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*Report of the APT Standardization Program (ASTAP)
(Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda of the Management Committee of the APT)*

Note from the Executive Director

The Report of the APT Standardization Program (ASTAP) from Chairman of ASTAP is submitted to the Management Committee for consideration and necessary action.

Dated, 17 August, 2006, Bangkok



**Amarendra Narayan
Executive Director**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE APT STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM TO
THE 30TH SESSION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

1. Introduction

I am very pleased to report that the APT Standardization Program (ASTAP) has continued to make a significant contribution to regional and international standardization activities during 2006. 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 increasing. This year, ASTAP's international standardization focus was on preparations for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Turkey, 6-24 November, 2006 (PP-06). Issues Papers were developed to assist consideration of Telecommunication Standardization Sector topics of interest to APT Members that will be discussed at PP-06. Three APT Common Proposals for PP-06 on telecommunication standardization issues were developed. ASTAP Expert Groups have also developed contributions expressing regional views that have been submitted to a range of ITU meetings.

ASTAP activity was highlighted this year through holding the 11th ASTAP Forum in 2006. Associated with that Forum, a Symposium on Network Security featuring international experts was held and was well attended. A Standards Equivalence Workshop was also held prior to ASTAP-11.

I am also pleased to advise that the ASTAP Website and Bulletin Board has continued to improve, 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.

For future ASTAP Forums, we intend to invite experts from our region contributing to similar standardization work in the ITU, ISO, IEC, IETF, CJK and other Fora to participate in ASTAP activity. This additional expertise will enhance ASTAP's role in standardization activity.

2. The 11th ASTAP Forum

The 11th ASTAP Forum was held from 14 to 16 June 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand. It was attended by 118 participants from APT members and other international organizations.

The 11th ASTAP Forum focused on the following key areas:

- Mechanisms to implement the ASTAP Strategic Plan (2006-2008).
- Preparations for PP-06.
- NGN developments and implementation strategies.
- The outcomes of the Symposium on Network Security.

- The outcomes of the Standards Equivalence workshop.
- Global standardization trends.
- Recent TSAG activity.

The Forum continued with the concept of Joint Expert Group (JEG) meetings, held under the Networks JEG, Wireless JEG and IT Applications JEG. The JEG meetings are 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.

ASTAP-11 agreed to:

- ASTAP taking a regional role for global initiatives in: NGN, IPv6, IPTV, Network security and Spam, Home applications.
- Refer further ASTAP studies on Standards Equivalence to the Industry Relations Group (IRG) to:
 - Identify specific issues of ASTAP relevance and opportunities for the APT.
 - Identify the key APT technical or performance requirements (regulatory objectives of standards).
 - Consider conducting a survey of APT manufacturing members to determine ranges of tolerances for identified products to compare the equivalence of standards and report the outcomes to ASTAP. (If the survey goes ahead, ASTAP will consider submitting the survey results and the assessment of the equivalence of standards to APEC-Tel MRA Task Group, and to relevant ITU Study Groups working on Standard equivalence issues.)
 - Liaise with other ASTAP Expert Groups working on standards developments e.g. AU and RLG.
- Consider recommendations made at the Symposium on Network Security and for the appropriate ASTAP EGs to take necessary action.
- Invite experts from our region contributing to similar standardization work in ITU, ISO, IEC, IETF, CJK and other Fora, as well as Heads of SDOs and R & D in the region, including Government, Semi-Government, Private Sector and Universities, to participate in ASTAP activity.
- Consider regional standardization initiatives including U-Networks, Telemedicine, Disaster Mitigation Applications, E-Government, Network Security and Spam, Personal Data Protection, Stickers and Certification, at future ASTAP Forums to enhance ASTAP's role in standardization related activities.
- Propose two ASTAP Forums being held next year with the first held early in 2007 to take advantage of inviting the new TSB Director to the Forum.
- Hold a one- day Young Professionals meeting focused on standardization in conjunction with the next ASTAP Forum to encourage youth into the program and for succession planning.
- Develop an APT Joint proposal on Networked RFID activity, to be submitted to the July 2006 TSAG.

- Changed the name of the RFID EG to “Networked ID EG”.
- Agreed that the IRT EG and the NGN EG will jointly study IPTV.
- Agreed that the IS EG will develop a questionnaire to survey practical security issues of Asia-Pacific region.
- Agreed to develop a proposed roadmap, prioritization, and performance indicators in respect of implementation of the ASTAP Strategic Plan (2006-2008).
- For the APT Secretariat to consider dividing documents on the ASTAP website into three categories, i.e., introductory documents, ASTAP documents and others, for the ease of readers.
- Agreed that the OWMG will review, by correspondence, the whole texts of ASTAP’s Rules of Organization & Working methods, and the Approval Procedure of ASTAP Technical Documents, for harmonization and to avoid any conflicts between the documents.

