ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

Report on the Regional Economic and Financial Forum of Telecommunications/ICT for Asia and Pacific Organized in coordination with the SG3RG-AO Meeting

YANGON, THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR, 1-3 SEPTEMBER 2014

1. Introduction

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Regional Economic and Financial Forum of Telecommunication/ICT for Asia and Pacific organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at the Taw Win Garden Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar, from 1 to 2 (morning) September 2014. The Forum was followed by the meeting of Study Group 3 Regional Group for Asia and Oceania (SG3RG-AO) organized by the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB).

The Regional Economic and Financial Forum of Telecommunication/ ICT for Asia and Pacific counted with the participation of 47 delegates from 11 countries, including Ministries, National Regulatory Authorities, Operators, Academia, Industry and invited experts.

The complete list of participants as well as all the presentations and material are available at the event website: www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regulatory-Market/Pages/Events2014/myanmar/home.aspx

2. Opening

Mr Byoung Nam Lee, SG3RG-AO Chairman welcomed the delegates to participate to this very important event which address topical issues for the region. The Representative of the International Telecommunication Union, Ms Carmen Prado-Wagner, expressed the importance to share points of view on the economic and financial issues, mentioned some indicators showing the importance of the role of Governments to spearhead innovation and investment and to protect the right of users with the provision of affordable access to telecommunication services and encouraging the development of modern and effective regulatory tools. Mr Than Htun Aung, Director, Posts and Telecommunications Department and Chairman of the Forum, did a brief presentation of the content of the Forum and highlighted that this Forum will support national expertise in the Myanmar specially for the subject of market opening, licensing, national broadband plans and roaming. He expressed his hope that the Forum will be useful for all participants' countries. Finally, Mr Khin Maung Thet, Director General of Post and Telecommunications Department of The Republic of the Union of Myanmar addressed his welcome speech to all the participants from the region. He highlighted the fact that as part of the Myanmar Government economic reform process, various economics sectors are being liberalized. Among them, the telecom sector is the first being liberalized, because the ICT sector can be considered as an engine for growth and for economic development of the country. He officially opened the Forum by encouraging regional collaboration.

The Forum was chaired by Mr Than Htun Aung, Director International Relations, Posts and Telecommunications Department of The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

3. Results

The choice of the subjects treated during the Forum was done in coordination with the Management Team for the Regional Group for Asia and Oceania, in order to serve as guidelines and recommendations for Administrations as well as to support the discussions of the this group.

SESSION 1: EVOLUTION OF INTERNET MARKET OFFERS, CONVERGENCE AND SERVICE BUNDLING IN ASIA AND PACIFIC

Presentation by Mr Oscar Gonzalez Soto, ITU Expert, Spain

Mr Gonzalez Soto presented the fast change of technology capabilities, new services offering and market evolution possess a number of challenges to the Regulators who should keep pace with the evolution speed and be effectiveness in obtaining their objective. He reviewed some of those challenges, noting that within the main challenges, topics to be analyzed is the strong interrelation among new players, the required multiservice approach, the multiple interoperability scenarios to address during the transition process, the new traffic units to be used, the importance of the resource sharing options, the widely discussed net neutrality and the cross border issues at regional or worldwide level.
The main drivers for convergence and bundling were described. Network technology and convergence are higher capacities at lower costs. For competition level and market fairness the main driver is the regulatory framework and optimization of the offers; for new services market and consumer capabilities the main driver is consumer motivation and affordability. For resource consumption and service provisioning costs the main driver is economic sustainability; and finally the economy of scale and service packaging should be the main driver for operational cost reduction and easier relation to consumers.

Some cases such as Spain, Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and Japan were presented to illustrate the state of bundling offers in the ASP region considering issues such as connectivity, speed, capacity. The relation between these cases and the great influence of economy of scale for these services from proportional prices per speed to incremental prices was discussed.

