TSB DIRECTOR CJK CTO CONSULTATION MEETING

21 March 2016 (pm), Seoul, Korea

COMMUNIQUÉ

An overhaul of the current network architecture to meet the stringent requirements of 5G fixed-mobile communications and the rapid growth of video traffic, the management of IoT cyber-physical systems, and the engagement of open-source communities in ITU's standardization activities were the key demands of sixteen ICT sector executives from China, Japan and Korea at a consultation meeting held by the Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) in Seoul, Korea.

Networks in support of 5G

The meeting acknowledged the rapid progress made by the ITU-T Focus Group on IMT-2020 (5G), which was established in May 2015 following the first TSB Director CJK CTO Consultation Meeting. The Focus Group took an ecosystem view of 5G research and development, and reached its first milestone in December 2015 with the presentation of its analysis in a Report to its parent group, ITU-T Study Group 13. The Focus Group received an extension to its lifetime and new Terms of Reference call for the group to engage open-source communities, building collaboration by introducing them to the challenges that telecoms players must overcome in the development of the 5G ecosystem.

By the end of 2016, the group is expected to deliver texts for several draft international standards (ITU-T Recommendations) in areas including end-to-end network management; network architecture and fixed-mobile convergence; network softwarization and network slicing, including for fronthaul and backhaul; and information-centric networking. These texts will be ready to be adopted by the relevant ITU-T Study Groups. The expected output also comprises proofs of concept, showcasing the work of the group in these areas and putting it into the context of related open-source initiatives.

Participants identified enhancements to today's network architecture – in particular with respect to operations, administration, maintenance and provisioning –necessary to meet the stringent requirements identified for 5G communications. The meeting called for a joint effort to overcome these challenges to enable the sector to provide timely, innovative and cost-effective services.

The Director of TSB reiterated his gratitude to members from China, Japan and Korea for their strong commitment to the work of ITU on networks in support of 5G. The Director encouraged their continuing support and cooperation, and called for their assistance and guidance in ITU's efforts to work in collaboration with other standards-developing organizations (SDOs) and avoid duplication of efforts, and to engage open-source initiatives in the work of ITU-T.

Internet of Things

The Internet of Things (IoT), enabled by massive machine type communications, has been identified by ITU as a key usage scenario for 5G communications.

The meeting lauded the historic TSAG decision to respond rapidly to industry needs by concentrating ITU's standardization activities on IoT and its applications including smart cities and communities in a single entity – ITU-T Study Group 20.

As lead group on IoT and its applications, Study Group 20 is responsible for international standards to enable the coordinated development of IoT technologies, including M2M communications and ubiquitous sensor networks. Since its establishment, the group has formalized its structure, management team and interactions, and has already consented two ITU-T Recommendations.

Participants agreed that critical issues to be studied by ITU in the cyber-physical space include security, privacy, interoperability, and management issues, including management of identities and identifiers. Data silos need to be broken down, trust should be created and information should be shared in a transparent, integrated and interoperable manner. CTOs highlighted the importance of horizontal cloud-based IoT platforms with standardized interfaces, using the example of home automation.

The meeting also called for ITU to stimulate interaction between related Study Groups, and to foster collaboration and harmonization with other economic sectors to enable provisioning of end-to-end smart-city and community experiences.

The future of video

Video traffic in various forms has seen unprecedented growth in recent years, and is expected to grow further in the years to come. The meeting acknowledged that this growth in video traffic – and high user expectations with respect to video quality, reliability and availability – is giving rise to demanding requirements on network infrastructure. CTOs view the run-up to year 2020, the milestone signalling the entrance of 5G communications, as an opportune period to study strategies to ensure high availability, optimize bandwidth consumption, minimize the reworking of video content, and reflect best practices for handling video traffic in international standards. Participants welcomed the work underway in ITU-T Study Group 12 (Performance, Quality of Service and Quality of Experience) on the evaluation of video quality.

World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16)

The meeting took note of the preparations underway for WTSA-16, which will take place in Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia, from 25 October to 3 November 2016, preceded by the third Global Standards Symposium on 24 October 2016. An invitation was extended to all attendees to participate in a CxO meeting scheduled for 23 October 2016 to be hosted by Tunisie Telecom.

The Director of TSB announced that ITU is now calling for nominations of candidates for the roles of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-T Study Groups and TSAG. He invited participants to consider and make proposals to revisit the Study Group structure and working methods to ensure that ITU-T is well positioned to achieve its aims in the approach to year 2020 and beyond.

The Director of TSB thanked all attendees for their active contribution to the meeting and constructive discussions. The Director reaffirmed his commitment to answering to the priorities and opinions of the membership, and that the ITU management is proactively engaging with other SDOs in the areas discussed, including 3GPP and oneM2M.

Participants expressed their gratitude to ITU for providing this forum to exchange views on emerging standardization priorities. They also acknowledged and thanked KT for its hospitality in hosting the event.

The participating organizations were:

Alibaba Group, China; Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute, Korea; FiberHome Technologies Group, China; Fujitsu Ltd., Japan; Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd., China; KDDI Corporation, Japan; KT Corporation, Korea; LG Uplus Corporation, Korea; National Institute of Information and Communications Technology, Japan; NEC Corporation, Japan; NTT, Japan; NTT DOCOMO, Inc., Japan; Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., Korea; SK Telecom Co., Ltd., Korea; ZTE Corporation, China; ITU.