



ITU Exchange Programme

During the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) and the 2nd Annual Meeting of Regional Regulatory Associations (AMRRA) in December 2004, resource mobilization and capacity building were two major areas that were highlighted as priorities by the regulators and regional regulatory associations present.

Regulators and regulatory associations that participated in these meetings voiced strong support for the establishment of a global exchange programme for regulators that would be coordinated by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of ITU. Such a programme would allow regulatory staff from a country or a regional regulatory association (e.g. OCCUR, TRASA, WATRA, ARICEA, ATRC, etc.) to travel to another for an extended period of time to provide or receive advice and intensive training on specific regulatory issues.

In January 2005, a questionnaire was disseminated by the BDT to member administrations and regional regulatory associations to solicit feedback on the proposed programme. The questionnaire confirmed the support of large majority of regulatory authorities worldwide for the programme. Of the 70 regulatory authorities that replied to the questionnaire, 67 indicated that they were interested in participating in an exchange/twinning programme for regulators.

Interest in providing or receiving training/advice

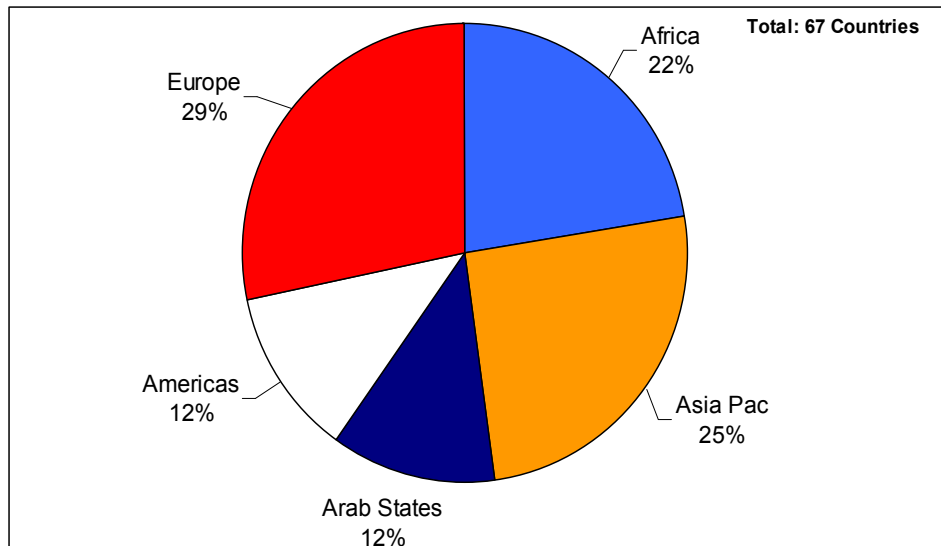
In analysing the responses, a willingness to reciprocate was a key trend reflected in the replies, both on a global and on an intra-regional basis. Figures indicate that while most countries sought advice and training in one or more regulatory areas, many of these countries in turn offered advice and training in other regulatory areas. While 58 respondents indicated that they required advice and training on certain regulatory issues, 52 countries also offered advice and training on a broad range of regulatory issues. As such, it would be possible for each regulatory exchange taking place to benefit both the visiting and hosting country. This aspect of reciprocity would be a key element in the pairing process of the programme.

Responses to the questionnaire also indicated a large degree of flexibility on the part of the countries in both receiving and sending staff for advice and training. 56 regulatory authorities, who sought advice and training, were prepared to send their staff overseas for training while 58 regulatory authorities were prepared to receive trainers/advisors from overseas. Similarly, 52 regulatory authorities indicated that they were prepared to send staff overseas to provide advice and training while 47 regulatory authorities indicated that they were prepared to receive visitors and provide advice and training on their premises.

Regional Breakdown

Support for the programme was indicated from all regions (see Figure 1)

Figure 1: Regional Breakdown of Support for the Global Exchange/Twinning Programme for Regulators



A regional breakdown of expressions of interest indicates that it would be possible to conduct exchanges on an intra-regional basis. Certain regulatory authorities have stated a preference for intra-regional exchanges in comments provided.

