From the telecom to the information society

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The telecom society (1), the telegraph service

- A global text transport service
- Start of international cooperation, ITU 1865
  - Addressing, tariffication, priority
  - Secrecy, reliability

The telecom society (2), the telephone service

- A global voice transport service
  - Serves any language
- Global reach with satellites ~1970
- Full quality with digital transmission ~1980
- Vast capacity with optical fibres ~1990
- Mobile telephone service a rapid success

Transit to the information society

- From scarce to abundant resources
  - Paradigm shift: monopoly to pluralism
- Computers and transmission integrated
  - Transport and content become inseparable
- The telecom society gradually transits to an information society

The information society, Internet

- The Internet
  - Interconnected private networks for closed user groups
  - Designed for information services
  - Developed by non-traditional operators
- Public services through the "backdoor"

ITU involvement

- ITU Plenipotentiary Minneapolis 1998
  - TN proposal for a UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) endorsed
  - Resolutions for ITU activities on Internet
- ITU Plenipotentiary Marrakech 2002
  - WSIS inputs on
    - Infrastructure
    - Security and confidence
    - Enabling environment

WSIS, the World Summit on the Information Society

- UN GA decision December 2001
- Bridge the digital gap, development focus
- Summit in two phases
  - Geneva, December 2003
  - Tunis, November 2005
- Multistakeholder forum
  - Governments, international organisations
  - Private sector
  - Civil Society
- ITU coordinator for the Summit

ITU, Internet related issues

- Adressing
  - National influence over ccTLDs
  - Fair distribution of IP-address space
- Tariffs
  - For telephony: large net payments to developing countries (US issue)
  - For Internet: access and interconnection payments from newcomers (AU issue)

WSIS-1, the Geneva Summit

- Outputs
  - Declaration of principles, 11 sectors
  - Plan of Action, wide scope
- Controversial points
  - Financing of investments, TFFI
  - Internet Governance, WGIG

WSIS-2, The Tunis Summit

- Preparations to be completed
- Political chapeau
- Operational part
  - Implementation
  - Financing
  - Internet Governance
  - The way ahead

Conclusion

- WSIS is a major UN event to promote the information society at global level

- Internet governance has become a major topic for WSIS

- WSIS is an ITU initiative and will define the climate for the future of the ITU
  - Next ITU Plenipotentiary in Antalya 2006
  - PTS responsible for preparations