

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF  
THE APT STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM TO  
THE 29TH SESSION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**1. Introduction**

I am pleased to report that the APT Standardization Program (ASTAP) has continued to make significant contributions to regional and international standardization activities this year. Interest in the activities of ASTAP by national, regional and international organizations continues to increase with high attendance levels and a diverse range of topics discussed at ASTAP Forums.

ASTAP contributions to international standardization activities are progressing satisfactorily. Building on the success of the preparatory work of ASTAP for last year's World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2004, a current key focus of ASTAP is on preparations for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Turkey, 6-24 November, 2006 (PP-06). An Issues Paper has been developed to assist consideration of Telecommunication Standardization Sector topics of interest to APT Members that will be discussed at PP-06. It is expected this will lead to development of APT Common Proposals that will feed in to the APT's Preparatory Process for PP-06. ASTAP Expert Groups have developed contributions expressing regional views that have been submitted to a range of ITU meetings.

ASTAP activity was highlighted this year through holding two meetings in 2005. ASTAP approved its Strategic Plan 2006-2008 as well as its Approval Procedures for ASTAP Technical Documents. Both of these documents are discussed further on in this report and are attached as Appendices A and B. Provided these documents are approved by the Management Committee, they will provide ASTAP with a high-level focus for its strategic activities and a means to develop its outputs.

I am also pleased to advise that the ASTAP Website and Bulletin Board has recently undergone significant improvements based on best design practices and international standards. This has greatly assisted ASTAP and its Expert Groups to improve information flow and to work electronically.

Having said that, however, to strengthen the performance of the ASTAP Expert Groups, I urge APT Members to assist in increasing participation by experts from the private sector; including incumbent operators, newly established telcos, equipment manufacturers and other telecommunications-related companies, as well as administrations, regulators and of course, users. An increased and wider-based participation will ensure the outcomes of ASTAP's work are fruitful and balanced.

**2. The 9<sup>th</sup> ASTAP Forum**

The 9<sup>th</sup> ASTAP Forum was held from 29<sup>th</sup> March – 1 April 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand. It was attended by 97 participants from APT member countries, the ITU and other international organizations.

The 9<sup>th</sup> ASTAP Forum was the first of two meetings held during 2005. That Forum implemented the concept of the Joint Expert Group (JEG) and meetings were held under the Networks JEG, Wireless JEG and IT Applications JEG. The JEG meetings are intended to be beneficial to all members in terms of broad consideration of issues, internet related topics, efficiency and also to optimize the time constraints for the breakout meetings. A new Expert Group on Accessibility and Usability (AU) was formed and an AU Workshop was planned for the 10<sup>th</sup> ASTAP Forum. In addition, within the JEG structure new Expert Groups on Disaster Management Communication Systems (DMCS) (which considers disaster prevention issues), on Millimeter-Wave Personal Area Communication Systems (MPACS) and RFID were established.

ASTAP-9 agreed to:

- Assist the APT Secretariat to align its website with international standards and improve its web services and electronic working arrangements;
- Implement the APT Documentation Scheme and finalize the Approval procedures of ASTAP technical documents; with ASTAP 10 to finalize the Approval Procedures;
- Focus on new areas for ASTAP activities such as NGN, RFID etc;
- Enhance ASTAP effectiveness through holding JEG meetings wherever possible rather than individual EG meetings;
- Strengthen collaboration with R& D and manufacturing organizations;
- Enhance private sector participation;
- Increase the involvement of young professionals;
- Discuss, in detail, the proposed NGN pilot project and prepare a proposal for the MC.
- Discuss the implication of WTSA-04 outcomes for the region.
- Discuss ASTAP input to APT preparations for PP06.
- Establish new Expert Groups.

Documents of the 9<sup>th</sup> ASTAP Forum can be viewed at:

<http://www.aptsec.org/meetings/2005/ASTAP9/default.htm>

### **3. The 10<sup>th</sup> ASTAP Forum**

The Tenth Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Standardization Program (ASTAP) Forum was held from 26<sup>th</sup> October – 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 in Melbourne, Australia. The Forum was organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and hosted by the Australian Communications and Multimedia Authority (ACMA). ASTAP-10 was preceded by an associated Workshop on IP Telephony and NGN, on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2005. These events were attended by 156 participants representing APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International Organizations and others.

Key Outcomes of the ASTAP-10 Forum include:

- Dr. Joon Won Lee, TTA, Korea, was appointed as the Rapporteur of the NGN Expert Group replacing Professor Peter Darling, Australia.

