

Opening speech at the ccTLD workshop 24 July 2004, Kuala Lumpur

**H. Zhao
Director, TSB**

Co-Chairmen,
Mr. Twomey,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning

On behalf of TSB of ITU, I warmly welcome you to this joint ccTLD workshop. It is a Saturday. We still have a good audience. I am very pleased to see some old friends and I am also glad to see some new friends. Welcome to you all! I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Malaysian Administration for hosting this meeting.

In March 2003, in order to follow up ITU Resolution 102, I convened a first ccTLD workshop. It was very well attended. We had some good discussions and many constructive proposals. At the closing session of that meeting, I received a proposal to organize a second ccTLD workshop in a year's time, and if possible, to have the second meeting jointly arranged by ICANN and ITU. I am very pleased that today we are at the joint ccTLD workshop and Dr. Twomey and I co-chair this opening session. I appreciate the efforts by Dr. Twomey and his staff to make this joint workshop a reality. Of course, I highly appreciate the support of the speakers, the moderators, and of you, the participants.

ITU has contributed a lot to the development of Internet since the very beginning. The Internet infrastructure and many of its services are based on ITU-T standards. There are some well-known technical standards on data communication, languages, security, QoS, numbering and addressing, xDSLs, etc. to name but a few, such as X.509, H.323, H.248, G.99x J.112, J.17x, etc. There are also the famous numbering scheme E.164, and the important mobile country codes E.212, etc. As far as domain names and addressing issues are concerned, I would cite a few ITU contributions: ITU is an active member for maintaining the ISO 3166 codes; ITU-T worked together with IETF to implement ENUM trials; I would highlight the fact that the successful trial of ENUM demonstrates very good example of cooperation between ITU and IETF, noting that the two sides had a difficult period in the 1990ies; ITU supports ICANN by means of PSO as its funding member (now called "TLG"), as well as by GAC. There are many other activities organized by other Sectors or by other services of ITU. As Director of TSB, I not only supported all these activities, but also played two important roles during the past: the first, as an active member of the ICANN's "Independent Review Panel Nominating Committee" in 2001 and the second, by submitting a personal paper to the ICANN reform in 2002.

This meeting will provide a good opportunity for ITU to hear the voice that ccTLDs are engaged with their national responsibilities and national implementations. I profit from the ICANN meeting in Kuala Lumpur this week where many industry people were present so that I can hear their voices as well. Instructed by the ITU Council Decision 1222 that the Directors should play a role in addressing some of key issues including Internet Governance, I will prepare a personal contribution to the ITU Council Working Group on WSIS.

In two output documents of WSIS: “Declaration of Principles” and “Action Plan”, it is recognized that the global coordination of the Internet and its good functioning and continued expansion, encompass both technical and policy tasks. WSIS recognized that policy authority is the sovereign right of governments; that the private sector has had and should continue to have an important role in the technical and economic fields; that civil society has played and should continue to play an important role; that intergovernmental organizations have had and should continue to have a facilitating role in the coordination of public policy issues, and that international organizations have had and should continue to have an important role in technical standards and relevant policies.

In the early draft WSIS Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action, there were specific wordings of “an international organization” in contrast to “an intergovernmental organization” concerning management of issues related to Internet Governance. These contrasting wordings were interpreted by some people as a debate on a choice between ICANN and ITU, or in other words these wordings suggested ICANN and ITU are mutually exclusive alternatives to deal with international Internet Governance matters. This should not be the case. This is not the case.

As mentioned earlier, ITU already cooperates with ICANN in several ways. In 2003, I met with Mr. Twomey in Paris in July. We exchanged our views on issues of common interest and agreed to seek closer cooperation. I am very pleased with this first face-to-face meeting with him. Today this joint ccTLD workshop co-chaired by both of us provides another proof that both organizations can work together. I firmly believe that today not ITU, nor ICANN, nor anybody alone, can take care of everything. ITU seeks efficient and effective international cooperation with all partners concerned, including ICANN. ITU would be pleased to leave tasks, which have been successfully done by others, to remain with those competent entities, no matter if it is an international organization or intergovernmental organization. ITU would take an active part in those areas where the governments express their interest or in the areas where public interest is under consideration. ITU would also continue to contribute to technical studies, such as security studies of the Internet. I would welcome any proposal to bring all stakeholders together to address the Internet Governance issues. Cooperation between ITU and ICANN, together with others, would allow all the different communities around the world that use, provide, operate, and design the Internet to address efficiently and effectively, in a constructive and productive manner, the various issues which have to date proven difficult to resolve within any one particular organization, such as ITU and ICANN.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) was founded in 1865. After the United Nations was established, the ITU became a UN specialized agency for Telecommunications. The purpose of the Union is to provide a forum in which the Union’s membership can cooperate for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications of all kinds. At present, ITU’s membership includes 189 Member States and around 700 private sector Members. There are

three Sectors: ITU Standardization Sector (ITU-T), Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), and Development Sector (ITU-D). We see some important working environments of three Sectors: ITU-D is primarily engaged with the issues to assist developing countries, and ITU-R heavily engaged with the spectrum issues mainly contributed by the Administrations, while the ITU-T is dominated by the ICT industry to develop global technical, operational standards and tariff standards. In ITU, the Private Members (we called "Sector Members") have played a more and more important role in all aspects, and in the standardization sector, the experts from Sector Members hold 13 chairmanship positions out of 14 Study Groups. The new ITU environment is quite different today, compared with the situation 10 years ago, or even 5 years ago. It is well recognized by the ITU Sector Members that ITU's standardization environment remains one of the best places for the industry. The ITU has a proven track record of efficiently and effectively performing numerous coordination functions for global identifiers that are essential for the good functioning of critical infrastructures. For example, the ITU defines and manages E.164 numbering resource, e.g. 41 for Switzerland, 60 for Malaysia, 1 for USA, Canada and some other countries. ITU also assigns 800 serious numbers for a Universal International Freephone Number (UIFN), which enables an International Freephone Service (IFS) customer to be allocated a unique freephone number(s) that is the same throughout the world. ITU allocated these codes, but ITU has never stepped in to control any private telephone conversations, nor does it supervise traffic. ITU will never do so in the future either. Similarly, ITU would like to join the others to discuss any issues of common interest, but ITU does not seek any chance to monopolize the issues.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to re-emphasize the importance of having an efficient and effective dialogue among all stakeholders on Internet Governance, and once again, I would like to assure you that ITU will continue to contribute to the WSIS work on Internet Governance. ITU sincerely hopes that we would go to Tunis in November 2005 at the second phase of WSIS with a good proposal to meet the challenges to the satisfaction of the human society.

Finally I would like to express my sincere thanks to the speakers and the moderators of this meeting. My thanks again to Dr. Twomey. Lastly but most importantly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Malaysian Administration for hosting this joint workshop and providing us with such excellent support.

Thank you for your attention.