



**ITU Forum of the Regional Working Group (RWG) on
Private Sector Issues – Asia & Pacific Region**



“Promoting ICT Technologies & Broadband Applications”

Bangkok, 3-5 August 2005

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

ON

- 1) ISSUES ON BROADBAND,**
- 2) ISSUES ON LEVIES & INTERCONNECTION CHARGES,**
- 3) ISSUES ON INFRASTRUCTURE SHARING**

Recommendations on Issues on Broadband

Working Group on Broadband
ITU Forum of the Regional Working Group (RWG) on Private Sector Issues,
Asia and the Pacific Region
3-5 August 2005, Bangkok, Thailand

It is noted that broadband has been recognized as an essential part of information society as it improves the life style of people and improves access to better information.

1. ITU to encourage all the administrations to have a very clear and focused broadband policy separately even though the ICT policy may be existing.
2. It is recommended that the Government / Administration have plans regarding the promotion of broadband in terms of fiscal incentives (like minimization of custom duties wherever applicable, tax reliefs, low cost PC terminals), which promote the broadband growth and penetration.
3. The Administrations to make available fund to facilitate growth of broadband access in rural / underserved areas. This fund could be made available from USO fund.
4. For faster growth/penetration of broadband, it is important for service providers to develop / facilitate development of content to support applications especially in terms of local language.
5. ITU to come up with global standards with regard to interoperability of broadband equipments and networks including customer premises equipment and this would help create economies of scale thereby lowering the cost.
6. Regulatory policies should be such that they ensure fair competition, which would lead to affordable prices for end users.
7. The ITU to expedite the study on issues related with the cost of international bandwidth and to provide suitable guidelines for internet interconnection to remove the asymmetry in the charges.
8. The regional working group to initiate the process for the establishment of a regional internet exchange for Asia-Pacific region to facilitate the retention of the regional internet traffic within the region and hence save on the cost of international bandwidth and improve the quality of service.
9. The regulators/administrations should encourage deployment of all technologies which facilitate faster adoption of broadband and fostering of ICT.

Recommendations on Issues on Levies & Interconnection Charges

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Recommendation relating to Levies

Recommendation 1: Telecom license fees should not be viewed as a direct source of revenue for government and regulator. For the purpose of determining revenue share, revenue to be included should be only those revenues derived from the telecom services specified in the license

Recommendation 2: Entry fees should take into account factors like telecom penetration, level playing field and the level of competition.

Recommendation 3: The percentages mentioned in the recommendations of the second forum are in the nature of broad guidelines.

Recommendations relating to Interconnection

Recommendation 1:

The Group observed that there exist significant differences on the interconnection principles and practices followed in the Asia Pacific countries. At the same time, there is a commonality of issues unique to the region.

The Group realizes that at this point of time there is a requirement to share expertise on an urgent basis, as most interconnect issues are time bound and require immediate attention.

The RWG on Private Sector Issues for the Asia and Pacific Region hereby decides to setup a subgroup under its aegis to share and exchange expertise on interconnect issues, leading to recommendations on topical issues.

The Terms of reference of the subgroup is proposed to cover the

- *Technical,*
- *Financial, and*
- *Legal issues*

pertaining to voice, data, multimedia, internet interconnection and would invite participation from all stakeholders including Regulators and Operators in the Asia Pacific Region. This subgroup will be closely co-ordinating its work with the ITU-D & ITU-T Study Group questions relating to interconnection.

Recommendations on Issues on Infrastructure Sharing

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1. It is recommended that Administrations / Regulators issue guidelines and regulations to facilitate Infrastructure Sharing by the operators, especially with regard to the passive elements of infrastructure, such as poles, masts, cables, fibre, ducts, towers, and manholes, and facilities such as co-location of equipment and sharing of Main Distribution Frame (MDF) rooms.
2. Administrations / Regulators should facilitate entry of independent infrastructure providers through an open, simple and fair licensing / authorisation process.
3. Policies should be in the direction to bring in the benefits of synergy by avoiding duplication of levies and taxes as duplication of such charges would actually discourage operators from entering into Infrastructure Sharing arrangements. For example, if an operator is required to pay a certain amount of charges to the authorities for seeking permission for installation of a tower in a particular location by sharing such facility with the other operator, such charges should not be imposed on both the operators.
4. Administrations / Regulators should devise standard specifications and guidelines for Infrastructure Sharing arrangements.
5. Capacity sharing by the incumbent/SMP operator on fair commercial terms should be strongly encouraged in rural / underserved / remote areas. This may be necessary till such time a pre-defined teledensity target is achieved and beyond that it may be left to mutual agreement between operators to continue with the arrangement or to set up their own independent/individual facilities.
6. National Roaming is a form of Infrastructure Sharing and should be strongly encouraged. Operators should be strongly encouraged to enter into roaming agreements.
7. The RWG on Private Sector Issues for Asia and Pacific Region hereby recommends the setting up of a sub-group to share and exchange expertise on Infrastructure Sharing issues which can be considered with Interconnection issues leading to recommendations on topical issues.
8. Administrations / Regulators are encouraged to look into the possibility of setting up of Interconnection Exchanges and issue standard specifications and guidelines.