Resources

In terms of possible resources regulatory authorities were prepared to dedicate to **providing** advice and training, 20 regulatory authorities indicated that they were prepared to assume travel expenses and 26 regulatory authorities indicated that they could assume accommodation expenses when sending their staff overseas to provide advice and training. Only 5 regulatory authorities were prepared to assume travel expenses and 26 were prepared to assume accommodation expenses to receive staff from other regulatory authorities seeking training and advice.

In terms of possible resources regulatory authorities were prepared to dedicate to **receiving** advice and training, 20 regulatory authorities indicated that they were prepared to assume the travel expenses when receiving staff from other regulatory authorities providing training and advice. 45 regulatory authorities indicated that they would provide accommodation. When it came to sending their regulatory staff overseas to seek training and advice, 38 regulatory authorities indicated that they would bear travel costs while 45 indicated that they would bear accommodation costs.

On the whole, regulatory authorities demonstrated the most funding support in situations where their staff is sent overseas to receive training and advice. Nevertheless, taking into account the willingness of a number of regulatory authorities to also fund the provision of training and advice (either through travel or accommodation or both), cost sharing arrangements can be worked out on a case-by-case business.

Subject Matter

In the questionnaire, respondents were asked to indicate both regulatory topics they would be comfortable in providing training and advice on and regulatory topics they would like to receive further training and advice on. The results are shown in figures 2 and 3 below respectively.

Figure 2: Regulatory Topics on which Regulatory Authority would be able to provide training/advice

