



*The 32nd Session of the Management Committee of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity
15 – 18 December, 2008, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

Doc. No. MC-32/8

REPORT OF THE APT STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM (ASTAP)
(Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda of the Management Committee of the APT)

Note by the Secretary General

The Chairman's Report on the activities of the APT Standardization Program (ASTAP) is presented to the Management Committee for its consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Toshiyuki Yamada'.

Dated, 7 November 2008, Bangkok

Toshiyuki Yamada
Secretary General

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE APT STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM (ASTAP) TO
THE 32nd SESSION OF THE APT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

1. Introduction

I am very pleased to present this report to you and inform you that the APT Standardization Program (ASTAP) continues to make a significant contribution to regional and international activities in area of Standardization during 2008. ASTAP is now in its tenth year, but interest in its activities by national, regional and international organizations continues to grow with a high level in attendance and a diverse range of appropriate topics discussed at the ASTAP Forums.

ASTAP activity and interest was highlighted this year through holding the 14th ASTAP Forum from 9 to 11 June 2008 in Kobe, Japan. The Forum was organized by the APT and hosted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Japan. The 14th ASTAP Forum was followed by a successful 2nd APT Preparatory meeting for the ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2008 (WTSA-2008) which was held from 12 to 14 June in Kobe, Japan.

ASTAP contributions to international standardization activities are increasing significantly. This year, ASTAP activities have had a focus on preparations for WTSA 2008 which was held from 21 to 30 October 2008 in Johannesburg, South Africa. I am pleased to say that ASTAP has taken a lead role in the APT's WTSA 2008 preparation work. ASTAP Groups, especially the ITU-T Issues Group and the Bridging the Standardization Group (BSG), worked closely with the APT Preparatory Correspondence Groups (CGs) for WTSA in development of APT Common Proposals for WTSA-2008. It is pleasing that one of our members, Vietnam, played a lead role in the Global Standards Symposium prior to WTSA-08 in Johannesburg with a focus on "Bridging the Standardization Gap". Vietnam also hosted the 3rd APT Preparatory Meeting for WTSA-08 in Hanoi from 17 to 19 September 2008.

I would now like to inform you of the key activities and decisions of 14th ASTAP Forum and some associated matters.

2. The 14th ASTAP Forum

The 14th ASTAP Forum was held from 9 to 11 June 2008 in Kobe, Japan. It was attended by 175 participants from APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International Organizations and others.

The 14th ASTAP Forum focused on the following key areas:

- Reviewed and discussed ASTAP working groups and expert groups work activities.
- Reviewed and discussed the draft ASTAP Strategic Plan for 2009-2011 (Annex I).
- Reviewed the Survey report on Broadband Status in APT countries. (Annex II)
- Reviewed and discussed proposed revision to ASTAP Rules on Organization and Working Methods (Annex III).

- Reviewed and discussed additional proposals to ASTAP output document “APT Recommendation on Radiocommunication Systems for Early Warning and Disaster Relief Operations” and its future work.
- Reviewed and discussed draft PowerPoint templates for ASTAP documents.
- Reviewed and discussed APT Preparatory work for WTSA-08 and Preliminary APT Common Proposals (PACPs).
- Reviewed and discussed ASTAP input to APT WTSA-08 preparatory work and in development of PACPs.
- Reviewed and discussed draft MoU between APT and ETSI.
- Reviewed standardization activities from other regional organizations/ bodies.
- Reviewed recent ITU-T and TSAG activities.
- Reviewed ITU preparations for WTSA-08.

Some of the key decisions and actions made at the 14th ASTAP Forum include:

- The Forum suggested that ASTAP Bridging the Standardization Gap group should strengthen the standardization activities and consider submitting contributions to ITU Global Standards Symposium (GSS) scheduled for 20 October 2008, one day prior to WTSA-08.
- The Forum suggested ASTAP considering creation of new industry oriented expert groups and use practical approaches which could benefit industry sectors.
- The Forum suggested ASTAP seeks practical proposals from industry sectors in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The Forum suggested that high level officials from the leading industry sectors should be invited as speakers at future ASTAP Forums. It also suggested that ASTAP encourages industry sectors from India and China for active participation in ASTAP groups’ activities.
- The Forum recommended that an industry oriented workshop should be held during ASTAP-15.
- The Forum suggested ASTAP should continue to liaise with other APT internal programs such as APG, AWF and PRF in order to avoid duplication of their activities and facilitate exchange of views and information on its standardization work in this region.
- The Forum requested ASTAP Group leaders to liaise with office bearers of other related APT programs.
- The Forum suggested that Chairman of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA should be included as a member of ASTAP Advisory Board.
- The Forum approved the PowerPoint templates for ASTAP documents with the cover page in Word template format.
- The Forum recognized that the Secretariat continuous effort to improve the electronic working methods (EWM) for ASTAP activities and its future development.
- The Forum approved the revised ToR of EG IMT, EG, EG SNLP, EG NGW, EG IS, EG NID and the ASTAP Advisory Group.
- The Forum endorsed the ASTAP Strategic Plan for 2009-2011 in principle and suggested that implementation plan should be commenced as soon as possible. The ASTAP Strategic Plan for 2009-2011 is attached in Annex I for Management Committee approval.

