ASIA- PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION
Telecommunications and Information Working Group

TWENTY THIRD MEETING
(TEL 23)

CHAIR'S REPORT

12 to 16 March 2001, Canberra, Australia

TWENTY-THIRD MEETING of the
APEC WORKING GROUP ON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA
March 12-16, 2001

CHAIR'S REPORT

GENERAL

Australia hosted the twenty-third meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Working Group on Telecommunications and Information (TEL) in Canberra, Australia, from 14-16 March, 2001.
Twenty economies from the APEC region were represented. The Director (Program) of the APEC Secretariat, one Observer (from the Pacific Economic Co- operation Council (PECC)); and four Guests (APLAC, AOEMA, Colombia and GTAC) attended.

Ms Valerie D'Costa of Singapore chaired the meeting.

OPENING OF TEL 23

The TEL was preceded by a number of workshops, seminars and Task Force Meetings. The program of all the associated meetings of the TEL is contained in **Annex A.**

The 23rd Meeting of the APEC Telecommunications and Information Working Group was officially opened on the evening of 13 March 2001 with Ms Fay Holthuyzen, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, welcoming delegates to Canberra on behalf of the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator the Hon Richard Alston, who was unable to attend. She informed the gathering of the significance of the timing of the meeting, given that it is the Centenary Year of Federation for Australia and the Canberra Day weekend for the city. Ms Holthuyzen also read a message from the Minister to the meeting congratulating the TEL on its achievements to date and commending the group on the important work that it will do during the week. She closed by giving personal thanks to the TEL Chair for her work and commitment to realising the goals of the working group and all it has
done for the region.

In her response, the TEL Chair, Ms Valerie D'Costa, expressed her deep personal appreciation to the organisers of the meeting. She also introduced the new Program (Director) from the APEC Secretariat, Mr Chutintorn Gongsakdi, to the TEL, thanking him for the assistance he has already offered to her office and wished him well for his association with the working group.

A.   Review and Adoption of Agenda

The following agenda was adopted by the meeting:

A.   Review and Adoption of Agenda

B.   Opening Remarks

C.   Report on 12 Ministerial Meeting and 7th Leaders Meeting (held in Brunei Darussalam, November 2000), APEC SOM I, Paperless Trading Symposium and Joint Fora Meetings: Implications for TEL.

D.   Follow up on TEL Review: IITG, Outreach, Name Change, Digital Divide

E.   Discussion Process for Selecting new TEL Vice Chair

F.   PECC-APEC Business/Private Sector Dialogue

G.   Steering Group Meetings and Reports
1.   Business Facilitation Steering Group Meeting (BFSG)
2.   Development Co-operation Steering Group Meeting (DCSG)
3.   Human Resource Development Steering Group Meeting (HRDSG)
4.   Liberalisation Steering Group Meeting (LSG)

H.   Discussion/Approval of New Project Proposals/Priority Setting and other Budget and Administration Matters

I.   Presentations by Economies of their Recent Regulatory and Policy Developments

J.   Brief Voluntary Statements by Observers and Guests

K.   Discussion of Next Meeting and Other Business

L.   Transition to new TEL Chair and Vice Chair*

M.   Review and Adoption of Chair's Report*

*These two items were taken in reverse order on the final day.

B.   Opening Remarks

(Document Plen/24)

In her opening remarks, the Chair thanked the hosts very much for their organisation of the meeting and the efforts of the organising team was greatly appreciated by all delegates to the meting.

At the previous meeting, held in Bali

, the plenary had examined the directives from Ministers contained in the Cancun Declaration and from this had sprung the matrix of TEL Activities,

submitted to this meeting as document number plen/06. The matrix should serve as a living document, to be used as a tool to help the TEL stay focused and aligned, particularly since the number of TEL's activities and participants seem to grow with each meeting.

One of the decisions taken in Bali was to seek endorsement to change the name of the working group from Telecommunications to Telecommunications **and Information.** This reflects the wider range of work and participation of the TEL. Senior officials agreed to the name change at SOM 1. The Chair thanked all participants for their input during the name change discussion.

Within the larger APEC organisation, many of the issues examined by the TEL are now the focus of many other for

a, such as the APEC Electronic Commerce Steering Group (ECSG) and the new e- APEC task group. The TEL should look to ways to coordinate with these groups to avoid duplication of effort. The ECSG is to meet at the end of the TEL meeting and it is hoped that there will be useful 'cross- fertilisation' of ideas between the two groups as a result.

In conjunction with this meeting of the TEL, a total of 11 workshops/seminars/task group meetings were held. The Chair asked for any comments on this number – whether the range of topics discussed made it easier to attract delegates or in fact made it more difficult.

The significant issue for the meeting was the transition of Chair from Singapore to Australia and the election (or selection) of a new Deputy Chair of the TEL. The Chair explained that she had asked Kathy Fisher of Canada to speak to all Heads of Delegation about this matter, to see if there was a preferred candidate and to make sure there is consensus for the selection of any candidate that came forward. All being well, the Chair said she would be able to inform the plenary of the decision at agenda item L (on Friday). The Chair also reminded the meeting that there will be another transition at the end of TEL 24 when the current convenors of Steering Groups hand over to their deputies and new deputies are to be selected. The Chair asked all delegations to consider these positions over the next six months.

C. Report on 12th Ministerial Meeting and 7th Leaders Meeting (held in Brunei Darussalam, November 2000), APEC SOM I, Paperless Trading Symposium and Joint Fora Meetings: Implications for TEL.

Since the last TEL and ECSG Meetings, several important policy meetings have taken place, namely the 8th APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM) and the 12th APEC Ministerial Meeting in November 2000 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, and the 1st Senior Officials Meeting for 2001 (SOM 1/2001) in February 2001 in Beijing, the People's Republic of China.

A matrix of the AELM/AMM Tasking Statements may be reviewed in full on the APEC Secretariat website (www.apecsec.org.sg) under SOM 1/2001 documents. The tasking statements relevant to the TEL and ECSG could be summarized as follows.

- TELMIN: Leaders support the actions of TELMIN in the Cancun Declaration and the relevant Program of Action and Principles. In addition, Ministers noted commitments on advancing the APII, APIS and on implementation of the Reference Framework for Action on E-Commerce. Ministers also noted the role of TELMIN in promoting a pro-competitive environment and cooperation with the business sector in broad areas.

- Implementation of Initiatives from Sectoral Ministerial Meetings: In ensuring the overall effectiveness of the APEC process, Ministers requested a review on the implementation of initiatives that were endorsed in APEC Sectoral Ministerial Meetings.