- Dr Dinh Van Dzung and Mr Manabe, NEC, Japan were appointed as Co-Rapporteurs joining Mr. R Mittar, TEC, India for the NGN Expert Group.
- Mr. Byoung Nam Lee, ETRI, Korea, was appointed as Rapporteur of the RLG replacing Mr Patrick Emery, Australia.
- It was recommended that a face-to-face Network JEG meeting be proposed to the Management Committee. The Network JEG meeting would be held in conjunction with an ITU NGN seminar to be held in Kobe, Japan, in April 2006. Also, a face to face meeting of the Network JEG might be appropriate to be held after the next ASTAP meeting. The Kobe meeting might not be expensive, so both suggestions might be possible.

**Management Committee Decision Sought**

The Management Committee is asked to consider ASTAP's proposal for two face-to-face Network JEG meetings when it is deciding on the APT events for 2006. The first Network JEG meeting would be held in conjunction with an ITU NGN seminar to be held in Kobe, Japan, in April 2006. It might be appropriate to hold another Network JEG meeting after ASTAP 11.

- ASTAP members were encouraged to contact the APT Secretariat for proposed improvements to the ASTAP website. The APT Secretariat should review the request as well as the financial impacts, and make necessary changes in consultation with ASTAP members.
- The ASTAP Chair was requested to seek APT Management Committee approval for the revised Approval Procedures for ASTAP Technical Documents at its December 2005 meeting.

**Management Committee Decision Sought**

The Management Committee is asked to approve the Approval Procedures for ASTAP Technical Documents appended to this Report as Appendix A

- The Approval Procedures for ASTAP Technical Documents would need further review to ensure consistency with the existing APT Documentation Process. It was noted that ASTAP's Rules on Organization and Working Methods now requires review to avoid any conflict with Approval Procedures for ASTAP Technical Documents, in particular, approval of APT Common Proposals to ITU Study Groups.
- The ASTAP Chair's Report to the December 2005 APT Management Committee should note the inconsistency between the (APT MC approved) Approval Procedures for ASTAP Technical Documents, and ASTAP's Rules on Organization and Working Methods as outlined in the OWMG Report.

**Management Committee to note**

The Management Committee is asked to note that the ASTAP Rules on Organization and Working Methods now requires review to avoid any conflict with the Approval Procedures for ASTAP Technical Documents.

- The ASTAP Strategic Plan 2006 -2008 was approved subject to a final 2 week review by ASTAP Members and approval will be sought at the December 2005 APT Management Committee.

<b>Management Committee Decision Sought</b>
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The Management Committee is asked to consider and approve the ASTAP Strategic Plan 2006-2008 attached to this report as Appendix B.
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#### **4. Progress of ASTAP Expert and other Groups**

Rapporteurs, Co-Rapporteurs and Experts of all Expert Groups continued to work productively. The individual reports of each Expert Group under the respective Joint Expert Group, illustrate the progress made by each Expert Group .

A brief summary of the progress of each group is given below.

##### **4.1 *IMT & FWA***

EG-IMT & FWA has continued its efforts to promote the standardization activities in the region on IMT-2000 & Beyond and Fixed Wireless Access systems.

A draft joint contribution to ITU-R WorkingParty9B, mainly focusing on the analyses of IP packet transfer parameters in FWA systems, was approved and sent to ITU-R. Task Group-1 of APT Wireless Forum completed the draft response to the Service Questionnaire from ITU-R WP8F work via e-mail discussion. The EG has identified new work items to be considered for its future work. It has reviewed its Terms of Reference (ToR) and prepared the future work plan for the next period.

##### **4.2 *Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)***

Four ITU-R recommendations on ITS have been successfully completed. ITS-EG has been working on ITS toward the future recommendations.

“Millimeter ITS Radiocommunication” is also being studied in the WP8A. It was decided that further study be made on this subject for a recommendation to ITU-R. The Group will work towards creating ASTAP contributions to *ITU-RSG8WP8 on Land Mobile Handbook: Intelligent Transport System (ITS)* and inviting more ITS Experts to ASTAP/ITS-EG from APT Members. The Group also carried out more work on developing next generation DSRC standards.

##### **4.3 *Next Generation Network (NGN)***

There have been wide ranging activities at the international level on NGN, with results of the work of the peak standardization bodies being presented to GSC-10 in Nice during 29<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2005. The Region has been actively represented in the ITU-T's NGN standardisation work, with a large number of the experts active in the ITU-T's NGN Focus Group coming from this region (including the Chairman). The most recent meeting of the NGN Focus Group was held in

Geneva from 24<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2005. It was the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of that Focus Group.

The NGN EG can play a major role in developing regional input into international NGN standardisation activity. Key issues for consideration could cover network management, interoperability, the signalling gateway, applications, standardization, QoS and migration from the PSTN to NGN.