The benefits as perceived by consumers where discussed, such as significant saving in price for the overall set of services (typical: between 10% and 30%), just one bill to pay and control, single contact point for customer support and additional benefits like mobile bounds, storage memory, minutes of conversation, cloud services, etc. Finally the main outcomes from the unbundling converged services are major revolution in the ICT due to new technologies and competition level; great influence of economy of scale from proportional prices per speed to incremental prices, cost reduction of offers in several orders of magnitude in the last decade due to network optimization and regulation, significant savings of multiservice and bundle offers for operators and for consumers.

SESSION 2: REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL MOBILE ROAMING (IMR) SERVICES - A 'HOW TO' GUIDANCE FOR GOVERNMENTS AND REGULATORS Presentation of the ITU-D Paper by Mr Robert Clarke, ITU Expert, Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment of New Zealand

The *ITU paper on Regulatory analysis of international mobile roaming services* was presented, by highlighting who should run a roaming investigation? with whom? by using which tools? how to implement the investigation? with the goal to have all the main elements to consider when choosing the best strategy to apply for IMR. It may not always be possible to "choose" which organization will lead this IMR analysis. For example, competition regulators and sector-specific regulators may have "triggers" for their involvement that are set out in legislation, which may or may not be met at any given time.
In this context, the real issue is often simply whether the government should step in and conduct an analysis before, or even after, a competition or sector-specific regulator has acted. The case of the bilateral agreement between Australia and New Zealand was illustrated, as these both Governments stepped in before their regulators acted. In 2011, they announced a full market investigation into roaming services between their two countries. This decision was in part due to the fact that, at the time, the (ex post and ex ante) New Zealand regulators did not have the ability to share information compulsorily acquired from New Zealand operators with foreign regulators, which would have severely hampered cooperation during any regulator-led investigation.

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Mr. Clarke concluded that unilateral action on international roaming services can reduce retail margins but cannot impact the underlying wholesale prices paid to foreign "host" networks. Multilateral action faces coordination and enforcement issues. Bilateral cooperation (that is, cooperation between two countries) could be the most effective option for countries considering investigating the provision of international mobile services.

SESSION 3: NATIONAL BROADBAND PLANS –DEVELOPING A MONITORING FRAMEWORK AND CHECKLIST Presentation by Mr Colin Oliver, ITU Expert, Australia

Mr Oliver focused on the importance of monitoring and evaluation as key integral elements of an effective broadband plan, introducing key principles for performance monitoring and giving examples of the items to be considered in a checklist of issues to be monitored. Beginning with a discussion of broadband indicators and the difference between indicators and outcome measures, he also discussed good practice in monitoring and reporting the policy and regulatory changes needed to implement broadband plans, and the importance of an overall coordination framework.

The speaker then went on to consider the progression of monitoring requirements from initial deployment of broadband, through projects and programs to encourage adoption and use of broadband, to the emerging monitoring requirements that arise when broadband is fully integrated in social and economic life. Good practice examples were offered for each of these phases of development and discussion in the questions and answers session looked more closely at the issue of affordability (with reference to the Broadband Commission target of 5% of per capita income). Logically, the work of monitoring broadband development begins with the initial survey of relevant conditions and priorities, considering overall national priorities, the economic and social environment, the geographical and other circumstances of the country, and the level of broadband awareness among key stakeholders, government agencies, business and community leaders and the public at large.
The Broadband Commission has recommended that priority be given to supporting accurate and timely statistical monitoring because reliable data and indicators are essential for three broad purposes:

- Making informed policy choices.
- Assessing the impact of broadband policies and tracking progress toward goals and targets.
- Monitoring development of broadband infrastructure, access, prices, affordability and usage by individuals, businesses, governments, schools and hospitals.