- The New Economy: Leaders gave instructions to develop and expand the Action Agenda on the New Economy. Ministers endorsed the following initiatives: Readiness Evaluation Action Partnership; Transforming the Digital Divide into a Digital Opportunity; APEC Guide to Enact Legal Framework for Electronic Commerce; Cyber Education Cooperation; Human Capacity Building in APEC – Meeting the Needs of the 21st Century; Use of Information Technology in a Learning Society; Network of Skills Development Centers; and, the Knowledge-Based Economy Project.

- Electronic Commerce: A High Level Symposium on E-Commerce and Paperless Trading has been convened. Ministers emphasized the need to make progress on capacity building, consumer protection, network security, favorable and compatible legal framework, and the role of e-commerce in trade facilitation. Ministers endorsed a proposal on APEC-Wide Action Plan to Support Use of Electronic Commerce by SMEs. Ministers instructed updating of the Inventory on E-commerce Activities in APEC, while at the same time to consider widening the scope of APEC's e-commerce work program, with relevant recommendations by the ECSG.

- Information and Communications Technology (ICT): Ministers acknowledged the importance of accelerating the adoption of ICT in the context of education, training and human capacity building. In this context, the value of partnerships with stakeholders, including non-government representatives was recognized and encouraged.

- Open Economies: Ministers instructed the intensification of work to assist economies pursue open economic policies, including with respect to institutional capacity-building and adopting strategies to manage change.

- ECOTECH: Ministers stressed that ECOTECH should be more focused and properly prioritized. A review of the Joint Activities/Dialogue sections of the Osaka Action Agenda will take place in 2001. (The SOM Sub-committee on ECOTECH will seek the assistance of relevant APEC fora.) The possibility of establishing IAPs on ECOTECH will also be

considered. Ministers also encouraged APEC fora to utilize the ECOTECH Clearing House.

- <u>APEC Interaction</u>: Ministers instructed enhanced interaction with the business community and other relevant stakeholders. In this context, an Ad-hoc Study Group of Officials on APEC Interaction has been established to consider how best to benefit from the interests, expertise and insight of stakeholders. APEC is also developing a communication and outreach strategy.

- <u>Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC</u>: Ministers tasked APEC fora to implement the Framework.

At SOM 1/2001, China proposed the following theme for APEC 2001, "Meeting New Challenges in the New Century: Achieving Common Prosperity through Participation and Cooperation", which embodies the following sub-themes:

Sharing the Benefits of Globalization and the New Economy;

Advancing Trade and Investment; and,

Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth.

SOM agreed
to rename the TEL as the Telecommunications and Information Working Group with the abbreviation " TEL" unchanged.

In reviewing the mandate of the ECSG, which was established two years ago at SOM 1/1999, SOM agreed to extend its term for another two years. In this context, SOM noted the value of the ECSG's role in coordination of e-commerce issues in APEC. It is SOM's intention for the ECSG to continue to do so in the context of work on the New Economy.

Regarding the future work program in relation to electronic commerce, SOM agreed that capacity building and HRD remain the focus of APEC's future efforts. SOM also took note of the proposal to expand into policy-oriented actions and suggestions for enhancing research work.

In discussing the issue of follow-up on the Action Agenda on the New Economy, SOM decide to establish an Ad hoc Task Force for e-APEC. The Task Force will work closely with relevant APEC fora, in particular the ECSG, TEL and EC.

SOM tasked the ECSG and other relevant fora to evaluate, and where appropriate, incorporate the recommendations of the High-Level Symposium on Electronic Commerce and Paperless Trading in their work programs on electronic commerce to be developed this year.

SOM agreed the Human Capacity Coordinating Group under the SOM Sub-committee on ECOTECH channel its work towards developing a strategy that would enable member economies to meet the challenges of the New Economy and report to SOM 3/2001.
In carrying out this task, the Coordinating Group should also take into account the outcomes of the High Level Meeting on Human Capacity Building in May 2001 in

China on " New Economy, New Strategy: Cooperation and Innovation to Build Human Capacity for Common Prosperity" .

On other issues, Korea advised SOM that North Korea had yet to respond to its proposal to participate in APEC activities subject to relevant guidelines. Brunei Darussalam informed SOM that Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar had indicated at the recent ASEAN Summit their interest in participating in APEC working group activities with guest status.

Observations

1. The challenge of coordinating of New Economy and e-commerce issues in APEC will be very real in 2001. The APEC Secretariat will endeavor to play a strong supportive role to the coordination efforts of the designated APEC fora (permanent and ad hoc).

2. Both TEL and ECSG have several opportunities to push their work forward in 2001 under the overarching theme of the New Economy and other taskings by the AELM and AMM.

(N.B.: this report was tabled at the plenary as document number **plen/16**)

In the discussion that followed the Chair added that the creation of the e-APEC Task Group and the extension of the ECSG mandate was good news in that the work the TEL has been doing is now on the radar screen of the political leaders. This can translate into action in being able to get funding for our projects. The other side of the coin is that as these issues become more focussed on other fronts there could be a duplication of efforts and the TEL should be aware of that. The Chair therefore emphasised the need for all economies to strengthen links back to the main APEC structure, for example SOM, Economic Committee, CTI etc. In some economies the links are strong but in others there is little coordination

between working group delegates and SOM representatives. Points of Contact in each economy should be aware of this and make efforts to increase or enhance those links. The TEL Chair has the responsibility to highlight our work as a whole, and the Secretariat has a part to play in that as well. The TEL Chair' s office can look to improving these mechanisms in some way.

The floor was open for discussion on these issues.

The US mentioned it would be interested in looking at how the TEL can package its activities to fit into the larger APEC framework. The TEL has a couple of success stories, the MRA for example, which gets little or no recognition further up the APEC ladder. An endorsement from SOM leaders could help.

New Zealand added that there was a need to avoid over creation of other APEC fora which look at the same issue

s and this is a risk as Ministers take an interest in the issues we look at in TEL. As for all the activities associated with this TEL meeting, the range of

workshops offered does help attract a larger number of people, as it is a comprehensive and attractive package. As for outreach, there are a number of things we need to do and a range of audiences we are trying to address. Selling ourselves to the Leaders and the Ministers is new but a good message for us to take back to capital. It is usual practice in most economies for Senior Officials, Ministers and Leaders to be briefed by generalists not specialists, which means that the contribution made by working groups can be overlooked. The central APEC machinery is one audience and within our economies there is a need for each TEL POC to make an effort. Then there is our own working group audience. He added that there were good ideas contained in the Contact paper and coupled with the useful resources held in the TEL and on the website and publications, it could be wasted if we don't sell it in our own economies. In the short term this could create more work and effort for the POCs but in the end it may provide more participation as well.