The Workshop on IP Telephony and NGN which was held on the day prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> ASTAP was a very successful event and featured a wide-range of international experts. The outcomes of the Workshop became valuable input to the 10<sup>th</sup> ASTAP Forum and the key issues were considered by the NGN EG.

#### **4.4 High Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS)**

ITU-R is continuing studies on HAPS under Agenda Item 1.8 for WRC-07 (related to the regulatory and technical provisions). Some APT countries are leading the research and development activities for HAPS, with respect to both airship and telecommunication missions. The Group was able to obtain further inputs on a Resolution for 47/48 GHz.

#### **4.5 Interoperability/Asia-Pacific Backbone (IA)**

The ninth ASTAP Forum decided that the work of this expert group would be discussed under the framework of Expert Group on NGN. Further studies have been conducted in this area.

#### **4.6 Internet-related Topics (IRT)**

The IRT EG reviewed and confirmed its new Terms of Reference (ToR). It exchanged information and opinions on the subjects of VoIP, Internet Inter-working with existing networks and IPV6. It also exchanged information on NGN related activities in standards frameworks/SDOs in the Asia Pacific region. It reviewed the documents on NGN related activities and on IMS in order to prepare the IRT EG members to attend the JEG meeting with NGN EG and RLG.

#### **4.7 Information Security (IS)**

There has been further studies and discussion within the Group on the following contributions:

- Access Control Methods for UDDI in Web Services using XACML
- Standardization Requirements for Web Services Security
- The Security Consideration and Guideline for Open LBS using XML Security Mechanism

The contributions were discussed online through email and at ASTAP-10 and will be submitted to ITU-T SG17 in due course. The next ITU\_T SG17 meeting will be held from 19-28 April, 2006. A possible joint ITU-T/APT Security Workshop in conjunction with the ASTAP Forum is under consideration.

#### ***4.8 Next Generation Web (NGW)***

In addition to the survey on the Web Services Choreography standardization activity, the NGW EG started the development of Web Services Conversation Preference Profile Framework based on WS-CDL and to develop the requirement of WS-CPP. NGW EG also intends to develop a specification for WS-CPP.

The NGW developed a common proposal on WS-CPP for submission to W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) or ITU-T FG NGN. The NGW EG is also studying the Web Services in Mobile and Ubiquitous computing environments. The EG also intends to expand its activities in the fields of Mobile Web Services (MWS) and Ubiquitous Web Services (UWS).

#### ***4.9 Accessibility and Usability (AU)***

The AU EG considered the involvement of end-users in standards development and usability aspects of APT work. Information was also shared on national, regional and international standards activities in accessibility and usability. Its Terms of Reference were approved at ASTAP 10 and the Workshop on Accessibility and Usability, held as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> ASTAP Forum, stimulated thinking on the need to take account of accessibility and usability issues at a broad community level so that they become mainstream. The outcomes of the Workshop were valuable input to the Groups considerations.

#### ***4.10 Disaster Management Communication System (DMCS)***

The EG on DMCS circulated a questionnaire to investigate the current conditions regarding existing emergency communication systems for disaster information delivery to residents in the countries of APT members. The report of the questionnaire was presented to the 10<sup>th</sup> ASTAP Forum.

Given the recurring nature of the disasters in this region in recent times, this report is both timely and useful.

#### ***4.11 Millimeter –Wave Personal Area Communication System (MPACS)***

The EG on MPACS continued its work as per its ToR.

#### ***4.12 Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)***

The EG on RFID carried on its work and will take an active part in future APT sponsored RFID work. It also contributed to the work of ETSI ERN Task Group 34.

#### ***4.13 Access to ASTAP Expert Groups***

The various Joint Expert Groups and, within them, the respective Expert Groups can be accessed from the ASTAP website at <http://www.aptsec.org/Program/ASTAP/> by clicking on Expert Groups, and then going to the relevant Group.

#### **4.14 Organization & Working Method Group (OWMG)**

The OWMG finalized the ASTAP Strategic Plan 2006-2008 as well as the Approval Procedures for ASTAP Technical Documents. Mr. Jongbong Park was the Rapporteur of the Group developing the ASTAP Strategic Plan 2006-2008 and Mr. Wung Park was appointed as the Rapporteur of the ASTAP Strategic Plan 2006-2008 Implementation Group. Mr. Nguyen Hong Son was appointed as Co-Rapporteur. The ASTAP Strategic Plan Implementation Group will identify suitable EGs that can consider the implementation of each high priority Resolution of WTSA-2004, as well as other implementation issues; particularly those concerning bridging the standardization gap.

