



Workshop on 'Price Caps and Interconnection'

REPORT ON MISSION TO PAKISTAN

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By

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1. PURPOSE OF THE MISSION

- (a) Finalise the agenda and logistical support for the upcoming workshop.
- (b) Meet with members of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to provide feedback to them on current regulatory and policy issues.
- (c) Participate in the opening session and deliver opening remarks on behalf of ITU at the Workshop on Price-setting and Interconnection.
- (d) Participate as the co-ordinator and a presenter at the workshop on Price-setting and Interconnection.

2. ACTIVITIES

2.1. PTA

Meeting with Muhammad Akram Khan, Member (Finance) of PTA and Muhammad Saeed, Director (T & I), for PTA on Tuesday, 31 July to review Workshop agenda and make adjustments to sequence of presentations and start and break times during the event.

Received briefing on current status of rate application from PTCL and also on interconnection arrangements between PTCL and mobile operators.

Muhammad Akram Khan requested a briefing on the activities of the ITU's Regional Centre of Excellence (COE). He was provided with both some written material and a verbal briefing. He expressed interest in receiving further training for PTA staff in the context of the distance learning concept practised by the COE.

2.2. Workshop

The 'Official Opening' of the Workshop was hosted by the chairman of PTA, Major General Khalid Bashir HI (M) TBt. The press and broadcasters also attended the opening and later conducted interviews. Press and television news coverage was evident during the following days.

The Workshop consisted of two categories of activities. First, the formal presentations followed by a question and answer period. Second, the participants were divided into four separate groups. Each group was assigned a task related to the workshop material and was required to make a formal presentation on the final day of the workshop. The topics covered by the groups were as follows:

- (1) Price Caps from a Consumer's Perspective;
- (2) Price Caps from an Operators Perspective;
- (3) Interconnection from PTCL's perspective; and
- (4) Interconnection from a mobile Operators Perspective.

The Workshop was well received and each presentation was followed by a lively question and answer period. The participants became actively involved in the discussions and raised relevant and important questions on each topic.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The mission's objectives of conducting an effective workshop to support the activities of the national regulator, PTA, were achieved. Considerable feedback was received during the breaks and at the 'Closing Session' concerning the quality of the presentations and the discussions.