Canada asked for the dialogue to be kept open and asked that work be done on outreach activities between now and the next TEL meeting to look at specific projects and activities.

China added that the main thing discussed at the first SOM and for the Leaders will be e-APEC so it was important for the TEL to keep contact with the Chair of the e-APEC

Task Force .

Singapore added that in order to get the message to the leaders, some priority of the issues that the leaders will be interested in was needed. Looking at the matrix of activities and distilling the information contained within it to make it appealing to the lay person was necessary.

Chair summarised by saying that there are developments that have been outlined for the TEL in the larger APEC machinery.

The new economy, and other topics close to our hearts, is becoming more important to the larger APEC audience, including Leaders and Ministers. This is a positive thing and their consideration of these issues is different from ours, as it is more macro in perspective and will take into account the broad sweep throughout APEC, not just TEL. Their wider vantagepoint will be good for the TEL. We need to package our work better and take the elements that are key and find a way to put this in a form that is more palatable at APEC. This responsibility rests with the TEL Chair's office with assistance from the Secretariat. There are different audiences we need to address and in the correct way. Particularly the ECSG and e- APEC to avoid duplication and contribute to the overall APEC goals. The Chair offered to undertake to come up with a couple of key milestones and current activities of the TEL, to which others may add, which may contribute to the APEC process and promote the

work of the TEL.

D. Follow up on TEL Review: IITG, Outreach, Name Change, Digital Divide

Internet Issues Task Group (IITG): At TEL 22 (Bali) the TEL Chair undertook to look at the terms of reference for the new task group to give it a renewed focus and way of working. The instruction from Ministers was to involve the steering groups in order to look at the broader issues and approach this in a holistic fashion. She asked Convenors to place the issue on the agenda and discuss in the groups when they meet and to report back to the TEL at what issues they are looking at and how it fits into the whole. A Task Group was also formed to be chaired by the deputy Chair of the TEL. The purpose of the task group was to collate opinions and views on Internet issues and to undertake a continued analysis of the ICAIS issue. This can be done in a variety of ways. Information seminars, e-mail

discussion, outreach to industry for example. The terms of reference were circulated to POCs and approved, and the task group established.

Public Sector Outreach: The document 'Contact!' (Plen/05) was developed as a result of Minister

ial directive and in an attempt to get the TEL message across to the general public, the industry and to APEC. The document is for economies to use to encourage outreach. Several economies have contributed their experiences which have been compiled in this document which is put forward for information at this point. The Chair thanked all those who contributed to the document. The Chair informed the meeting that at the last few meetings a press release has been issued on the last day of the meeting. The press release issued for this meeting is something all economies can take home with them and distributed if they so wish.

The issue of the name change has already been covered in the Chair's opening remarks.

Digital Divide: this has been highlighted at Leaders and Ministers to which the TEL can contribute in a meaningful way. The Blueprint has been prepared and put on the web and Dr Arnon has been nominated as the coordinator for the ongoing activities in the various steering groups and housed in the DCSG. Useful for convenors to liaise with Dr Arnon regarding digital divide issues. Continue to raise it through the APEC Channels. Brought up over the past two days in the various workshops, particularly at the Regulators' round table and of course the Digital divide seminar. The APEC Secretariat added that one of the initiatives endorsed by Ministers was the Chinese Taipei work on Making the Digital Divide a Digital Opportunity which the TEL into which can feed. The DCSG Convenor added that all Steering Groups have activities, which feed, into the Digital Divide and the USA is overseer of the digital divide project so that the discussion

at DCSG will be fruitful. The Chinese Taipei project will have a very close relationship with the BFSG as it

is largely e- commerce enhancement. We need to coordinate from the TEL to the larger APEC fora and as there are often different delegates to the different fora, please brief the relevant delegates about this project. Dr Arnon was asked to report back to the plenary when it resumes on Friday on this issue.

Sponsorship and Self-Funded Guidelines: (Documents Plen/11 and plen 12 refer) At TEL 22 it was decided that reflection on certain TEL processes was required. Included in this reflection were the issues of sponsorship and self-funded projects and how they can contribute to the TEL process. Both issues reflect industry interest in our work and the number of activities that we have on our plate

Sponsorship guidelines (doc. Plen/11) These guidelines were drafted not to reflect the monetary considerations but rather the contributions sponsors can make to the TEL. In other words they can let the industry understand how they can contribute to the TEL.

This document will be left for further consideration from all delegates and in two weeks time if there are no further comments

it will be posted on the website as an official TEL document. (The USA suggested removing " as possible" from the second page, first paragraph.)

Guidelines for Self-funded projects (Plen/12) Attention was drawn to page 2, item 5 with questions of project management. Self-funded projects are encouraged and the guidelines should be seen in a positive light. The Chair asked for comments on these draft guidelines to be sent to her office within two weeks and after that they will be posted as an official TEL document.

E.   Discussion Process for Selecting new TEL Vice Chair

The Chair of the TEL is selected by consensus among delegations. Heads of Delegation were briefed earlier in the week about the process and at the end of the meeting a candidate will be announced and selected by the plenary via acclamation.

F.   PECC-APEC Dialogue

The dialogue was launched by an introduction by the PECC Director who directed people to the APEC leaders statement that commissioned the establishment of a policy framework that would allow all persons access to communications networks by the year 2010. It was pointed out that the TEL had a critical role to play in achieving these objectives and that the private sector had an equally important role in assuring that the TEL officials developed an agenda of public-private partnerships to meet these challenges.

A representative of Lateral Economics then gave a presentation on the work being done to find more effective policies to achieve universal access obligations. He pointed out that the days of a

"one size fits all" USO had long since disappeared and that governments and communication service providers now needed to better define what the constituents really wanted and what they would be able to pay for their needs. His research in alternatives ways of "cashing out" service provisions was presented and a

discussion on how governments could improve the transparency and equity of USO provision was given. His presentation will be available on the PECC/TIIF website – www.pecc.org/ptiif

Following his presentation delegates from Brunei addressed the second part of the challenge posed by the dialogue – How to take the development of access and develop skills and education processes that would empower all persons to benefit from the emerging communication networks. A presentation was made on the APEC High Level Meeting on Human Capacity Building for the New Economy. The representatives stressed the importance of using this high-level dialogue to further the TEL's objectives and encouraged members to further their work on the mobilization of resources for information infrastructure development and utilization. The importance of leveraging partnerships between the public and private sector were stressed. An overview of this meeting can be found on the PECC/TIIF Website.