Noting that the APT Management Committee in 2004 agreed to the concept of “Pilot Project” for ASTAP, currently there are no Pilot Projects being considered.

#### **4.15 Regulatory Liaison Group (RLG)**

The RLG now meets at ASTAP Forums in conjunction with the Network Joint Expert Group, and provides advice on regulatory issues relevant to NGN standardisation.

The RLG Rapporteur has collaborated with the NGN Expert Group Rapporteur on activities to promote regional collaboration in NGN standardisation, including aggregating common regional regulatory requirements relevant to NGN standardisation.

The revised the Terms of Reference of the RLG were approved by the ASTAP 9 Plenary.

#### **4.16 ASTAP ITU-T Issues**

Activity of the ITU-T Issues Group is focused on preparations for PP-06 and TSAG meetings. The Group took into consideration the output and decisions made at the 1<sup>st</sup> APT Preparatory Meeting for the PP-06 which was held on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2005 in Singapore, and reviewed the Correspondence Group 3 Issues Paper. The Group is considering the development of the APT Common Proposals for PP-06 on standardization issues. It also reviewed contributions to the November 2006 TSAG meeting.

#### **4.17 Access to Other Groups**

Documents and reports relating to the Regulatory Liaison Group, ITU-T Issues Group, Organization and Working Methods Group, Industry Relations Group and the Accessibility and Usability Group can be accessed from the ASTAP website at <http://www.aptsec.org/Program/ASTAP/> by clicking on Other Groups, and then to the relevant Group.

#### **4.18. ASTAP Advisory Board**

The ASTAP Advisory Board has focused on the composition of a new Advisory Board, new areas of ASTAP activity, enhancing ASTAP effectiveness, input to the 2006-2008 Strategic Plan of ASTAP, initiatives to strengthen collaboration with R&D and manufacturing organizations, enhancing private participation, and involvement of young professionals.

#### **5. PP-06 Preparations**

At the First APT Preparatory Meeting for PP-06 in Singapore on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2005, 5 Correspondence Groups (CGs) were formed and the time scale of the preparatory work was approved. The ASTAP ITU-T Issues Group prepared an Issues Paper for the CG3 which works on Telecommunications Standardization Sector issues. The Second and Third APT Preparatory Meetings for PP-06 are proposed to be held in February and May 2006, and ASTAP will continue to play a lead role on Standardization issues and considerations.

#### **6. ASTAP Website**

As outlined earlier in this report, the APT website has been modified and restructured in line with the comments and suggestions of the members at the ASTAP-9 Forum, and several security features have been incorporated in the Email Reflectors and Bulletin Board. The modifications were carried out in close coordination with the Expert Group Rapporteurs.

#### **7. APT Newsletter**

In addition to the improvements to the ASTAP Website, the APT newsletter keeps members informed of ASTAP activities. The APT Secretariat invites members to contribute short articles and suggestions for improvement to the newsletter. For those that do not receive the regular issues of APT newsletters, the newsletters are also posted on the APT Website (<http://www.aptsec.org/>) under "Publication".

Rapporteurs and experts are encouraged to make contributions to APT newsletters.

#### **8. Updating of list of members of ASTAP Expert Groups**

In conjunction with improvements to the ASTAP website, the APT Secretariat has confirmed the participation of all existing experts, as well as enabling more experts to participate in the various Expert Groups. A database of experts has been updated and is maintained by the APT Secretariat. However, experts need to keep the APT Secretariat informed of any changes to their address details to ensure accuracy and enable satisfactory electronic working arrangements are maintained.

## 9. Conclusion

During the year 2005, ASTAP has made significant progress. Since we were able to hold two ASTAP Forums this year, the work of ASTAP has considerably accelerated.

I believe that ASTAP is a very suitable Forum for this region to consider standardization issues. Its work has progressed satisfactorily and will continue to do so with the kind support of our Experts and Industry Professionals. I foresee a more regional activity on standardization through ASTAP which will contribute to the global standardization process. The venue and dates of the 11<sup>th</sup> ASTAP Forum are open to Members and I will very much appreciate your kind initiatives to host this event. My preference for a meeting date is in July 2006.

I am particularly indebted to my Vice Chairmen, Dr. Jinsung Choi from the Republic of Korea and Mr. Kenji Tanaka from Japan, whose support and contributions are unparalleled in taking the work of ASTAP to a higher ground. The Rapporteurs of the Expert Groups work very enthusiastically and with great dedication to achieve our goals, and I am very thankful for their voluntary work. I also greatly appreciate the work of ASTAP team of the APT Secretariat.

