



ITU Meeting on Emerging Trends in New York: “IoT, Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Development”

There is a widespread common agreement that the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), as a cross-cutting tool, has tremendous potential to accelerate progress towards nearly every Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹, especially including Goals 4 (Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 9 (Infrastructure) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for Implementation across all SDGs). Science, technology and innovation generally and ICTs specifically have great potential to connect the world: increase scale, improve development program and to empower individuals and their communities toward sustainable development. Among others, the Internet of Things (IoT) provide both an opportunity and challenge to fulfill the expectations of the new global development agenda.

IoT are a core set of emerging technologies which have great potential to improve connectivity by connecting smart devices, applications, services, and even people over the Internet network. IoT are increasingly common to build sustainable and smart cities in developed world: not just as connected smart phones or tablets, but also as extended to a wide range of multiple machines and services, including vehicles, household applications, wearable devices, health-care monitors, energy consumption meters, or security systems. IoT can also greatly benefit populations in regions in developing countries: specifically impactful applications of IoT could facilitate - IoT applications in agricultural fields can check soil conditions, connected thermometers can monitor vaccine delivery and storage in real-time, smart sensors can measure a level of pollution in the air or water, and other smart devices can also provide remote diagnosis of diseases, are as just few examples.

The discussion of this session will provide an overview of IoT to build sustainable and smart cities, the barriers preventing their up-scale and growth, challenges and opportunities in IoT, which enhance SDGs specifically, and share the most recent emerging trends in technologies and policy issues over IoT.

Discussion points

- Trends on IoT on network infrastructure for connectivity (i.e., Cost effective connection, 5G, etc.)
- Trends and impact of IoT applications for sustainable development (i.e., Big Data, Customized Apps, etc.)
- Trends on public policy over IoT (i.e., Factors accelerating adoption, etc.)

¹ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also recognizes that “the spread of information and communication technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies.”

Meeting Information

- Title: “IoT, Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Development”
- Date/Time: 13:15-14:30 (1hour 15 minutes), 6 June 2016
- Place/Meeting: At the First Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (6 – 7 June 2016), Conference Room #E, UNHQ, New York
- Invited Speakers
 - Dr Heike Riel, Senior Fellow, Manager Materials Integration & Nanoscale Devices (MIND), IBM Research
 - Dr Robert Pepper, Senior Fellow, Aspen Institute
 - Mr. William Wright, Director, Cybersecurity Partnership, Symantec cooperation
 - [Moderator] Mr. Gary Fowle, Head of ITU Liaison Office to the United Nations, ITU
- Target audience: Open to all STI Forum participants in New York
- Format: The meeting will be in the format of talks given by a set of experts invited to present the issue/trends and also share their views with audience in an open and interactive way.