Following the two presentations a number of delegates offered their comments. These included:

A recommendation that the TEL make use of the REAP programme endorsed by ministers late in 2000. It was advised that this programme could showcase not only the work of the companies being identified as partners to the process but also the regulatory issues they had faced in developing their business and the efforts they were making to work with governments to overcome the hurdles before them

The active partnerships for internet connectivity project being developed by PECC was also highlighted as an initiative that addressed the concerns of the TEL ministers in Cancun regarding reduction of cost for internet services. Delegates were urged to contribute case studies to this initiative.

The discussions at the regulators roundtable were reviewed and it was agreed that the information exchange on licensing and auction decisions was very valuable to both the regulators involved and those observing from the floor. It was suggested that TEL should continue to support such gatherings of regulators and work to integrate the private sector both in defining the agenda and in to the meeting itself.

The need to better integrate the input of the consumers in to regulatory reform discussions was stressed. It was also pointed out that APEC might assist in providing guidelines for communication service selection so that TEL user groups could better define their needs and then more effectively chose tools to address these needs.

The work of the ITU private sector advisory group was reviewed and private sector

representatives to the TEL were encourage

d to participate in this effort in order to further both their own interests and the work of the TEL.

A brief overview of the wireless workshop was provided and delegates were encouraged to further study how APEC could

discuss licensing processes and spectrum allocation regimes of member economies so as to foster a more robust IT/TEL network development agenda for the future.

A delegate from Hong Kong

, China discussed the manifestation of the Edupact programme currently being developed in Hong Kong, China. It was noted that this was an attempt to translate the human capacity development discussions in to a real resource for persons wishing to learn about policy and regulation in the region.

The TEL Chair then closed the meeting by asking all officials to note the emphasis that the dialogue had placed on partnerships with the private sector. She also asked that steering groups discuss how the universal service obligation, wireless service agenda, and capacity building issues that had been identified during the dialogue could be progressed in the TEL.

G. Steering Group Meetings and Reports

After the PECC-APEC dialogue the TEL divided into the four Steering Groups which reported back to the Plenary on Friday morning.

The Business Facilitation Steering Group (BFSG) Convenor, Mr Colin Oliver of Australia, took the floor to report on the outcomes of the meeting. (Plenary document number plen/33 refers. Full report contained in Attachment A.)

At the conclusion of

his verbal report to the Plenary, the USA added information about the US Department of Commerce Information Technology Tool, developed with SMEs in the US and which has been made available on a non- proprietary basis. The USA would like to offer to organise a seminar in conjunction with TEL 24 to focus on this tool. The objectives would be to provide SMEs with information on investment and e- commerce adoption and to further the BFSG work of uptake of e- commerce throughout the region. The tool was mentioned at the BFSG but not the idea of a seminar. The tool could feed into the work currently underway on interoperability.

The offer was noted by the Chair who asked the USA to work in consultation with the BFSG Convenor and the ECSG Chairs on the idea of the seminar and its possible goals and scope. She also asked the USA to keep points of contact, and particularly Korea, informed of developments.

The Chair sought clarification on the publication proposal and the BFSG Convenor explained there are gaps in economies where the good work of the e-Security task force is needed. He felt there is a case for printing documents and making sure they are available to other groups in APEC and groups in economies who may not know to look at the TEL website for documents on the issue of e-security. Some private sector sponsorship may be sought to help

defray costs.

The

Development Cooperation Steering Group (DCSG) Convenor, Mr Sean Chu of Chinese Taipei, then gave his report from the meeting, followed by an update on Digital Divide work in the TEL by Dr Arnon. (Plenary documents numbered plen/36 and annexes a, b and c refer. See also Attachment B to this report.)

The Digital divide report was commended by the Chair who added that this issue is one of the most important for the TEL and it is imperative that all delegations

assist Dr (Digital Divide) Arnon in his work, especially the convenors of the other task groups.

The Deputy Chair sought clarification about the APII Cooperation Centre regarding the association of the Centre with ASEM. He asked if this item was for our information only, given the links to other international organisations, which do not have formal recognition in APEC. He sought clarification that this was an independent activity and not a formal APEC activity. Collaboration with other organisation is to be encouraged but according to the established guidelines.

Korea confirmed that this item was for information for the APEC TEL only.

New Zealand a

sked if there are mechanisms in place for other organisations listed in the external stocktake to be informed of the work APEC TEL is doing and it was agreed that delegates to APEC TEL who also attend other fora should be aware of opportunities to inform those fora of the work of the TEL. The TEL Chair, Sean and Dr Arnon and the Secretariat could work together on this issue.

The APEC Secretariat added that all the guidelines that the APEC Secretariat administers are drawn up by the member economies initially and are set at the level of sensitivities that may exist.

They are not there to restrict the cooperation at all.

The aim is to undertake meaningful collaboration and cooperation. Establishing formal links is not perhaps the best way to do this but to utilize the links that exist within our economies and spreading the word informally in other fora. Where the issue is sensitive, the advice and guidance of the Secretariat and TEL Chair's office should be sought. The overriding aim is to spread the message and not duplicate efforts.

As no further comments were forthcoming, the TEL Chair then asked Professor Ma Yan, Convenor of the Human Resource Development Group

(HRDSG) to make his report. (Plenary document number plen/35 refers. See also Attachment C to this report.) As the conclusion of Professor Ma's report

, the floor was open for discussion.

Clarification was sought on the Telecommunication Tariffs Regulation training project and it was explained that it is not to be a bilateral project. It is being developed between Indonesia and Australia. If and when funding becomes available other economies would be able to participate.

The USA brought delegates' attention to paragraph (5.3) regarding URLs of educational course work. There are several other references in other steering group reports, which also relate to collections of URLs. Leaders called for APEC to establish the knowledge network and the USA suggested that the TEL invite the Secretariat and the Korean host of the web site to work on this issue and bring it to the attention of Leaders, including the vendor training site as part of our larger efforts to have our activities recognised by the larger APEC network. The Chair added that there has been little guidance about the knowledge network and, taken broadly, it could encompass all the work of the TEL. As it is not yet known how the Knowledge Network is actually going to work, the assistance of the APEC Secretariat was therefore required.