Documents of the 11th ASTAP Forum can be viewed at:

<http://www.apr.int/meetings/2006/ASTAP11/default.htm>

Management Committee Decision Sought

The Management Committee is asked to consider ASTAP’s request for two ASTAP Forums to be held in 2007.
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3. 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.

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

Organization & Working Method Group (OWMG)

The ASTAP work program has significantly improved and this EG has played a key role in achievement of this objective. Further initiatives in categorization of documentation and draft templates are under study.

Last year, the OWMG led the development of the ASTAP Strategic Plan (2006-2008) which was approved by the 29th Session of the APT Management Committee. The OWMG is currently considering measures to assist implementation of the strategic plan, which will provide the basis of future ASTAP work progression.

The OWMG at ATAP 11 continued its review of the Approval Procedures for ASTAP Technical Documents to ensure consistency with the existing APT Documentation Process. I expect to report to the next Management Committee on recommended changes to each document.

Industry Relations Group (IRG)

The IRG is developing a questionnaire to industry on standards equivalence. The results of the survey will be referred to the RLG for possible implementation. After the standards equivalence survey, general questions will follow if there is an identified need.

The group closely cooperated, and actively participated and contributed, to the drafting of ASTAP Strategic Plan (2006-2008), particularly from an industry point of view. Between ASTAPs, the group promotes ASTAP activities among industry sectors and encourages active participation in ASTAP programs. This EG feels that ASTAP still needs to provide more opportunities for industry to develop technical and practical outcomes for industry in order to encourage their active participation and to gain more interest in ASTAP activities.

Dr. Choi was not able to continue in the post of ASTAP Vice-Chair, and as IRG Chair. Mr. Jaewoon Park, Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, Republic of Korea, replaced Dr. Choi and has taken over both roles.

Regulatory Liaison Group (RLG)

This group is now particularly considering network neutrality issues and the regulatory issues related to new services; including IPTV.

The group feels that regulatory issues will remain a significant element in international standardization activities. ASTAP through the efforts of its Expert Groups and the RLG can provide valuable input to international standardization activities; and I greatly encourage such an approach. The RLG has worked closely with the Network Joint Expert Group to assist in developing common regional input in regulatory issues to international and regional standardization activities.

ITU-T Issues Group (ITU-T)

Rapporteur Mr. Jong-bong Park has been actively working on ITU-T issues throughout the year. The group prepared an issues paper for the APT PP-06 Correspondence Group 3 (Telecommunication Standardization Sector Issues) where Mr. Park is also the Rapporteur. The PP-06 CG3 issues paper included proposals on bridging the standardization gap, and for Member States and Sector Members to cooperate via WTSA and TSAG to improve ITU-T working methods and working procedures; including restructuring of the ITU-T. The objective of improvements to ITU-T working methods is to enhance participation from Sector Members and ensures the requirements from ICT industry are reflected in ITU-T outputs. Three ACP's for PP-06 were developed through this group's activity.

Accessibility and Usability Group (AU)

The Rapporteur has been liaising with Australian and Japanese Government officials in respect the outcomes of the APEC-Tel e-Inclusion Workshop for People with Disabilities that was held as part of the APEC-Tel meeting in April, 2006.

The group is developing comment in the form of an ACP/AJP to the November 2006 ITU SG16 meeting to assist its development of an accessibility guide.

The group will conduct a survey on accessibility and usability policy, legislative and regulatory initiatives in Asia Pacific countries. The survey, survey form, issues covered, the scope, survey design, distribution and analysis were reviewed and approved at ASTAP 11. The survey will form an important basis for better understanding what various countries in the region are achieving in accessibility and usability. The group will also review and discuss a draft Accessibility Standard which will be based on existing national guidelines; Japan is nearing completion of international accessibility guidelines.

Disaster Management Communication System (DMCS)

The Rapporteur, Mr. Shuichi Inoue, Japan Radio Co., Ltd., Japan was unable to continue in this role and he was replaced by Mr. Tatsuhiro Oba of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Japan. The EG investigated the current status of the DMCS or ECS among APT member countries. At ASTAP 11, the EG discussed and developed a draft APT recommendation on Radiocommunication Systems for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations. Importantly, once it has passed the approval process, it will become the 1st ASTAP APT Recommendation. The group continued working on the development of a common proposal on DMCS which will be submitted to ITU-R. The EG rapporteurs and several EG experts attended the “APT Symposium on Telecommunications for Disaster Relief (TDR) which was held from 18 to 20 April 2006 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

High Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS)

The group Rapporteur and experts have coordinated contributions to meetings of ITU-R Study Groups (SGs) and Working Parties (WPs). The HAPS EG has provided useful information for the APT membership to enhance the level of expertise on HAPS and to understand the study of these activities in the ITU-R.