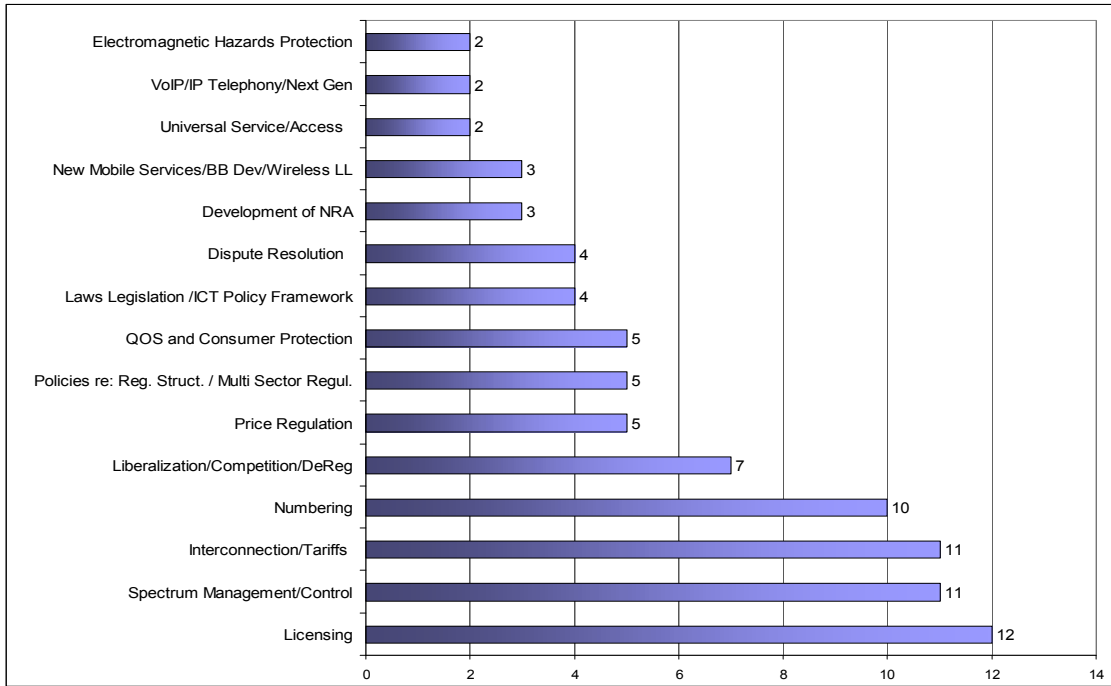
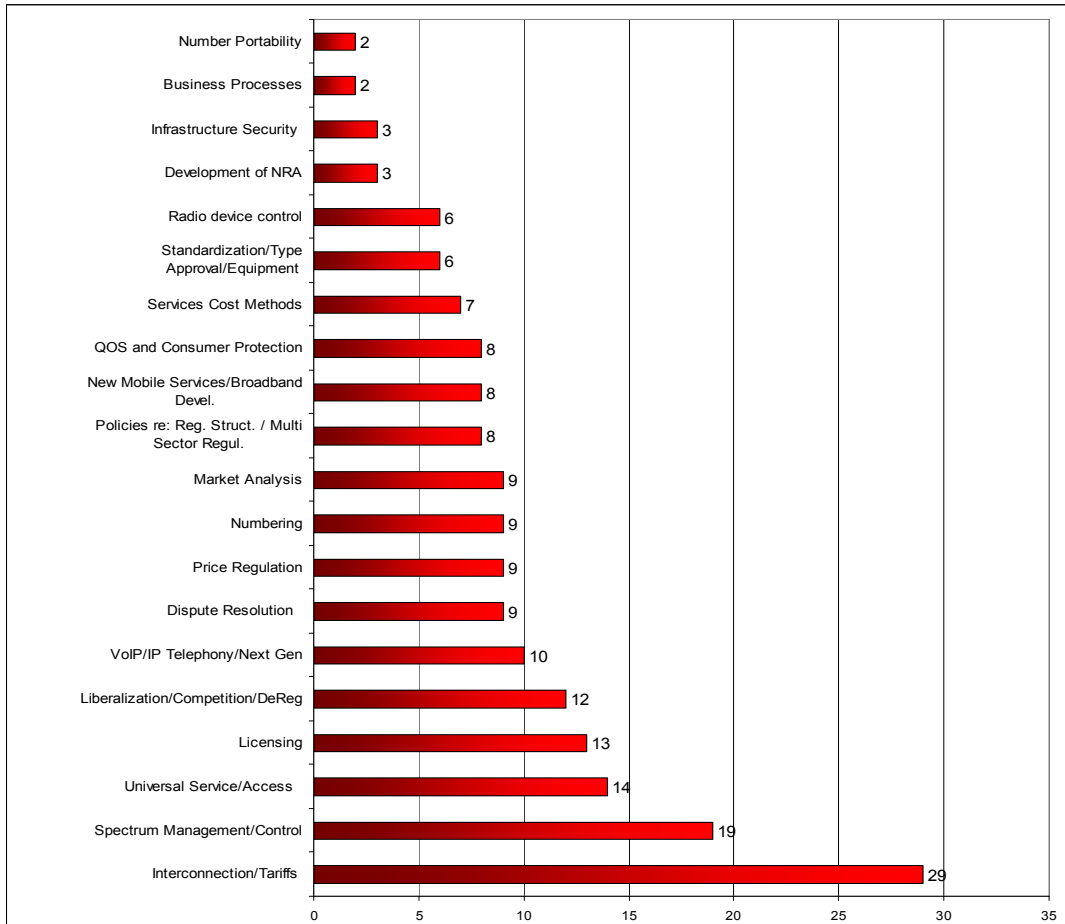


Figure 3: Regulatory Topics on which Regulatory Authority would like to receive training/advice



The numbers indicate that needs and the potential resources to meet them are reasonably matched, although some creative collaborative arrangements – mostly likely by region – may be necessary to meet all participating regulators’ requirements. Certain topics, such as Interconnection (and to a lesser extent Spectrum Management, Universal Service, Licensing and Competition Policy), have been highlighted as particular concerns by numerous regulatory authorities. It is thus recommended that the initial pilot projects focus on these key topics. In implementing the programme, however, it would remain nevertheless critical to ascertain the particular requirements and strengths of the regulatory authorities selected on a case-by-case basis.

Duration

While the duration suggested for exchanges vary considerably, the large majority of respondents suggest an average period of between 1 and 2 weeks.

Conclusions

Given the data gathered from the survey, it is noted that:

- Interest in participating in the programme is strong
- Interest is sufficiently strong on a regional basis to make intra-regional exchanges possible
- Regulatory authorities are prepared to dedicate sufficient resources to the programme
- Cost sharing or swapping between exchange partners is a viable option
- Certain regulatory topics such as Spectrum Management have been highlighted as particular areas of concern. Initial efforts should be targeted at such regulatory topics.