Indonesia added their support to the Korean proposal for another distance learning project on basic telecommunication technology. They added that it would be most helpful for them if this project were held within the next year.

The Chair thanked Professor Ma for his work again as convenor of this group.

Mr John Deasy of tThe USA and acting Convenor of the Liberalisation Steering Group (LSG) then reported to the plenary. (Plenary document number plen/34 refers. See also Attachment D to this report.)

At the end of the verbal report the floor was open for comments. New Zealand offered to help progress discussion on the possible change in name of the

Liberalisation Steering Group to " Competition & Regulatory Policy Steering Group" by setting down the reasons for seeking the change and sending them to the Convenor of the LSG.. The chair recognised that this would be a good way to begin discussion on this topic between now and TEL 24.

Report from the IITG

The Chair of the Internet Issues Task Group was also asked to report to the plenary on the progress the group has made. Document plen/31 refers. At the conclusion

, the USA added a point to the summary of the discussion held at the workshop dealing with the fact that the fall in prices and the increase in availability of bandwidth has meant that ICAIS is no longer relevant to the economic concerns of economies. This change was accepted by the Chair of the IITG. In response to the US' comments on bandwidth, China commented that although bandwidth prices tend to be decreasing, one of IITG' s tasks is supposed to study ICAIS, which is currently not fair, and this group should further study ICAIS and report back to TEL 24 on the progress, and make appropriate recommendations to the next TELMIN. A copy of the amended report is at Annex C to this report.

China asked for clarification on the way the group will work and the processes of the electronic forum. The Chair of the IITG added that draft processes for using the electronic forum will be circulated shortly.

The TEL Chair asked about the notation on what other groups are doing on this issue and asked if the OECD is also participating in this discussion. Peter Furguson took that on board and will report to the TEL. USA added that the OECD is holding a workshop in June which on this topic.

H. Discussion/Approval of New Project Proposals/Priority Setting and Other Budget and Administration Matters

Three project proposals were presented to the TEL for endorsement to be sent to the BMC for consideration in August for 2001 funding. They are "Optimal Topology of Testbeds (research networks) and Simplified Commercial Networks in the APEC Region", put forward by Korea through the DCSG. This project is seeking $19,000 from the APEC Central fund. The second project is the "Distance Learning Project on Telecommunications Technology", again put forward by Korea, through the HRDSG. This project is seeking $19,000 from the APEC Central Fund. The BFSG mentioned that it will be preparing a project proposal to seek APEC Central Funds for publication of the e-Security Documents which are currently only housed on the web. In order to draw the various organisations in all economies to the excellent work undertaken by the e-Security Task Group, it is felt that other outreach methods should be employed. This project will seek no more than $10,000 and the draft project proposal will be circulated to points of contact intersessionally.

There were also two projects for the TEL which have already been submitted to the BMC for consideration from the remaining 2001 budget allocation. They were the VEMAT project from Singapore and the MRA Outreach project. The MRA Outreach project was submitted pending TEL approval. That proposal was endorsed by the Plenary and the BMC will be notified of this.

The amount being sought from the BMC in July is within the TEL cap. Projects will still need to be prioritised closer to the time.

Time at TEL 24 for the following seminars/workshops was also requested:

Steering Group	Subject	Time requested	Status
BFSG	e-Security Task Group	1 day	Approved
	IT Tools	½ day	Pending
DCSG	Digital Divide	½ day	Approved
LSG	MRA Task Force	1 day	Approved
	MRA Joint Council	½ day	Approved
IITG	Seminar	½ day	Approved

I. Presentations by Economies of their Recent Regulatory and Policy Developments

Copies of the full text of each economy's presentation can be found on the APEC TEL and TEL 23 web sites. (www.apectelwg.org and www.tel23.org)
 A list of the documents and their numbers is attached at Annex B.

J. Brief Voluntary Statements by Observers and Guests

The PECC representative began by summarising the PECC experience with APEC and specifically the TEL and gave a brief account of how the current strong relationship can continue. The Chair thanked the PECC representative for her contribution to the APEC TEL as this was her last meeting in this capacity. Personally, the Chair thanked Ms Pearce Stenzel for her contribution to the TEL over the years, by getting representation and participation in the dialogue sessions and in the general role of the TEL. The meeting expressed its appreciation with applause.

The Chair then welcomed the representative from Colombia who addressed the meeting giving his thanks to the Chair and Deputy Chair and reaffirming Colombia's interest in becoming a full member of APEC as a whole. He briefly informed the meeting of some of the initiatives in the telecommunications and ICT areas in his country. Colombia is the third largest internet market in

Latin America, after Mexico and Brazil. On line education, as evidenced in the "educatel" project that was presented at TEL 22 and other leading implementation initiatives that go beyond APEC economies within the South American region were sited. Colombia's goal as guest is to work with the member economies to further the goals of APEC. The Ambassador added three key objectives:

1.	To work closely with the BFSG and build a network to help private sector take advantage of the underway in that group;

2.	The possibility for guest economies to present to Colombia on their regulatory updates; and

3.	For a study visit team to visit Colombia to assess their telecommunication market so that if and when Colombia becomes a full member of APEC it will be able to begin participation on the same level.

The last guest to address the meeting was AOEMA. A copy of their address is contained below.

APEC TEL has come a long way.

AOEMA staff have been involved in APEC and APEC TEL meetings since TEL 3 in Tokyo Japan. In those days it was called WGT which means Working Group on Telecommunications.

In the early years, a lot of time was spent in discussing the real purpose of the TEL and the structure of its work groups. This time was not wasted as it provided an opportunity for all economies to understand each other's view. Also it helped to develop the camaraderie which runs throughout the TEL today.

TEL 7 was held in Surfers Paradise in Queensland, Australia in 1993 and this meeting was the first time that all economies were represented at the meeting. There were 15 economies around the table at that time.

Electronic Commerce (which AOEMA staff were encouraging in the TEL) was almost completely unknown at that time. No one had email.

Mr Tosaki added this quote from the TEL 7 chair's report

"The WGT is viewed by many as the flagship sector within APEC with a work program focussed on both policy and practical results. Both approaches have proved to be appropriate, complementary and correct."

This approach is clearly still in evidence and I believe it is the 'secret' to the TEL's success.

We have all come a long way since then and it has been our honour and our pleasure to work with all of you on the development and use of our Telecommunications Infrastructure.

## K.	Discussion of Next Meeting and Other Business

Korea invited us all to the Jeju, the Honeymoon Island of Korea, from 17-21 September

2001 and provided information on the location and the meeting through publications. The Chair thanked Korea for their kind invitation and hoped that the meeting would be successful, in all ways.

