



Mobile & Wireless Forum

Media Release

Accessible devices do exist – GARI helps you find them

3 December 2017

You are blind, walk into a store and are told there is no such thing as a mobile phone for blind people.

You are 75, have a tremor in your hands, and are told that smartphones are too complicated for you.

You are hard-of-hearing, have a hearing-aid and have given up on telephony – how could you hear and talk on the phone when you already find face-to-face conversations difficult.

These are experiences that people face every day, but they don't have to.

The International Day for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities invites us every year to reflect on the right of all people to fully participate in society. That includes being able to use mainstream devices like everyone else.

There are many mobile phones today in the market accessible for blind users. Features such as Screen Readers and Braille Display Support can help the blind use ICT devices, screen magnifier, zoom and high contrast mode help those who just don't see that well any longer.

Assistance instructions, simplified display and no screen time-out can make the devices easier to handle for elderly users and anyone not yet familiar with such technology.

Hearing-aid compatibility, improved call quality and speech-to-text functions make telephony possible both in loud environments as well as for users who do not hear that well.

“This is the reason, we created the Global Accessibility Reporting Initiative (GARI) nine years ago. Our aim was to avoid such scenarios and give people an easy way to find devices with features that can best help them in their individual situation” Michael Milligan, Secretary General of the MWF said.

The GARI website is available in 17 languages at: www.gari.info

Media Contact information: Michael Milligan, Secretary General, Mobile & Wireless Forum: +61 410 21 21 28 (Mobile) michael.milligan@mwfai.org or Sabine Lobnig Deputy Director Communications & Regulations, + 43 664 46 23 449 (Mobile) sabine.lobnig@mwfai.org

Note for Editors: The Mobile & Wireless Forum is an international association of companies with an interest in mobile and wireless communications including the evolution to 5G and the Internet of Things. More information: www.mwfai.org