

PRESS RELEASE
MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE MEETING, ITU TELECOM WORLD,
BUDAPEST, 2019

Bhutanese delegation, led by Hon'ble Minister for Information and Communications, Lyonpo Karma D. Wangdi, attended the Ministerial Roundtable Meeting at the ITU Telecom World, Budapest, Hungary from 9th – 12th September 2019.

ITU Telecom World is an international exhibition and a global platform aimed at accelerating ICT innovation for social and economic development. The conference provides leaders, policy makers and regulators to meet with industry experts, SMEs and investors, to share knowledge, exhibit solutions, and network at the highest level. The key focus of the event is to provide a platform to collaborate and engage in high-level dialogue on the major challenges facing the ICT sector.

The opening ceremony, which also showcased a spectacular digital artwork by the host country. The event started with the official launch hosted by the Government of Hungary, the event was launched in the presence of His Excellency Viktor Orban, the Prime Minister of Hungary alongside Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary General, Director General of the World Intellectual Property (WITO), The Minister for Information & Communications, Vietnam together with other Ministers, high-level government leaders & representatives, regulators and CEO of the Leading Industry.

Furthermore, the speakers also included the President of Hungary & the United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, over a video message, stressed on the importance of technology in saving lives. **“There is no doubt: innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence, 5G and the internet of Things can help us achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and improve the lives if all. We must harness the opportunities they bring, while mitigating the risks”**

Prior to the event, ITU Secretary General invited all the ministers for a ministerial consultation meeting on the evening of 8th September 2019.

VIP TOUR OF THE EXHIBITION

1. Independent Stands
2. National Pavilions
3. SME
4. Thematic Pavilions

MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS

The event comprises of a series of roundtable meetings, exhibitions, forums, dialogues, debates, networking events and award ceremonies. The roundtable meetings were focused on the role of government in 5G and high-capacity network deployment, securing trust in digital public services, and Stimulating public-private collaboration on connectivity and adoption. The roundtable meetings revolve around the security, investment, collaboration and policy intervention by the government to ensure appropriate ecosystem for advanced connectivity to all.

Call on WITH THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF ITU & Ministerial Commissioner & Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Hungary.

1. ITU Secretary General
2. ITU Dy. Secretary General
3. Director of Radio Communication Bureau, ITU

4. Director of Telecommunications Development Bureau, ITU
5. Director of Telecommunications Standardization Bureau, ITU
6. The Ministerial Commissioner of ITU and Secretary of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Hungary

Acknowledged the Elected Members of ITU for considering Bhutan and inviting to attend ITU Telecom World 2019 here in Budapest.

Hon'ble Minister thanked the Ministerial Commissioner of ITU & Secretary of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Hungary for all the logistic arrangements and congratulated for the grand success on hosting the ITU Telecom World 2019.

The event was concluded with award ceremony recognizing the champion of ITU Telecom World 2019.

The Awards comprised of the following:

1. **Global SME Awards:** Recognizing the best innovative ICT-based solutions with social impact from the SMEs present at the event in five classes – Best business model; Most innovative use of ICT; Greatest social impact and Most scalable solution. The Global SME Excellence Award was awarded to the SME with the highest all-around score.
2. **Global Industry Awards:** for the most promising innovative solutions with the social impact in the areas of digital inclusion and principles, meaningful connectivity. Solutions and sustainable impact, as selected by a specially-convened expert jury.
3. **Government Award:** awarded to the National Pavilion with the most promising innovative SMEs.
4. **Host Country Awards:** Recognized the best and most innovative SME or solutions at the event from Hungary, the event host.