

Media Release

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“O.U.R. Director General elected Vice Chair of C.T.O.”

The Director General of the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR), Mr. Ahmad Zia Mian, has been elected Vice Chair of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO).

The election which took place during the just concluded 50th CTO Council Meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from September 16-17, 2010, marks a return by Jamaica, which once held the Chairmanship, to the executive body of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation.

Mr. Mian, as the newly elected member of the Council, plans to use his time to “...*try to reduce regional as well as global poverty through the more efficient utilisation of the ICT infrastructure...*”.

The OUR Director General, who is also the current Chairman of the Organization of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR), says this can be achieved “... *through convergence of utilities and by breaking down the silos*”.

The 50th CTO Council Meeting which was hosted by the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL) saw Mr. Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President of Sri Lanka and Chairman of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission in that country being unanimously elected as Chairman of the CTO.

Gambia was elevated to the position of 2nd Vice Chair while Mauritius and Southern Sudan were elected to the Executive Committee, representing development partners and industry partners respectively, of the Sector Membership.

The council meeting followed the 8th annual CTO forum which explored concrete ways to raise awareness of the full potential of the Internet, broadband and other information and communication technologies in developing countries.

The CTO comprises 50 full and associate Commonwealth member countries and is an international development partnership between Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth governments, business and civil society organizations.

It provides the international community with an effective means to help bridge the digital divide and achieve social and economic development, by delivering to emerging economies unique knowledge-sharing programs in the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the specific areas of telecommunications, IT, broadcasting and the Internet.

The work of the CTO goes back to its creation in 1901 as the Pacific Cable Board. Since then, the CTO has been at the centre of continuous and extensive international communications development funding, co-operation and assistance programs.

Recently, the CTO enhanced its mandate to reflect and respond to today's global development challenges as set out in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Its mission is to offer the highest quality programs for capacity development, knowledge sharing and information services. It does this by helping to bridge the digital divide within the Commonwealth and beyond in the key sectors of food and agriculture, education, health, e-government and e-commerce.

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