

ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION ORGANIZATIONS

The central strategic challenge facing the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is to adapt an essentially intergovernmental entity to the emerging requirements of the telecom-based global information society. Participation by telecommunication network operators, and service and product suppliers is growing rapidly. Business opportunities are expanding in both domestic and international telecommunication markets. The explosive growth potential of the telecommunications industry has increased the economic value of ITU products and services to non-governmental participants.

If the ITU is to retain a leading role

in the globalized, liberalized, competitive telecommunication environment of the future, it must enlarge its membership and enhance participation. Involving new players and expanding its constituency to include "convergent" industries, as well as the user and operator communities has become a basic challenge of the ITU.

Many expect that the ITU, at its conference of plenipotentiaries later this year, will decide on ways to broaden the Union's membership. For the client population from both the Canadian public and private telecommunication sectors, the results of the conference deliberations should prove to be extremely interesting.

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Union by way of their analogue microwave links or through eight INTERSPUTNIK channels. In September 1993, a NEC Intelsat A earth station was installed as a gift from the Japanese government. This equipment, capable of handling 60 circuits (of which 12 are currently in operation) was obtained with the understanding that the international calls would be routed through Tokyo.

Mongolia's government sees adequate rural communications as a way of alleviating the isolation of its dispersed, semi-nomadic rural people. Four channel digital point-to-multipoint systems are considered adequate for each county town. Wireless local loops, either cellular or HF based could then be used to service the rural area of each county.

Mongolian authorities have decided to use the soft loans from the Asian Development Bank to develop the backbone network and the infrastructure in the major cities. For the development of rural telecommunications, Mongolia will be relying on bilateral aid. There is an advantage in targeting projects where there is a significant portion of local content. Mongolians are quite prepared to contribute local equipment where required, such as microwave towers, conduits, wire, etc., reserving foreign aid and loans for purchasing equipment that can only be obtained with hard currency. For telecommunications business services such as data transmission, Mongolia is eager to attract foreign investors.

A copy of the report, *Mongolian Telecommunications*, is available from the International Telecommunications Division of Industry Canada (see Contacts box).

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