IMT-2000 & Beyond (IMT)

Co-rapporteur, Ms. Juyeon Song, Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., Republic of Korea was unable to continue in this role and she was replaced by Mr. Joongu Park of Kyungpook National University, Republic of Korea.

The group worked electronically throughout the year to exchange views on the issues on IMT-2000 & beyond and identified potential contributions to ITU-R WP8F and ITU-T SG19. The Rapporteur and experts of the group attended the ITU-R WP8F meeting in January 2006 and the outcome of the meeting was reviewed and discussed at ASTAP 11. During ASTAP 11, the group also discussed and identified a potential contribution(s) to the next ITU-T SG 19 meeting in July 2006, and the ITU-R WP8F meeting in August 2006.

Information Security (IS)

The group has conducted a survey of information security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. It has also encouraged promotion of exchange of views and strong relationships on information security related topics in the Asia-Pacific region. Information Security related standardizations issues are being discussed in ITU-T SG17 WP2 where EG members are actively participated. The group is looking towards developing draft proposals/

contributions to following ITU-T SG 17 questions:

- Communications systems security projects (Q4/17);
- Security architecture and framework (Q5/17);
- Cyber security (Q6/17);
- Security management (Q7/17);
- Telebiometrics (Q8/17);
- Secure communication services (Q9/17);
- Countering SPAM by technical mean (Q17/17).

Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)

The group studied potential ITU-R WP8A ITS related documents and actively participated in ITU-R WP8A discussion on “Integrated Millimeter Wave ITS Radiocommunication systems” and “The next generation ITS Radiocommunications Systems” and other related activities. The ASTAP ITS EG intends to make contribution to ITU-R SG8 WP8A, especially on “Land Mobile Handbook: Intelligent Transport System”. Four ASTAP ITS EG members attended the ITU-R SG8 WP8A meeting from 21 to 30 March 2006 in Geneva.

Internet Related Topics (IRT)

The group utilized the NGN EG meeting opportunity in Kobe, Japan to have a face to face meeting among the rapporteurs and co-rapporteurs of NGN EG and IRT EG to exchange information and ideas concerning the Network JEG matters. The group studies IPv6 issues and exchanges information on roles and activities of organizations such as APAN and e-ASEAN dealing with IPv6 in the Asia-Pacific region. The group also studies IP Telephony (VoIP) and Internet topics relating to NGN to collaborate with NGN EG, RFID EG and RLG as well as to support NGN activities in APT. Group members regularly exchange views and discuss the related current topics of interest and outcome of the meetings from other global organizations such as ITU and IETF. The group is considering the submission of proposals/contributions to those global organizations in the near future.

Dr. Seung-Yun Lee(Co-Rapporteur), Mr. Taewan You, Minkyoo In and Ms. EunJoo Jo circulated the following three contributions regarding IPv6, Telematics and IPTV to the IRT EG members.

- Introduction to mobility-specific Multihoming in IPv6 (Mr. Taewan You/ETRI)
- NGN based on necessity of Telematics services and network configuration, (Mr. MinKyo In/ETRI)
- Status Report for IPTV Standardization in Korea (Ms. JoEun Joo/TTA)

In respect of regional IPv6 matters the APT, in conjunction with the NAv6 Center of the Malaysian Science University, organized a Workshop on IPv6, from 27 February to 1 March 2006 in Malaysia. The Workshop was held to assist and encourage APT Members to exchange ideas on the deployment of IPv6.

Interoperability/ APII Backbone Network (IA)

This group monitors the progress of work of the TSAG Correspondence Group on Conformance and Interoperability Testing, and ITU-T SG17 on Interoperability Testing Framework and Methodology. The group wishes to organize an Asia-Pacific or world-wide interoperability testing event in NGN areas if members support such a proposal. This expert group meets under the framework of Expert Group on Next Generation Network.

Millimeter-Wave Personal Area Communication Systems (MPACS)

The group continued discussion on 60-GHz frequency regulation of APT member countries. Group members participated in ITU-R SG9 WP9B meeting and discussion of topics of fixed wireless systems for disaster mitigation and relief operations and system architecture proposed to ITU-R SG9 WP9B as a new millimeter-wave system operating in bands above 57 GHz. At ASTAP 11, the EG reviewed the ITU-R SG9 WP9B meeting outcomes and considered development of a contribution on MPACS to next ITU-R SG9 WP9B meeting in June 2006.

