

ITU Regional Development Forum 2008:  
"Bridging the ICT Standardization Gap in Developing Countries"  
for the Asia-Pacific Region,  
15 – 17 (AM) September 2008

WRAP-UP SESSION

Regional Development Forum 2008: Bridging the ICT Standardization Gap in Developing Countries" for the Asia-Pacific Region, was Organized by ITU and hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communications Viet Nam<sup>1</sup>. The brief summary of the sessions are as follows:

**OPENING SESSION:** Standards are one of the most important tools to address the digital divide. Global standards mitigate costly market competition over preferred technologies, and for emerging markets, they enable a level playing field which provides access to new markets for all.

New services and applications, and new technologies such as NGN and IPTV, pose challenges for standardization. All have to develop standards to enable interoperability. This Forum is designed to address and inform you about new technologies and related regulatory and security issues.

Standardization is a complicated process and hence the equipment vendors, operators and other stakeholders need to actively participate in standardization activities, and search for ways to cooperate and hence make useful contributions to the process.

**ORIENTATION SESSION:** aimed at providing an assessment of the impact of ICT standardization on Asia-Pacific countries and present ICT development experiences and opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region.

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<sup>1</sup> Comments from stakeholders are invited to the draft text on or before 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008 so that the revised version can be posted on the website.

Active participation in the standardization process is essential for the development and growth of ICT in the Asia-Pacific region. Apart from technical aspects, consideration should be given to social aspects and appropriate business models. There are many opportunities for partnership amongst stakeholders towards bridging the standardization gap.

SESSION 1: provided an overview of ITU standardization activities relevant to Asia-Pacific countries from the three ITU Sectors. It highlighted decisions taken by the 2006 Plenipotentiary Conference for bridging the standardization gap (Resolution 123) and described the activities carried out by the ITU-T, ITU-R and ITU-D Sectors with particular emphasis on standardization activities.

The three Sectors of the ITU are coordinating effectively to take measures to define the gap and implement actions to bridge the gap. Dissemination of relevant information, resources and continued support from ITU by involving stakeholders, would contribute towards bridging the standardization gap. To achieve this objective and implement Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives, creation of Reflector Group was proposed by ITU for facilitating dialogue amongst the experts in Asia-Pacific region.

SESSION 2: was designed to discuss on the emerging ICT regulatory and standardization issues for Asia-Pacific with specific focus on ITU activities to help ICT development and implementation in developing countries.

The session provided insights into key regulatory challenges including convergence, migration to NGN, emergency communications, misuse of numbering, Cybersecurity, climate change, network externalities, IPR policies and OLPC connectivity as a proof point of Hyperconnectivity.

SESSION 3: addressed current standardization topics in ITU-T. It touched various perspectives of technology, evolution and trends, current and future studies, new services that could be derived from new technologies, particularly focusing on how they could serve the Asia-Pacific region.

Consideration should be given for strengthening standards making capabilities and the need for restructuring the Study Groups from technology specific to application and service oriented. Use of appropriate wireless technologies needs to be encouraged as part of bridging the digital divide.

SESSION 4: aimed at addressing the ITU-R standards making process to meet its responsibilities both in spectrum management and for radio services and systems, with emphasis in the collaboration with external organizations and the participation of developing countries.

Participation in Regional WRC preparatory meetings is an opportunity for developing countries to reflect their proposals in the ITU-R standardization process. Using the existing mechanisms, e.g., GSC<sup>2</sup>, we can identify issues of common interest so that ITU-R can achieve its objectives taking into account the requests and concerns from all its members including those from developing countries.

SESSION 5: provided an overview of security standards and related current security standardization work. It assessed the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for their special security needs that are not already being addressed by the current studies.

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<sup>2</sup> Global Standards Collaboration, meets approximately every 12 to 15 months to support and inform ITU and each other, and involves senior representatives of the world's major SDOs. Further information is available at <http://www.gsc.etsi.org/>.

Administrations are encouraged to identify leading agencies to steer the protection of critical information infrastructure to develop strategy and plans, review legislation and strengthen, international cooperation on security aspects. There is an urgent need to look into the adequacy of legislation for the purpose of containing the problems arising from botnets, malware and spam, including appropriate mechanisms for enforcements. Favourable consideration should be given to cooperate with other countries through the framework provided by ITU

SESSION 6: was devoted to the evolution of the network architecture towards NGN and IMS, fixed-mobile convergence, mobile broadband, PSTN/ISDN, pilot cases, and possible scenarios taking into consideration the relevant business models and opportunities.

Developing countries need to take most appropriate path towards an efficient migration towards NGN carefully considering various scenarios and their pros & cons shown in developed countries. There is an urgent need for the involvement of developing counties to take an active part in NGN standardization process. Various ITU assistances in developing Handbooks and guidelines as per the ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative on NGN Planning, migration strategies, participation in training and capacity building courses on NGN are means towards enabling increased involvement and influence for the Asia-Pacific region.

SESSION 7: reviewed the major outcome of WTSA-04 and the preparation status of WTSA-08. The main objectives of the WTSA-08 and of the Global Standardization Symposium, where leaders from industry, governments and other SDOs were invited, have been also introduced and discussed.

Questions and answers include various issues including hot issue areas (e.g., competitiveness and collaboration among SDOs, ITU

Mark, ICTs vs Climate Change, Security, remote participation etc.) as well as new Structure and Questions (e.g., Home Networks) for the Study Groups, taking into account the needs of members and of representation by at least one vice chairman from developing countries. Development of global telecommunication standards would provide ability to learn about emerging technologies and services. Active participation and contribution from the members in the Asia-Pacific region would be the first stepping stone toward to bridge the standardization gap.