



■ AGENCY ■

International Labor Organization (ILO) <<http://www.unorg/ilo.org>>

The ILO formulates international labor standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations setting minimum standards of basic labor rights: freedom of association, the right to organize, collective bargaining, abolition of forced labor, equality of opportunity and treatment, and other standards regulating conditions across the entire spectrum of work-related issues. It provides technical assistance primarily in the fields of vocational training and vocational rehabilitation; employment policy; labor administration; labor law and industrial relations; working conditions; management development; cooperatives; social security; labor statistics and occupational safety and health. It promotes the development of independent employers' and workers' organizations and provides training and advisory services to those organizations. ■

INDIA: To BUILD NATIONAL INTERNET NETWORK



Worldtel, "a unique, though little-known" organization established by the UN's International Telecommunications

Union, is planning a fiber-optic net-

work in India "which could transform the lives of millions," the *Times of India* reported. Worldtel chair Sam Pitroda has "quietly signed memorandums of understanding with seven states in India for the massive project," which will take approximately two years to establish.

The plan includes "Internet booths" that will provide public access to computers. Pitroda said that since computers are increasingly visual and easy to use, Indians who are not computer literate will nevertheless be able to benefit from the program. (Rahul Singh, *Times of India*, 22 Aug 99)

Source: <http://www.unfoundation.org/unwire/archives/UNWIRE990826.cfm> (30 Aug 99)

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International Telecommunications Union (ITU) <<http://www.itu.int>>

The ITU's mandate includes promoting better and more efficient telecommunication facilities and making them available to the public; offering technical assistance to developing countries to help them mobilize resources and produce them; and encouraging a broader approach to telecommunication issues in the broader global information economy and society.

International Telecommunications Day was celebrated in 1997; at that time materials were prepared for school use. These materials are still useful. See <<http://www.org.pubs/cyberschoolbus/days/telecom/index>>. ■

ACTIVITY

When you consider that India is the second most populous nation in the world, with one of the highest rates of illiteracy, and that the country has multitudinous local/regional dialects, this agency's goal as described in the news article is most ambitious. Let us test the possibilities. If the classroom has access to a computer with an overhead attachment: Before class begins, open up the computer to an Internet site, and with a blank specially designed template, cover up all evidence of text. Ask students to see if they can operate any or all of the programs without the printed portion. Debrief the experience and have students discuss the idea of visual literacy. Can one learn from a social studies textbook presently in use without being able to read? What about mathematics—can problems be manipulated through oral instruction, without the need for printed instructions? Apply this idea to all subjects studied. Have students consider the comparison of computers and TV's, and other devices with visual presentations.

LICENSING AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES ENTERS INTO FORCE

NAIROBI, 23 August 1999 - The Montreal Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer agreed in...1997 is due to enter into force on 10 November 1999. The Montreal Amendment...provides, among other things, for (nations) to establish and implement a system for licensing the import and export of



ozone-depleting substances (ODS) by 1 January 2000 and report to the Secretariat on the establishment of such a system. "The entry

into force of this Amendment is a timely measure which should assist the international community to monitor trade in ozone depleting substances and curb potential illegal trade" said Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). "I appeal to all countries that are yet to ratify this Amendment to do so as soon as possible and establish the licensing systems for import and export of ozone-depleting substances. There is also a need to put in place the mechanism for enforcement and compliance with such systems," he added... (The primary purpose of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the

Ozone Layer and its Amendments is to phase-out both production and consumption of ODS according to the schedule provided in the Protocol in order to protect human health and the environment.)

The Montreal Amendment...was negotiated...out of the growing concern that as more and more countries