2nd Middle East - North African (MENA) Regional ITS Conference

Aswan, Egypt, 18 – 21 February 2018

Leveraging Technologies to Accelerate Growth

Today, the development and progression of societies depends on telecommunications and information technologies and the pace of their evolution. ICTs have become, during the past decade, an important facilitator for many aspects of our personal and business lives.

When the power of technology is harnessed, the investments pay off exponentially. In other words, leveraging technology leads to significant changes in business, education, health, agriculture etc. This is why governments worldwide are looking to leverage technologies to deliver services that both better meet citizen needs and are less costly to provide. In the past, the focus of 'digital' has been largely limited to online services, but today's reality is much more complex. Agencies must grapple with multi-channel processes, and fast-moving delivery and access technologies enabled by social computing, cloud services, analytics, and mobile devices and apps. In addition, the boundaries of the public sector are shifting due to open data and its co-production.

This, in turn, implies a number of opportunities and challenges for industry, policy and regulation. Each demands research acrss a broad range of relevant topics, reflecting that new technologies are constantly emerging. These new technologies give rise to new ways of enhancing and creating services, enable the growth of new businesses and contribute to national growth. For this cycle - from technology to growth - to take place, the regulatory regime and the policy environment need to be considered so that they are aligned with the technological change that is occurring so that growth can occur.

The 2nd Middle East - North African (MENA) Regional ITS Conference invites participants, from government, industry, third sector and academia, to share their insights on these emerging issues, as well as to raise other topics that they find pressing or topical. The conference will explore promising technologies and applications, investigating how supportive regulation could ensure widespread access to the benefits of emerging technologies, correlating benefits, challenges, and implications within MENA countries as well as comparing to regional developments to other parts of the world. Under this theme, a broad range of topics related to leveraging technology, can be found.

A non-exhaustive set of topics that contributors are encouraged to consider can be found below. Submissions of theoretical and empirical papers on the following topics are welcomed.

Topic 1. Telecom Policy/Regulatory Paradigms:

- Broadband industry structure and regulation
- Shared access of scarce/key resources (spectrum, right of way etc.)
- International and national radio spectrum management
- Licensing regimes in a converged and smart world
- Universal access, universal service, SMP regulation
- Competition policy in the age of digital markets
- Consolidation within telecommunication markets
- Network neutrality: debates and future
- Policies to promote investment in fixed broadband networks
- Policies promoting innovation
- How to best deal with OTTs?
- Numbers and addressing: portability and massive number of devices
- Cybersecurity and privacy: network and/or user perspectives

Topic 2. ICT as Economic Stimulus

- Impact of ICT on economic growth and productivity
- Legal and regulatory roadblocks
- Effective coordination between business, government, scientific communities
- The role of entrepreneurship and how to be effectively integrated in the value chain
- New frontiers and growth opportunities with the Internet of everything and big data.
- Smart sustainability: Internet and smart cities
- Strategic plans of the operators for investments and innovations

Topic 3. Opportunities and challenges in the MENA Region

- Special demographics of the region and relevant applications and interests
- Geographical characteristics of the region and its relation to infrastructure deployment and broadband access
- Investment opportunities and business models.
- Technologies leapfrogging in the developing world

Topic 4. New Technologies, Services and Applications

- Emerging business models and value chains
- Future and next generation networks
- Software defined networks and cognitive capabilities of radio devices
- New frontiers in new spectrum bands: mm wave and visible light
- Socio-economic impact of social networks, social media, and mobile applications
- Smart applications for a smart society
- Digital financial services
- Smartphones and related platform competition issues
- Cloud and fog computing
- Big data and data analytics
- 5G technologies and its impact.

Submissions addressing any other subject relating to the ICT sector are also welcome.

Deadlines:

- <u>Deadline for abstracts</u>:   28th September2018
- <u>Notification of acceptance</u>:   18th October 2018
- <u>Early registration deadline</u>:   15th November 2018
- <u>Deadline for final papers</u>:   10th January 2018

Submission of abstracts:

Abstracts should be about two pages (800 to 1000 words) in length and contain the following information:

- – Title

- – A clear statement of the research question

- – Remarks on methodology adopted in the paper

- – Outline of (expected) results

- – Bibliographical notes (up to 6 key references used in the paper)

Abstracts will be submitted via Easychair. For submission, please follow the link: (https://itsaswan2019.org.eg/submission/).

All abstracts will be subject to blind peer review. Please ensure that submissions through Easychair do not identify the author(s).

Best Paper Awards

Two Best Paper Awards will be granted

US$ 1000 / Award

"Best Student Paper Award" & *"Best Paper Award"* **(for post-graduate student)**

The two awards will be announced during the closing session.

Contacts for Abstracts/Papers inquiries:

Local Organizers:

Dr. Fadel Digham
National Telecom Regulatory Authority, Egypt
fdigham@tra.gov.eg

Dr. Mohamed El-Moghazi
National Telecom Regulatory Authority, Egypt
mmoghazi@tra.gov.eg

Dr. Mohamed Orabi
Aswan University, Egypt
morabi@aswu.edu.eg

ITS:

Mr Stephen Schmidt
TELUS, Canada
Stephen.Schmidt@TELUS.COM

Prof. Jason Whalley
Northumbria University, UK
Jason.whalley@northumbria.ac.uk