- The Forum accepted the concluded Survey Report on Broadband Status in the APT Countries conducted by the ASTAP Expert Group on Internet Related Topics. The report is attached in Annex II.
- The Forum agreed to keep the present flexible term arrangements for appointments of the ASTAP Chairman and Vice-Chairmen.
- The Forum approved the draft MoU between APT and ETSI. The APT Secretariat will seek General Assembly approval on this MoU.
- The Forum recognized the concern in use of color in APT documents which can limit readability for people with color blindness.
- The Forum agreed on revised ASTAP Rules on Organization and Working Method. The revised ASTAP Rules on Organization and Working Method is attached in Annex III for Management Committee approval.
- The Forum suggested that general guidelines on participation of non APT members should be considered at higher level such as the APT Management Committee and be applied to all APT work programs.
- The Forum suggested that ASTAP Forums should be held approximately nine months apart; in principle with 4-5 days duration.
- The Forum suggested that the Fifteenth ASTAP Forum should be held in March 2009 with duration of 4-5 days.

Documents of the 14th ASTAP Forum can be viewed at:
<http://www.apr.int/meetings/2008/ASTAP14/>

APT Management Committee Approval Sought for:

- 1. Approval for holding of 15th ASTAP Forum in March 2009 with duration of four days.**
- 2. Approval for holding of 16th ASTAP Forum in September 2009 with duration of four days.**
- 3. Approval for holding of Industry oriented workshop during the 15th ASTAP Forum.**
- 4. Approval for the ASTAP Strategic Plan 2009-2011 (Annex I).**
- 5. Approval for the revised ASTAP Rules on Organization and Working Method (Annex III).**

3. ASTAP Website and ASTAP Email Reflectors

I appreciate the APT Secretariat's continuous effort to improve the electronic working methods (EWM) for ASTAP activities and its future development. The ASTAP website has been modified and restructured in line with comments and recommendations from ASTAP-14. All ASTAP documents are now systematically posted on the ASTAP website and have been categorized for easy reference. The ASTAP EG reflector system is a vastly improved and easy method for ASTAP members to electronically communicate. I noted that the ASTAP office bearers list and all ASTAP EG reflector member lists were updated by the Secretariat after the ASTAP-14.

APT Secretariat has informed me that re-structuring of the website is being planned and this would definitely enhance the EWM of ASTAP activities in the future.

4. WTSA-08 Preparations

As I mentioned in my introduction, ASTAP has made a significant contribution to APT preparations for WTSA 2008. ASTAP-14 has passed on some of the contributions and proposals to APT Preparatory meeting for WTSA-08. The ASTAP ITU-T Issues Group and the Bridging the Standardization Group (BSG) reviewed the Preliminary APT Common Proposals for WTSA-08 and worked closely with the APT Preparatory Correspondence Groups for WTSA-08 in development of APT Common Proposals for WTSA-08.

I was honored to be the Chair of the APT WTSA-08 Preparatory Group and will introduce the separate report on APT preparations for WTSA 2008 and other related activities later on at this Management Committee meeting.

5. Conclusion

During 2008, ASTAP has made significant progress and the work of ASTAP has considerably accelerated. I continue to believe that ASTAP is a key Forum providing benefit not only to the APT's Membership but also to the communications world at large and, of course, international standards bodies and fora. Particularly, it is a mechanism through which our region can consider and provide strategic standardization issues and advice, and develops input of our views to the ITU.

I am particularly grateful to my Vice Chairmen: Mr. Kenji Tanaka from Japan and Dr. Hokun Moon from Republic of Korea.

The Rapporteurs of the Expert Groups are dedicated and work very enthusiastically to achieve our goals, and I am very thankful for their voluntary work. They are the key leaders of our activities. I also appreciate the work of ASTAP team of the APT Secretariat.

In conclusion, I would like to request the Management Committee to accept my resignation from the Chairmanship of both ASTAP and the APT WTSA-08 preparatory group. On reflection, I have many positive feelings for my ten years as the ASTAP Chairman, and I have a number of suggestion I would like to table for the future of ASTAP and the APT's programs, such as the Study Groups program. I have tabled these as Annex IV and I would be pleased to enlarge on these ideas, if required.

Dr. Bob Horton
Chairman, APT Standardization Program (ASTAP)