The monitoring should be considered as a fully integrated part of broadband plans and strategies – providing an information base for the initial development of plans and strategies as well as for checking the progress of particular policies and programs for the evaluation and reassessment of priorities and strategies.
Monitoring should be an integral part of broadband plans in order to provide feedback on implementation and ultimately to support the evaluation of progress and refinement of strategies and objectives. Measurement and management go together: managers need accurate and up-to-date information to enable them to manage their programs effectively, so strategies should be framed with implementation and monitoring in mind.
The most useful indicators may also be expressed as targets. Measureable targets focused on high priority needs and objectives enable progress to be assessed objectively. Not all indicators are equally useful. Ideally, a broadband plan or strategy should incorporate a manageable number of indicators that:

- relate to high level goals,
- are practical to collect,
- are consistent across countries as far as possible, and
- reveal the extent of progress toward the achievement of targets.

Mr Oliver concluded that a monitoring and feedback framework should be considered to be a necessary part of any broadband plan. Consider ways to ensure not only that outcomes are measured appropriately, but also that important process milestones are identified and progress reported in a transparent manner, for example on a public website. And

finally consider ways to ensure that contracts, licenses, projects and programs have built-in monitoring and feedback requirements to ensure that their reach, costs, benefits and outcomes can be measured, and to assist in identifying implementation problems that may require correction.

SESSION 4: STRATEGIC COSTING FOR BROADBAND SERVICES Presentation by Mr Jim Holmes, ITU Expert, Australia

The main thesis of the presentation by Mr Jim Holmes was that there were substantial risks of distortion and delay for broadband service market development as a result of regulatory intervention to impose price controls at the wholesale and/or retail levels in the market. However, regulators might usefully concern themselves with wholesale intervention thereby allowing a competitive retail broadband services market to develop with innovative services, bundles and convergent offerings. If existing competition was not addressing the affordability issues that affect marginal customers there might be a case for identifying entry level services and applying some forms of price control at that level (for example, through a price-cap) and leave higher value retail service development and pricing to market forces.

Regarding price regulation governments and regulators are seeking high levels of service adoption at the earliest time on a mass basis including in provincial higher cost/lower income areas. There is almost an automatic tendency to consider some form of price control to increase affordability and therefore levels of service subscription. But this unfortunately has many complexities, dangers and pitfalls – many of which are not fully appreciated by enthusiastic regulators eager to regulate. The mass market for broadband in developing economies will be served by mobile operators as they roll out 3G and later generation technologies.

Although oligopolistic, mobile markets are generally competitive and that keeps prices down. This does not apply to retail fixed broadband markets. Wholesale services that are essential inputs for both fixed and mobile retail broadband services are either non-existent or not competitive. This is where regulation is warranted to ensure fair and reasonable access by downstream retailers. Where that involves price control it should reflect efficient costs.

Price control is only justified when the 3 criteria test is satisfied:

1) it has high and continuing barriers to entry;
2) is not tending towards a sustainable competitive market; and
3) *ex-post* regulatory controls are unlikely to be sufficient to address concerns associated with market dominance.

To conclude Mr Holmes explained that regulators should refrain from regulating retail prices in broadband markets, particularly while those markets are still developing, further investment is still required, and demand remains uncertain – and especially if competition is effective.

Wherever possible, reliance should be placed on the price clearance mechanism of competition, with ex post intervention if anti-competitive behavior occurs. If some form of *ex-ante* price regulation is necessary based on the identification of a specific market failure, regulation should focus on relevant wholesale markets – ideally markets for access to passive infrastructure – as far upstream in the supply chain as practicable. Retail price regulation might usefully focus on entry level broadband offerings thereby encouraging service take-up by marginal customers and leaving service providers free to innovate in price/service packaging and other ways with higher value broadband offerings.