The Chair then announced that the application from INTUG for guest status of the TEL was approved by Heads of Delegation and, pending SOM approval, INTUG would be a guest of the TEL from the next meeting. INTUG's representative, Mr Ernie Newman from New Zealand, was delighted with the decision and added that he looks forward to sitting at the table and contributing to the work of the TEL.

L. Transition to new TEL Chair and Vice Chair

Before announcing the nominated candidate for the Vice Chair position, Ms D'Costa spent a few moments once again thanking the Australian organisers for their
management of this successful meeting. She asked the plenary to join with her in thanking the members of the APEC TEL 23 Secretariat by acclamation.

The Chair then informed the meeting that unanimous support has been achieved for one delegate

to become the new Deputy Chair of TEL. The person chosen has the personal respect of many people at the TEL. Salma Jaliffe has accepted the position to become Deputy Chair of the TEL. The plenary showed its support by acclamation. In Salma's absence Mr Jorge Arreloa said a few words on her behalf and on behalf of Mexico. He said that it was a great honour for Mexico and for Salma and thanked the meeting for the nomination. He added that he saw great advantages in taking on the position for Cofitel and Mexico in having closer association with the TEL. He also assured the support of Cofitel to Salma to ensure she will be able to carry out her duties.

The Chair then said a few words to mark the end of her term as Chair

saying that one of the greatest joys of the job was being able to represent her economy of Singapore, of which she is extremely proud. She added that it is a great honour to represent one's economy and give something back to Singapore. She especially thanked her seniors at IDA who unstintingly provided support to enable her to undertake her various duties as Chair, and to do them well.

Of her staff in Singapore, Ms D'Costa particularly thanked Ms Melinda Tan and Ms Ruth Edwards for their support. She also thanked Mr Vernon Vasu who assisted her in the early years prior to and after becoming Chair, adding that he

will always have her gratitude. She also expressed her gratitude to Richard Thwaites for his contribution and help as her deputy Chair.

Ms D'Costa also went on to thank all who have contributed to the work of the TEL, including all host economies, past and present steering group convenors and deputies, task force and project chairs, guests and observers. She again took a few moments to thank Janet Pearce Stenzel and PECC for all their help.

After a few more reflections, Ms D'Costa handed the Chair to Mr Richard Thwaites of Australia.

Mr Thwaites thanked the meeting

for entrusting him with the task of TEL Chair. He also thanked Salma and Mexico for their acceptance of the position of Deputy Chair and added that he will rely heavily on his deputy for many important tasks. Adding that there will be greater opportunity to thank both Valerie and Janet tonight he asked for any comments from the floor. New Zealand spoke, expressing warm thanks and appreciation to both Valerie and Janet for their work over the years and apologised for not being able to join in the dinner this evening.

Mr Thwaites then congratulated all present for an extremely successful meeting

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M. Review and Adoption of Chair's Report

The Chair's Assistant, Ms Ruth Edwards of Singapore, informed the Plenary that the first draft of the Chair's report will be distributed in limited numbers at the function to be held at the National Museum of Australia later that evening. An electronic copy will be sent to all APEC TEL points of contact by 20 March 2001. Comments on the document are due to the outgoing Chair's office by 30 March 2001. The final report will be sent to points of contact by email and placed on the TEL web page by 10 April 2001.

ANNEX A

WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE

23RD MEETING OF THE APEC TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION WORKING GROUP

Sunday 11 March	MRA Workshop
Monday 12 March	Digital Divide/Skills Shortages Workshop
	Interoperability Workshop
	Interconnection Task Group Meeting
	MRA Task Group
	Internet Issues Workshop/Task Group
	e-Security Task Group
Tuesday 13 March	Regulators' Round Table
	e-Government Workshop
Wednesday 14 March	Gender Awareness Workshop
Thursday 15 March	MRA Joint Committee

(Saturday 17 March – APEC ECSG meeting)

ANNEX B

LIST OF REGULATORY UPDATES SUBMITTED TO TEL 23

Document Number	Economy Update
Plen/02	New Zealand
Plen/03	Hong Kong, China
Plen/04	Singapore
Plen/08	USA
Plen/09	Australia
Plen/10	Chinese Taipei
Plen/13	Korea

Plen/14	Philippines
Plen/15	Peru
Plen/17	China
Plen/18	Indonesia
Plen/21 and Plen 29	Brunei Darussalam
Plen/26	Mexico
Plen/27	Papua New Guinea
Plen/28	Japan

Plen/30	Viet Nam
Plen/32	Canada
Plen/38	Thailand

(Missing: Chile, Malaysia and Russia)

ANNEX C

INTERNET ISSUES TASK GROUP

Report to Plenary, TEL 23

Background

The third APEC Telecommunications and Information Industry Ministerial Meeting (TELMIN3) in Singapore, June 1998, set up an International Charging Arrangements for Internet Services (ICAIS) Task Force. The Task Force reported to the fourth APEC Telecommunications and Information Industry Ministerial Meeting

(TELMIN 4), in Mexico, May 2000. TELMIN4 adopted a set of "*APEC Principles on International Charging Arrangements for Internet Services*", and agreed on further actions for the TEL related to Internet charging issues. Much of this work is being undertaken within TEL's Steering Groups, as set out in Attachments to the TEL Chair's Report of TEL22.

TEL22 established the Internet Issues Task Group to coordinate activities and report on progress. The Terms of Reference were finalised by the TEL Chair in consultation with delegations since TEL22, and are available in the TEL23 papers, Internet Issues Task Group, document number telwg23/n/01. The IITG's first task was to organise an Information Seminar to take place at TEL23.

Internet Issues Workshop Monday 12 March 2001

The workshop heard three presentations

- Geoff Huston – Telstra – Australia: "Developments in the architecture and protocols of the Internet"

- Masao Fujita – Starhub – Singapore: "Developments in internet service provision from a carrier's perspective"

- Barbara Dooley - CIX – USA: "Developments in large-scale bandwidth provision"

Mr Huston gave an overview of the changing structure of the Internet, particularly in relation to the rapid development of cable capacity, the changing nature of the network itself as shown by network metrics, and trends in interconnection. His conclusion was that IP transmission is now a commodity market, that "peering" relationships are more normally "customer" relationships at many levels, but that the position of the Tier 1 carriers was no longer so dominant and there were many opportunities for lower-level ISPs to bypass interconnection bottlenecks. However, evolving Internet content market is a significant issue that must be be considered separately from the carriage market.

