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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

Message

I am pleased to extend warm greetings and felicitations on the occasion of the World Telecommunications and Information Society Day (WTISD – 2018) that also marks the 153rd anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The theme of the day “Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All” is timely and appropriate and I am glad to note that the member states have taken steps to raise awareness of the WTISD among the community.

Artificial Intelligence is now woven into every sector and AI-based technologies are already emerging as a key component of proactive tools and applications being used to help people lead better lives by improving healthcare, education, finance, agriculture, transportation, and a wide range of other services.

To enhance our development, we must find effective ways and means of using Artificial Intelligence in every field. Our approach for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be people centred and the Sri Lankan government has created a special Ministry for Sustainable Development integrating the SDGs to the overall national policies. Furthermore, we have launched a Blue-Green economic plan which would ensure the full utilisation of the ocean and other natural resources of Sri Lanka in an environmental friendly and sustainable manner. Through this economic strategy, Sri Lanka hopes to become a role model for addressing the best practices.

I extend my congratulations to ITU on this occasion and wish it well in its future endeavours.

Maithripala Sirisena

May 17, 2018