SESSION 5: COSTING, TARIFF POLICIES AND REGULATION IN THE REGION – EXPERIENCES FROM COUNTRIES Presentation on Trends on costing and tariff policies in the region by Ms Carmen Prado-Wagner, ITU/BDT

In this presentation Ms Prado-Wagner presented indicators about Broadband subscription for mobile and fixed services considering the tremendous increase of the penetration rates for these services. Regarding pricing, over the past five years, fixed-broadband prices as a share of GNI (Gross National Income) per capita (p.c.) dropped by 82%. By 2012, fixed broadband prices represented 1.7% of monthly GNI p.c. in developed countries. But fixed broadband services prices in developing countries remain expensive, accounting for 30.1% of average monthly incomes. In 95 countries –

including 48 developing countries – the price of a monthly fixed-broadband subscription represented 5% or less of monthly GNI p.c. in 2012. As services are becoming more affordable, fixed-broadband uptake has shown strong growth and by 2013, there are almost 700 million fixed-broadband subscriptions, corresponding to a global penetration rate of 9.8%. In 2013, the total number of fixed-broadband subscriptions in developing countries exceeded those in developed countries. But there is still a wide gap when it comes to fixed-broadband penetration rates, with 6.1% in developing countries (and less than 1% in Sub-Saharan Africa), compared with 27.2% in developed countries.
From the results from the ITU Tariff Policies Survey regarding price regulation for fixed and mobile broadband services, it is possible to see that the fixed broadband wholesale services continues to have more control in all regions, with the exception of America that appears to regulate less these services. However, for mobile services, only the Arab countries and Africa still maintain regulation on these services including access. It is obvious that for Broadband wholesale price regulation the fixed services are more regulated than mobile services. BDT is considering to elaborate in coordination with the ITU Statistics Division an analysis to determine if there is a correlation between regulated services, at retail or wholesale levels, and priced reduction.

PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF ITU-T STUDY GROUP 3 ON COST MODELING by Mr Byoung Nam Lee, ETRI, Korea and Chairman SG3RG-AO

Mr Lee informed about the ITU-T Study Group 3 Ad hoc group on Cost Models that was established at the 2013 SG3RG-AO meeting (in Tokyo in April 2013) the following high priority topics were identified by this group:

- Further study of data services
- Cost model for Domestically Regulated Data Services
- Implementation of interconnection cost calculation

The relevant information on the activities on cost models that have been discussed in the recent SG 3 meeting was presented. During the SG3 May 2014 meeting a mini-workshop on cost model on “Towards an ITU cost model and methodology for international mobile roaming for NRAs” (TD 51, PLEN/AO) has been organized. This document presents the cost model on IMR and guidelines for NRAs to collect data from MNOs. Mr Lee briefly presented this cost model, by indicating that the model employs the Use Case approach to identify the cost elements in resources necessary for roaming, which are human resources, network elements and/or IT support systems, including the main MNO infrastructure elements such as data centers, call centers or network operations centers (NOCs). He also made the relationship between this model and the actual ITU-T Recommendations on D-98, D99 and D.140 which underpin the MNO cost-model position. To conclude the speaker presented the activities of the regional groups for Africa, Asia and Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, related on their regional cost models works and revision of the relevant recommendations.

PRESENTATION ON REVIEW OF PRICE REGULATION IN THAILAND: TOWARDS PRICE CAP by Ms Onwaree Jarernporn, Director, Telecom Tariff Bureau, NBTC Thailand

Ms Jarernporn indicated that in Thailand only mobile services are currently price-regulated. The second regulation is addressed to 3G license, with a condition of a 15% average price reduction in comparison to the average price offered in the market. She highlighted that it is the first time Thailand is doing an auction for 3G services. Regarding mobile market, there are 15 operators in Thailand with a penetration rate of 138%. NBTC is working with ITU in a project agreement for the implementation of a price-cap regulation for mobile retail services.
The objective is to setting ceiling on the prices that can be charged by operators for one or more baskets of regulated services, for this the determination of the CPI-X factor (where CPI represents inflation (external economic factors) and X represents productivity factor -industry economic factors) is necessary. NBTC is in coordination with the operators for the determination of the CPI-X in order to have an incentive regulation where operators could be able to increase profit by increasing efficiency. Ms Jarernporn concluded by presenting the next steps to follow for the implementation of this price regulation, for this, NBTC should present the price cap regulation proposal of draft Notification to the Telecommunications Board. Once the draft Notification is approved, a public consultation (minimum 45-day process) will be hold, after this the revision and adjustment will be prepared for final approval. The regulation becomes effective after