Snapshot: Top 6 Required Exchange Subjects – Preliminary Matching Plans

| Spectrum Management/Control | | Interconnection/Tariffs | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Can Provide | Wants to Receive | Provide | Receive |
| SPONSOR BOTH HOST/SEND | | SPONSOR BOTH HOST/SEND | |
| | Belize | Belize | Jamaica |
| | Saint Lucia | Jamaica | Suriname |
| | | Mexico | |
| Cameroon | Burundi | Peru | |
| Kenya | Cape Verde | | |
| Togo | DRC | Cameroon | Benin |
| | Gambia | Gambia | Cape Verde |
| | Algeria | | DRC |
| Kyrgyzstan | Latvia | | Gabon |
| Norway | | | Burundi |
| Macedonia | | | Cameroon |
| Turkey | | | Mauritania |
| Greece | | | Niger |
| | | | Togo |
| Australia | Marshall Islands | | Algeria |
| | Pakistan | Moldova | Bosnia & Herz. |
| | Philippines | Romania | Georgia |
| | Thailand | Turkey | Kyrgyzstan |
| | Tonga | | Latvia |
| | Malaysia | | Macedonia |
| | Saudi Arabia | | Turkey |
| | Sudan | | |
| | Egypt | Pakistan | Bhutan |
| | Bahrain | | India |
| SPONSOR ONLY HOST | Bangladesh | | Iran |
| | | | Mongolia |
| SPONSOR ONLY SEND | | | Philippines |
| Mauritania | Indonesia | | Thailand |
| Algeria | | Jordan | Malaysia |
| Saudi Arabia | | | Sudan |
| | | | Bahrain |
| NEITHER HOST NOR SEND | | SPONSOR ONLY HOST | |
| | | | Bangladesh |
| | | | Azerbaijan |
| | | SPONSOR ONLY SEND | |
| | | Algeria | |
| | | NEITHER HOST NOR SEND | |

- Americas
- African states
- Eur Former CIS states
- Asia Pac states
- Arab states

| Dispute Resolution | | Universal Service/Access | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Provide | Receive | Provide | Receive |
| SPONSOR BOTH HOST/SEND | | SPONSOR BOTH HOST/SEND | |
| Peru | Saint Lucia | | Peru |
| | Suriname | | |
| Cape Verde | Cameroon | Gabon | DRC |
| | Kenya | Togo | Kenya |
| | | | Togo |
| Latvia | Romania | | Georgia |
| | | | Hungary |
| | Mongolia | | Moldova |
| | Thailand | | Romania |
| | | | Turkey |
| | Sudan | | |
| | Tunisia | | Marshall Islands |
| | | | Thailand |
| | | | Bhutan |
| | | | |
| | | | Egypt |
| | | | Saudi Arabia |
| SPONSOR ONLY HOST | | SPONSOR ONLY HOST | |
| Bahrain | | | |
| | | | |
| SPONSOR ONLY SEND | | SPONSOR ONLY SEND | |
| | | | |
| NEITHER HOST NOR SEND | | NEITHER HOST NOR SEND | |
| | | | |

| Price Regulation | | Numbering | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Provide | Receive | Provide | Receive |
| SPONSOR BOTH HOST/SEND | | SPONSOR BOTH HOST/SEND | |
| Peru | Suriname | | Saint Lucia |
| Cameroon | Mauritania | Cameroon | DRC |
| | Togo | Cape Verde | |
| Turkey | Bosnia & Herz. | Greece | Latvia |
| Latvia | | Moldova | Romania |
| | | Romania | |
| Pakistan | Bhutan | Turkey | |
| | Marshall Islands | Pakistan | Thailand |
| | Thailand | | Tonga |
| | Tonga | Jordan | Egypt |
| | | | Tunisia |
| SPONSOR ONLY HOST | | SPONSOR ONLY HOST | |
| | Bangladesh | Bahrain | Azerbaijan |
| SPONSOR ONLY SEND | | SPONSOR ONLY SEND | |
| | | Saudi Arabia | |
| NEITHER HOST NOR SEND | | NEITHER HOST NOR SEND | |
| | | | |