## ATTACHMENTS

**Appendix A**                      **Approval Procedures for ASTAP Technical Documents**

**Appendix B**                      **ASTAP Strategic Plan (2006-2008)**

## APPENDIX A

### APPROVAL PROCEDURES FOR ASTAP TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS

#### 1. Context and objective of approval procedures

- 1.1 The APT Documentation Scheme gives ASTAP the authority to approve Reports, Liaisons and Guidelines. ASTAP can also draft Recommendations; however Recommendations must be formally approved by the APT Management Committee before acquiring the status of an approved APT document.
- 1.2 This document sets out the procedures for both approval and adoption by ASTAP of output documents that have been developed by ASTAP.
- 1.3 The objective of the approval procedures for ASTAP output documents is to provide an open, transparent and inclusive process for the adoption and approval of ASTAP output documents that provides maximum benefits to ASTAP members. Each type of document should have an appropriate procedure

#### 2. Types of output documents

- 2.1 These approval procedures apply to ASTAP development of the following APT output document types:
  - (a) *Recommendation* (A specification, a guidance, a recommended way or a recommended procedure on a specified task)
  - (b) *Report* (A technical, operational or procedural statement, not including recommendations, prepared by work programme)
  - (c) *APT Common Proposal* (A text containing subject matter developed by a work programme for submission to another organisation in the name of all or some APT Members)
- 2.2 (a) *Reports and Joint Proposals* may be approved directly by ASTAP.
- (b) *Draft Recommendations* and *draft APT Common Proposals* may be adopted by ASTAP and proposed to the APT Members for approval as APT output documents.

#### 3. Procedure for adoption and approval of documents

- 3.1 In their work programs, Expert Groups and Joint Expert Groups should identify output documents that may be developed by the EG or JEG.
- 3.2 As far as practicable, draft output documents should be distributed to ASTAP members before each ASTAP meeting for consideration. It is recommended that draft Recommendations be distributed to APT members at least one month before the next ASTAP.

- 3.3 The Expert Group or Joint Expert Group shall be responsible for developing the text of draft output documents based on contributions from ASTAP members.
- 3.4 In its report to the ASTAP Plenary, each Expert Group or Joint Expert Group shall:
- (a) indicate whether the EG or JEG is proposing a draft output document for adoption or approval by the ASTAP Forum;
  - (b) include the text of any draft output document proposed for adoption or approval.
- 3.5 The ASTAP Forum Plenary shall decide whether a draft text is ready to be issued directly or submitted to APT members for:
- (a) approval as an *ASTAP Report*, or as an *ASTAP Joint Proposal*; or
  - (b) adoption as a *draft Recommendation* or *draft APT Common Proposal* to be submitted for approval by the APT Management Committee.
- 3.6 Immediately after the ASTAP Forum, the APT Secretariat shall circulate as appropriate, to APT members, all draft documents proposed for adoption or approval.
- (a) A period of six weeks shall be allowed for responses and the Secretariat shall coordinate the responses received.
  - (b) Any Member who has not responded during the consultation period will be considered to have abstained.
- 3.7 Following the consultation period, the output document shall be considered adopted or approved if the following conditions are met:
- (a) For draft recommendations and draft Common Proposals at least 25% of all APT members must support the adoption or approval of the document.
  - (b) A draft Recommendation is not adopted if two or more APT members oppose adoption.
  - (c) A draft APT Common Proposal is not adopted or approved if more than 50% of the number of supporting APT members oppose approval or adoption.

**Note:** The operation of (c) can be explained using the following example - if 15 APT members support adoption or approval of the draft APT Common Proposal, 8 opposing members (i.e. more than 50% of the total number of supporters) are required to block the Common Proposal.

The number of members needed to block adoption may be reviewed with the agreement of the APT Management Committee.

- 3.8 Documents adopted by ASTAP may be proposed immediately to the Management Committee for approval.
- (a) If the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of MC are satisfied that the agreed ASTAP procedures have been applied, then the draft document proposed by ASTAP may be issued on a provisional basis.
  - (b) A provisional APT Recommendation must be confirmed at the next MC meeting, or be returned to ASTAP for review if the MC is not satisfied with the approval procedure for the particular document.

**4. Register of ASTAP output documents**

- 4.1 The APT Secretariat shall maintain a register of approved ASTAP output documents including dates of provisional and final approval.

ASTAP output documents shall be available from the ASTAP website.

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**ANNEX B**

**ASTAP STRATEGIC PLAN 2006-2008**

Secretariat Note: The ASTAP Strategic Plan 2006-2008 is still undergoing review ASTAP members. It will be provided to MC members, as a separate document, as soon as possible before the 29<sup>th</sup> MC meeting.