published in the Royal Gazette. Special emphasis is giving to entry level products for both mobile and fixed broadband services to allow people with low income to access the services and attract new users to broadband services. Price-cap regulation is still an on-going work process and has not been implemented, therefore it remains to be seen whether the objectives of price regulation are met.

PRESENTATION ON ACCESS PRICING – MALAYSIAN EXPERIENCE by Ms Karen Woo, Director, Competition and Access Department, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission

This presentation is oriented to wholesale services rate regulation for vertical integrated operators. The MCMC is applying three main instruments:

1- The access list, determined by the commission, currently under revision. It contains 19 facilities and services.
2- Mandatory standard on access: non-pricing terms and conditions consistent with standard access obligations; symmetric obligations and rights to all licensees; flexibility is provided to allow detailed terms and conditions to be negotiated; will be reviewed in 2015.
3- Mandatory Standard on Access Pricing: Sets maximum prices for 9 facilities and services on Access List from 2013 to 2015.

The costing principles to be applied are appropriate with the cost recovery mechanism for efficiently incurred operating expenses and cost of capital. The objective of this model is to foster economic efficiency for operator's activities. Ms Woo presented the process of review and consultation for the access pricing. The regulator built 5 cost models for 9 wholesale services (Fixed Network Origination/Termination (Voice), Mobile Network Origination/Termination (Voice), Co-location, Service Interconnect Link Service, Transmission Service, Wholesale Local Leased Circuit, Domestic Connectivity to International Services). The MCMC is working in close coordination with the operators and the cost models were shared with them to obtain their comments and review. LRIC approach was used for interconnection and transmission services and building block approach was used for fixed access network to ensure there is no risk of significant over-recovery of fixed access cost.

SESSION 6: LICENSING REGIMES IN A CONVERGED DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT IN ASIA AND PACIFIC Presentation by Mr Jim Holmes, ITU Expert, Australia

The main thesis of by Mr Holmes' presentation was that licensing needed to be changed from traditional approaches in order to facilitate the introduction and use of broadband services, and to gain the social and economic benefits of broadband sooner. In particular service and technology based licensing categorizations needed to be changed to simple, transparent, functional approaches based on three categories - infrastructure, service provision and content provision. Mr Holmes outlined what this meant for best practice operator licensing today.

Mr Holmes concluded by emphasizing that best practice licensing regimes must embrace convergence and substitute a functional approach to licensing for legacy systems based on service/technology categories and other pre-convergence regulatory distinctions. There are very substantial and growing costs that will be borne by the sector and the economy – and ultimately consumers – if regulators continue with outmoded legacy licensing regimes. Migrating to a licensing regime that embraces convergence is easier said than done. Regulators must recognize that the process can be extended and may need to be facilitated with inducements (and even sanctions). Discussion occurred after the delivery of the following presentation on the new Myanmar licensing regime which is about to be introduced. Initially discussion was about clarifying aspects of the Myanmar regime, which contains lists of service descriptions which licensees in various categories might or might not offer. Mr Holmes suggested that the better approach would always be that any and all services could be provided by a licensee unless there is a specific prohibition, and that this approach is more convergence-friendly than the approach in which no service could be provided unless the authorization in the license is explicit and clear for that particular service.