EG members also participated in an IEEE802.15 WPAN Task Group 3c (TG3c) meeting, the WPAN-Working Group MMAC Forum, and a Tropical Symposium on Millimeter Waves (TSMMW2006) to study recent millimeter wave technologies and its applications.

Next Generation Networks (NGN)

A “stand-alone” ASTAP NGN Expert Group meeting was held on April 19, 2006 at the International Conference Center Kobe (ICCK), Kobe, Japan. This EG meeting was held in conjunction with an ITU NGN Workshop (20-21 April 2006). The objective of the NGN EG meeting was to enhance cooperation on NGN study between ASTAP and ITU-T.

The topics discussed during that meeting include the followings:

- NGN functional architecture requirements;
- NGN QoS and security issues;
- Migration aspects of NGN;
- Present activities and development of NGN;
- Collaboration among ASTAP and ITU-T and among other standardization bodies.

Progression of work on NGN through the EG has also been active through electronic working. The group further enhanced and progressed its work at ASTAP 11.

Next Generation Web (NGW)

This EG is quite a new group, but EG members have made steady progress toward their ultimate goal in fields of Next Generation Web. Throughout the year, group members discussed and exchanged information on Web Services Conversation Preference Profile, Web Services based NGN Convergence Service Scenario, Ubiquitous Web Services, Mobile Web services and Semantic Web Services.

At ASTAP 11, the group reviewed the NGW Standardization activities carried out since last ASTAP Forum and settled its future activities and Terms of Reference (ToR). The group also discussed Next Generation Web Technologies such as Semantic Web, Web Services, etc., in light of developing a possible contribution to ITU-T SG13.

Networked ID (NID) (Formerly RFID)

The group has been very active. It has conducted a survey on standardization activities on ID-based application in ITU-T. The Rapporteur also circulated two TSAG documents on ID-based application to the group members for information. The group reviewed, and agreed to a new name "Networked ID" and Terms of References to capture the scope of work and reflect the activities being undertaken. The Rapporteur revised the ToR in line with the new group name and ITU-T draft recommendations being developed. At ASTAP 11, the group developed of an APT Joint Proposal for creating a focus group for ID-based application in ITU-T. The AJP was submitted to the July 2006 TSAG meeting.

4. 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' activity. 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.

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.

I greatly encourage all members to join the EG or EGs, most appropriate to their organization's work. This will assist ASTAP in continuing to be aware of latest developments, enable it to have a broad participation base and will provide the opportunity for members to inject their views in to the program of work. The ASTAP website has a link to download the appropriate EG registration form. This form is also available as Information Document No. 1 for each ASTAP Forum.

5. ASTAP Advisory Board

The ASTAP Advisory Board met twice during the 11th ASTAP Forum. The Board suggested that two ASTAP Forums be held next year. It also developed a range of strategic initiatives which were discussed earlier in this report.

6. PP-06 Preparations

ASTAP has made a significant contribution to APT preparations for PP-06. The ASTAP ITU-T Issues Group developed an Issues Paper for the CG3 which works on Telecommunications Standardization Sector issues. In addition, three APT Common Proposals for PP-06 on telecommunications standardization issues were developed.

7. ASTAP Website

As outlined earlier in this report, the APT website has been modified and restructured in line with comments and recommendations of members at ASTAP-10 and ASTAP-11. 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. A log-in ID system is now in place for anyone wishing to access ASTAP Forum documents. This arrangement was introduced in August 2006.

8. Conclusion

During the year 2006, ASTAP has made significant progress and the work of ASTAP has considerably accelerated.

I continue to believe that ASTAP is a very suitable Forum to enable this region to consider strategic standardization issues. Its work has progressed extremely well and will continue to do so with the kind support of our Experts and Industry Professionals. I foresee ASTAP taking a strategic role for global initiatives in areas such as NGN, IPv6, IPTV, network security, spam, and home application. Regional activity on standardization through ASTAP will greatly contribute to the global standardization process. The venue and dates of the 12th and 13th ASTAP Forums are open to Members and I will very much appreciate your kind initiatives to consider hosting these events.

I am particularly indebted to my Vice Chairmen, Mr. Kenji Tanaka from Japan and Mr. Jae Woon Park from the Republic of Korea, and also my former Vice Chairman - Dr. Jinsung Choi from the Republic of Korea. Their support and contributions are unparalleled in taking the work of ASTAP to a higher level. 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. I also greatly appreciate the work of ASTAP team of the APT Secretariat.

Dr. Bob Horton
Chair ASTAP