Mr Fujita described the experience of StarHub as a new entrant to a competitive market. StarHub aims to become an Internet gateway for Singapore, providing access to regional and global Internet infrastructure. It has noticed a relative decline in US traffic as bandwidth increases and regional links are developed. Starhub sees the development of interconnectivity within the Western Pacific region, and increased intra-regional peering, as essential for competitive Internet carriers. More opportunities for cable ownership are also important in order to reduce the price-setting power of the established carriers who own the cable systems. Quality of Service is also a significant rising issue as new applications require guaranteed uptimes and latency.

Ms Dooley described recent technical developments which are rapidly increasing capacity and lowering prices, particularly in the USA and Europe. She noted a decline of the satellite option as a major factor, as cable capacity prices are coming down faster than anyone anticipated. She suggested that "public peering", using common exchange facilities such as CIX, was showing some revival after declining in recent years. New arrangements are needed for services such as multicasting, and exchanges (Network Access Points) increasingly operated on the basis of fixed bandwidth rationing, rather than traffic flow accounting. New optical gateway protocols (OBGP)

would make feasible much more direct peering, thus reducing dependence on established backbone providers.

Frank March (New Zealand), and Ricardo Rodriguez (Mexico), joined the presenters in a panel to discuss a range of issues raised by the speakers and from the audience. Some of the matters raised were

- concerns about costs and resulting difficulties of access, particularly for lesser developed economies

- the expense of international connections; the need to develop regional hubs

- the complexity of the issues and the rapid changes in Internet charging and economics

- the still high absolute cost of infrastructure and the need to balance this cost against the most favourable regulatory regimes

- the unfavourable effect of the 2000 downturn in tech and communications companies, in spite of continued overall growth

- the need to consider the Internet Issues Group Terms of Reference in planning a way forward for APEC-TEL

- the possibility that declines in overall bandwidth costs might reduce the need for economies to develop positions on Internet charging arrangements

Internet Issues Task Group Wednesday 14 March 2001

The Task Group met to consider the Terms of Reference, the outcomes of the Seminar, to plan activities and to prepare a report to Plenary.

Suggested activities for the Internet Issues Task Group

The Task Group has been charged with the role of continuing to discuss and develop international Internet charging arrangements, and foster discussion between business/private sector and government parties on the appropriate means to assess and reward the value of products and services exchanged in the provision of converged Internet services among APEC economies. To this end the Group decided to undertake two specific activities.

Initiation of online information and discussion

The Task Group agreed that the Task Group convenor should organise an electronic "Virtual Forum" utilising email and website posting of views and proposals from economies. Suggestions for the initiation of discussion included publishing of the presentations to the seminar (with permission of the authors). Other papers and contributions would also be invited. A small oversight group was nominated to advise and assist the convenor and liaise with the website

administrators, consisting of Korea, China, USA, Mexico, Canada and Australia. This group met following the Task Group meeting and discussed possible ways in which a "Virtual Forum" could be established. Australia was asked to develop some draft policy and practical guidelines to be passed to the incoming convenor of the Task Group.

Internet issues seminar/workshop

The Task Group also agreed to propose that a workshop or seminar be organised at TEL 24. This seminar should have strong involvement of both public and private sectors. It was agreed that it should involve as wide a range of private sector bodies as possible, and present a comprehensive and balanced view of the issues.

Reports from each Steering Group on its involvement

Business Facilitation Steering Group

BFSG has a focus on the needs of business users of communications and information services. The work of the eSecurity Task Group including electronic authentication, encryption and critical infrastructure protection addresses broad issues that concern the integrity of IP networks and internet-based communications.

E-security technologies also have bandwidth implications.   So also do issues such as data management and integration of e-commerce systems which support interoperability.   They are being examined as part of a study of user needs for integration of e-commerce systems in the APEC region.   This project will take an integrated approach to interoperability issues looking at both IT and communications issues.   It will review potential solutions such as compression technologies and business models that are appropriate to different circumstances, recognising both the need for bandwidth to be increased, and the need for users to be able to work effectively within existing bandwidth limits.

In a preliminary way, possibilities for public-private sector partnerships have been mentioned as a possible area for fruitful discussion, for example in the context of e•government.   This may be developed further in future.

Development Cooperation Steering Group

At TEL23, the DCSG reviewed progress made since October 2000 on working themes and current/ new projects in support of the TELMIN4 ministerial guidance on Internet development and ICAIS issues. The DCSG noted the two theme areas of general Internet development, and work on ICAIS, and agreed to try to keep these areas in balance. The group reaffirmed prior work areas identified at TEL23, as follows with revisions, and added a new item from Japan:

1.   Promote greater information sharing. The DCSG endorses additional seminars on ICAIS/ IITG issues.

2. Promote greater international Internet development.

3. Assess dynamic business conditions to promote greater public and private investment and increase awareness.

4. Assess trends in growth of available bandwidth within and between APEC economies.

5. Assess implications of ICAIS arrangements on Internet infrastructure development (cause and effect relationships).

6. Track growth of local traffic management techniques (including caching and mirroring).

7. Track high-speed bandwidth development within and between economies and to project needs.

8. Track the variety of cooperative arrangements and their impact on high-speed bandwidth development.

9. Provide empirical measurement data on breakthroughs based on next-generation Internet research, to seek out new applications and activities in the APEC region.

10. Continue with the following existing and new projects/activities:

   a) Optimal Topology of Test-beds: Research Networks and Simplified Commercial Networks in the APEC Region (Korea: endorsed by DCSG at TEL23)

   b) APII Test Bed Project (Korea)

   c) APII Test Bed Project for Interconnectivity and Interoperability (Japan)

   d) Development and Financial Resources Catalogue Project (USA: to expand to include Internet resources)

   e) Techno-Economic Modelling Project (Australia)

Human Resource Development Steering Group

The HRDSG Convenor repeated the call of the Chair of the TEL, urging all steering groups to pay attention to the Internet related issues which the Internet Issues Task Group (IITG) will be specially in charge of at the meeting. HRDSG noticed that although there are no specific training programs with links directly to IITG, many current projects in HRDSG have already in a way or other related with Internet related issues, such as E-Commerce Skills Standards Training Program, Critical Information Protection Awareness Raising and Education, Basic Communications Technologies Training programs.

HRDSG will fully cooperate with other Steering Groups to investigate the training needs for Internet related issues, promote the Internet technology training projects and support other Internet related activities.