PRESENTATION ON THE CASE OF MYANMAR by Ms Seint Seint Aye, Assistant Director from Posts and Telecommunications Department of Myanmar

Ms Seint Seint Aye presented the policy reform and telecommunication services that are in the multiservice licensing framework, in order to simplify the process of license granting. The different categories of license were presented including the services for each category. The procedure of treatment of licenses includes regulatory, right and obligations, as well as timing which takes between 30 to 90 days. Ms Seint Seint Aye informed that the licenses for broadcasting are being treated directly by the Minister of Information. The approach that Myanmar applies is similar to the MCMC system in Malaysia with the difference that Myanmar not regulates the content. Ms Seint Seint Aye concluded that the general licensing framework is being revised to simplify the licensing process and treatment, to encourage entry and expansion of services and to increase end-user access to telecommunications networks and services.

SESSION 7: THE IMPACT OF INTERNET DEVELOPMENT AND OTT IN THE VOICE SERVICE PRESENTATION by Mr Oscar Gonzalez Soto, ITU Expert

Mr Oscar Gonzalez Soto opened the session with a presentation on the impact of Internet and OTT (Over The Top) on voice and new services. He noted that a major evolution of network technologies, capacities and market dynamics in current days has led to a fundamental change in the migration of voice, in the offering of new services and in the blow up of new players that imposes a new paradigm in the related business rules. He reviewed the issues derived from the changes driving services for the NGN, the impact of the Over the Top players (OTT) on the market and the recommended strategies for service providers to adapt in such a scenario.

The strengths of the OTTs, like economy of scale and quick deployment; the weakness like Quality of Service (QoS) control and local customization were posed for discussion. He noted that in current market dynamics, operators need to be actively involved in the Rich Communication Suite and position themselves in the offering of high contribution value services to the value chain in order to compete and or cooperate with the OTTs. He concluded by emphasizing the high potential for new NGN services which is driving interest in the network modernization to capture new revenues and called upon Governments to accelerate their NGN deployment, to analyze new business chain from content and watch OTT services, as well as pay attention to QoS on VoIP and consumer experience. It was highlighted that the definition of a specific strategy for new services and bundles considering consumer behavior and positioning versus OTTs.

PRESENTATION ON THE IMPACT OF OTT IN THE VOICE SERVICE OF VIETNAM by Ms Nguyen Minh Ngoc, Tariff and Promotion Division, Viet Nam Telecommunications Authority

Ms Ngyen Minh Ngoc initiated her presentation by showing the telecom market situation in Vietnam considering the massive presence of OTT service. She presented the policy regulation view of OTT in Vietnam, this considers effective business cooperation with OTT providers, provide telecom services tariff on the basic of service cost, market demand and supply, international/regional tariff reference and provide mobile Internet access packages specified to OTT services. The speaker explained that from the in 2011 to 2012 the operators used OTT to attract subscribers, by offering a very cheap mobile internet service package with the average tariff is only equal to 31.4% compare to the average tariff of Asian countries. From 2013 the bloom of OTT services, because the cheap and accessible smart phones and low mobile Internet tariff in the country, the operators increased the retail price of mobile Internet service package for about 10%. Ms Ngyen Minh Ngoc concluded by explaining that OTT services development is the future trend and is an opportunity and challenge for telecom operators and OTT providers, who should cooperate to offer modern and convenient services to users. From the regulatory point of view, international/regional cooperation on policies, regulations and guidelines such as: Internet interconnection; information safety, security and privacy of personal data; and traffic management, quality of services should be considered to ensure healthy competition.

