives from across ITU, its membership and partners. These included the Ninth CTO Meeting, organized by ITU's Standardization Bureau; the official launch ceremony of the ITU Journal: ICT Discoveries, plus a preview of its first special issue; a session organized by the World Economic Forum (WEF) on Internet for All: Financing Models for ICT Connectivity Infrastructure; a session on technological innovation and exponential change

empowering collective action to meet the SDGs, organized by the UN office of ICT; the fourth ITU test event on compatibility of mobile phones and vehicle hands free terminals; and a multi-stakeholder workshop on bridging the digital innovation divide by fostering digital entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystems. The event also hosted the annual Young ICT Leaders Forum 2017 and the Busan Global Smart Cities Challenge.



HOST COUNTRY: REPUBLIC OF KOREA



ITU Telecom World 2017 was hosted by the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) of the Republic of Korea, one of the most technologically-advanced nations in the world.

Busan is Korea's leading smart city, with an exemplary model of IoT-based public services in areas from traffic control to environment and safety management meeting the challenges of a modern city.

With top-level participation at the event opening from Young Min You, Minister of Science and ICT, Republic of Korea and Suh Byung-soo, Mayor of Busan Metropolitan City, the event showcased the leading names from the Republic of Korea's cutting edge ICT sector including

Hyundai-Motors, LG Uplus, K-ICT Week, KT, SK telecom and Samsung Electronics. A host of dynamic Korean start-ups demonstrated the latest technological innovations in areas such as IoT, smart cities, smart homes and virtual reality. The Republic of Korea also took the opportunity to share insights on the opportunities and challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution, its key global trends, innovative corporate strategies and ICT policy considerations,

during a series of partner sessions in the Forum. In their partner session, KT shared examples of how key AI features can be incorporated into an intelligent network, debating how AI and telco technologies can best be integrated to make the intelligent network a reality in the near future.

“During ITU Telecom World, we had a lot of visiting experts from national delegations and companies from 126 countries, and I believe it was a great opportunity for productive discussions about advanced technologies and future ICT developments.”

Suh Byung-soo, Mayor of Busan Metropolitan City



ITU TELECOM WORLD 2018



The Government of South Africa has conveyed its willingness to host the upcoming ITU Telecom World 2018, building on the successful innovations seen at ITU Telecom World 2017. ITU Telecom World 2018 will continue to act as the international platform connecting tech SMEs together with governments and corporates attracting Member States, regulators, heads of international organizations, global media, digital experts and visionaries, leading ICT corporations and cutting-edge tech-SMEs from the region and across the globe.

Register your interest today

ITU Telecom World 2017 Resources

[Daily Highlights](#) offering session summaries and news from the showfloor

Explore the event [Photo Gallery](#)

Get expert insights and views in our [Executive Interviews](#)

Latest news and views in the [Newsroom](#)

Read more from key participants in our [blog](#)

Catch up with all the Forum debates or revisit your favourites with our [Session Videos](#)

Follow us on social media [#ituworld](#)

@itu, always use the [#ituworld](#)

Follow ITU for daily news and highlights from the event, as well as other top news from ITU

www.linkedin.com/company/3669343
and via our ITU Telecom World [LinkedIn group](#)