The HRDSG Convenor commented that HRDSG has strong responsibilities to promote

knowledge transfers within member economies.

<u>Liberalisation Steering Group</u>

During APEC TEL 23, the LSG reviewed Annex B (Contribution of the Liberalisation Steering Group to the APEC TEL discussion on International Charging Arrangements for Internet Services (ICAIS)). This document was included in the LSG report to Plenary at APEC TEL 22, October 11-12, 2000, Bali, Indonesia. It provides a guide to work underway or planned for the LSG which the LSG believes addresses the mandates developed regarding the ICAIS issue.

The LSG determined that Annex B continues to serve as a useful guide to the LSG's activities in this area. No specific additions or modifications to the menu of possible work items envisioned by Annex B were proposed during APEC TEL 23.

In reviewing Annex B, the LSG noted several priority work areas conducted during APEC TEL 23 or planned for APEC TEL 24. In implementing the request of the Convenor of the Internet Issues Task Group for an overview of LSG priority developments, rather than a comprehensive listing, the following items are of particular interest. (A full discussion of the status of implementation of Annex B is included in the LSG Report to Plenary.)

1. <u>The Regulators Roundtable</u> on Convergence held during APEC TEL 23 examined implications of convergence for the policy environment. The LSG decided to include an agenda item on issues of importance to regulators in its agenda for APEC TEL 24 and to name an overseer to explore the possibility of holding another Regulators Roundtable at APEC TEL 24.

2. <u>The Regulatory Structures Project</u> is currently developing a descriptive map of common issues and optional approaches that can be used for reference by economies in response to developing convergence issues.

3. <u>Regulatory Policies on Backhaul that Affect Investments on Submarine Cable Landing</u> was identified during the Internet Issues Workshop as a potentially significant issue given market changes that are dramatically increasing bandwidth in the Asia/Pacific region. The LSG has included discussion of this issue in its agenda for its meeting at APEC TEL 24.

4. <u>Local Loop Unbundling</u> was consistently noted as an issue of concern to regulators during the Regulators Roundtable. Annex B notes that the first step to considering the applicability of the APEC Principles of Interconnection to Internet Services is consideration of the impact of unbundling the local loop on availability of Internet services. The LSG has undertaken a series of discussions to examine industry and regulatory views on this issue, including during the Regulators Roundtable on Convergence. At APEC TEL 24, the LSG plans to accelerate this discussion by identifying those unbundling issues that can usefully be addressed by the LSG.

<u>Other current developments in this field</u>.
International Telecommunication Union

WTPF: The ITU held a World Telecommunication Policy Forum on IP Telephony on 7-9 March 2001.

The Convenor drew the meeting's attention to the Chairman's Report dated 9 March 2001, which had been distributed to delegates. He drew particular attention to Opinion A, which noted the potential benefits of IP-based networks and applications, and Opinion D, which called for the facilitation of the introduction of IP telephony by, among other things, identifying the cost elements of international IP connectivity with respect to the introduction of IP telephony.

WTSA-2000 Recommendation 50 on International Internet Connection: At its meeting in April 2000, Study Group 3 (SG3) decided to refer a draft recommendation to the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) on International Internet Connection. The draft recommendation was accepted (with some reservations) by the WTSA meeting in September 2000, and reads:

WTSA Recommendation D.50 – International Internet Connection

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Montreal, 2000)

Recognizing

The sovereign right of each State to regulate its telecommunication, as reflected in the Preamble to the Constitution,

Noting

a) the rapid growth of the Internet and IP based international services;

b) that international Internet connections remain subject to commercial agreements between the parties concerned; and

c) that continuing technical and economic development require ongoing studies in this area,

recommends

that administrations* involved in the provision of international Internet connections negotiate and agree to bilateral commercial arrangements enabling direct international Internet connections that take into account the possible need for compensation between them for the value of elements such as traffic flow, number of routes, geographical coverage and cost of international transmission amongst others.

(* the expression "administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.)

WTSA and Study Group 3: The mandate of SG3 for the 2001-2003 Study Period was set by the World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly (WTSA-2000).

– WTSA-2000 assigned four Study Questions to SG3

– Question 1/3 concerns Internet charging directly, dealing primarily with settlement problems arising from convergence and Internet issues. The agreed work item agenda for Question 1/3 is:

1. IP Telephony - implications for charging and settlements

2. IP Network Interworking - cooperation with other technical study groups on accounting related issues

3. Internet-based services - following up on the Recommendation recently adopted by the WTSA concerning taking into account distribution of cost elements in interconnection of international Internet services

4. ATM - refinement of existing Recommendations on accounting for ATM services

5. IMT-2000 - working with other study groups on 3rd Generation Mobile implications for accounting and settlements (eg interface of broadband and narrowband services, accounting for dynamically-assigned bandwidth, international roaming).

- At the December 2000 meeting of SG3, the relationship between the activities related to the preparation of WTPF and the activities of SG3 was discussed

- The substance of these issues will be advanced at the next meeting of SG3 (11-15 June 2001) on the basis of contributions received from the members.

A-P Regional Questionnaire: The ITU Regional Office in Bangkok is currently preparing a questionnaire to seek the views of regional stakeholders (such as Internet service providers, telecom operators, Internet users, user associations, regulators) of the Internet market of Asia-Pacific region. A forum is planned by ITU to follow up issues raised in the questionnaire.

Asia-Pacific Telecommunity

The APT held a Seminar on IP-based Networks Management and Internet Charging 22 - 24 February 2001, Bangkok, Thailand. Documents are at:

http://www.aptsec.org/astap/IP-based_Networks/Documentation/Papers/ASTAP01.EG.NM. AD.01_List-of-Documents_revised.doc

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

The OECD published a report on Internet pricing and the development of Internet entitled "Local Access Pricing and E-Commerce" on 26 July 2000.

Indicators of the Internet infrastructure supporting electronic commerce, examined in this report, continue to show high growth rates in the OECD area.

The report can be found at: http://www.oecd.org//dsti/sti/it/cm/stats/newindicators.htm

Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)

The XIII Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunication Services held in Lima, Peru, October 30 to November 3, 2000 considered a draft Questionnaire to serve as a starting point for gathering information which could be of use for the study of international arrangements on charges in Internet Services. The responses to this questionnaire were to be returned by 1 March 2001. A full analysis of international Internet charging arrangements was to be held at the XIV PCC.I meeting in March 2001. Further information is at:

http://www.citel.oas.org/pcc1/docs/p1-1194r2_i.doc