SESSION 8: MONITORING BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT, COMPETITION, ACCESS AND ADOPTION
Presentation by Mr Colin Oliver, ITU Expert, Australia

Mr Colin Oliver initiated his presentation about the monitoring the state of broadband by indicating that regulators in the United Kingdom and USA, among others, regularly report on national developments with international comparisons. ITU data assist in this. The speaker expanded his presentation with more detailed consideration of deployment and adoption issues, with more detailed attention to measures of competition and of technological change noting that while changes in the technological provision of services may be relatively slow, the adoption and use of devices and services could change more rapidly, requiring some regulators to review their benchmarks for broadband access in the light of growing demand for speed, capacity and mobility. Finally, he pointed to the importance of identifying key target groups - such as low income strata and micro businesses - that may require closer monitoring to ensure that objectives for improved broadband adoption and use were achieved. Some recommendations are

- Consider the need to adjust monitoring measures over time as priorities shift from deployment of services, to their adoption and use, recognizing that when broadband is fully integrated in social and economic life it may shift from being seen as a cost and be recognized an essential underpinning and a means of savings across wider social and economic sectors.
- Consider ways to contribute and participate in the ongoing discussion of broadband impacts on social and economic life with a view, where necessary, to reviewing established benchmarks for broadband capacity as demand and usage continues to develop.
- Good practices are still developing, it is very important to share information and experiences among countries.

PRESENTATION ON BROADBAND AVAILABILITY AND ADOPTION, A SOLOMON ISLANDS PERSPECTIVE by Mr Arumae Haggai Haji, Telecommunications Commission of Solomon Islands

Mr Arumae Haggai Haji presented the market situation and the geographical specifications of Solomon Islands. Mobile network is connected by microwave and satellite link, V-sat. The International connectivity is being done by satellite as submarine fiber-optic cable project is in progress. Rural Islands & Villages only access to traditional services such as voice, sms. Urban areas (Honiara, Auki, Gizo, Noro) have access to almost 98% of the Broadband. The main concerns for this country are power supply, expensive infrastructure cost because low population density in rural area, as well as expensive cost of handsets, cost of subscription for broadband services, and of course the low income level of the population. For this reason the penetration is only about 10% of population.
Regarding the national broadband plan for Solomon Islands a draft National ICT policy plan is in progress under the support of a World Bank project. This plan will be launched for Consultation to all stakeholders for inputs and revisions.

4. Closing

The Chairman of the Forum expressed his thanks to ITU-D Staff for the organization of this successful Forum. He added that the exchange of views and experiences during the sessions was very interesting and fruitful for the work of all participants in their countries as well as to the works of the ITU-T Study Group meeting. He also thanked the speakers and panelists and all participants for their very active participation.
The Chairman of the SG3RG-AO thanked the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the excellent organization of both events. The meeting thanked to the management team, all the speakers for their very informative and excellent presentations during the Forum, and the BDT and TSB staff for the work done.

5. Follow-up activities

The follow-up activities were defined during the Forum and especially during the meeting of the Regional Group for Asia and Oceania. This meeting followed the Forum and counted with the participation of 23 participants from 8 countries. The follow-up activities are:

- The BDT representative actively participated at the SG3RG-AO groups and presented results from the ITU/BDT Tariff Policies survey on the following subjects:
    - During the discussions with the group on Cost Modelling, BDT proposed to present a series of data results from 2009 to 2013 on the results of the Tariff Policies survey Section 3 on Costs and Tariff models to support them in the analysis of the information to foster the work of this group, the proposal was accepted by the group.
    - Group on International Mobile Roaming.
    - Dispute resolution mechanisms.
- BDT also informed about the organization of the ITU Asia-Pacific Centres of Excellence Training on "Strategic Costing and Convergence Planning for the Pacific", 6-10 October 2014, Suva, Fiji.
- Delegates expressed their interest to take in to consideration the following subjects for the next year Forum, as per the Forum evaluation form:
    - Licencing regimes in a converged digital environment in Asia and Pacific
    - Role of regulating passive infrastructure in the deployment of broadband services
    - Market competition in an digital environment
    - Regulation, costing and tariff policies in the region including experiences from countries
    - Local loop unbundling
    - National broadband plans from operators' point of view
    - OTT regulation and country case experiences

- Malaysia expressed their interest in hosting the next Forum and SG3RG-AO meeting in 2015, between August and September, subject to confirmation by their administration.

BY MS CARMEN PRADO-WAGNER
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