Vanuatu to celebrate World Telecommunication and Information Day

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VANUATU WILL JOIN THE REST of the world to celebrate World Telecommunications and Information Society (WTIS) Day.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will be focusing on the theme: "ICTs and improving road safety".

Vanuatu has expanded the theme set out by ITU to include the whole transport sector, covering air transport, marine transport and land transport.

The purpose of World Telecommunication and Information Society day is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

May 17 marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union. Vanuatu has taken the initiative to celebrate WTISD starting in 2012, and has earmarked this event to be celebrated annually with the rest of ITU members.

On the occasion of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2013, ITU calls upon all stakeholders (policy makers, regulators, operators and industry) to take practical steps to further national and domestic policies, programs and/or educational initiatives in the use of ICTs to improve road safety, taking into account the risks associated with the unreasonable use of ICTs and driver distraction, as well as the benefits of ICTs and vehicular safety technologies, in order to improve global road safety.

The WTISD-2013 working team anticipates hosting a 2 days event, with a forum and exhibition to celebrate the day. Participation will be from both private and public sector who are involved in one way or another in the transport industry, and ICTs and Telecom industry.

The expected outcomes of this event are:

1. Awareness possibilities the internet and ICTs can bring to societies;

2. Practical steps for Vanuatu on how to improve transport safety across air, land and sea transport, which include "text messaging" while driving

3. To improve efficiencies in transport management as a means of combating the effects of climate change.