TEL Chair's Report –For Approval

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**APEC Telecommunications and Information Working Group
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APEC TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION WORKING GROUP 29TH MEETING (March 21-26, Hong-Kong, China)

Chair's Report -- Final Draft for Approval

INTRODUCTION

Hong Kong, China, hosted the twenty-ninth meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Working Group on Telecommunications and Information (TEL). Eighteen economies of the APEC region were represented, including Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Russia; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America and Viet Nam. Also attending were the Director (Program) of the APEC Secretariat; representatives of five guests APLAC, AOEMA, GBDe, INTUG and Macao, China; and one official observer: PECC.

Ms. Salma Jalife from Mexico chaired the meeting.

OPENING OF TEL 29

The TEL 29 Meeting was preceded by a number of workshops, meetings and a roundtable:

Sunday, March 21, 2004	Incident Response and Forensics Workshop
Monday, March 22, 2004	e-Security Task Group Meeting
	Regulatory Roundtable – Next Generation Networks
Tuesday, March 23, 2004	MRA Task Force Meeting
	Broadband Workshop
	e-Government Workshop

The first plenary meeting of TEL 29 was opened officially on the morning of Wednesday, March 24, 2004 by Mr. John Tsang, Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology from the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

In his opening address, the Secretary welcomed all participants to Hong Kong and expressed his wishes for a fruitful meeting. He also shared some views, particularly relevant to Hong Kong, as food for thought for the discussions at TEL 29. These views were related to three subjects: The first was productivity growth due to the increased use of ICT's; second, the impact of rapid technological advancements; and third, the value of mutual cooperation.

On the first subject, he said that the use of ICT's is crucial to enhance productivity and to strengthen business environments. He recognized that this also applies to public services,

for example, by means of e-government programs. Therefore, an important challenge is to improve the quality and effectiveness of these programs.

On the second subject, the Secretary noted that with extremely short technological cycles, business models need to be constantly re-invented. Furthermore, policies and regulations require a strong level of flexibility to keep up with the advancements in technology. He described the Digital 21 strategy as an example of how Hong Kong has addressed these rapid technological changes.

Regarding the third subject, the Secretary reaffirmed the value of mutual cooperation. He said that TEL 29 participants should work to promote access to ICT's, increase understanding of e-security and e-government initiatives, and facilitate free trade agreements in the region, as well as mutual recognition arrangements and human capacity building efforts.

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The TEL Chair, Ms. Salma Jalife, thanked the Secretary for his opening address. She also thanked Hong Kong, China, for hosting a very well-organized event. She then said that, after almost 15 years of existence, the TEL Working Group is, in some ways, in its adolescence. In its first meeting held in Singapore, only nine member economies, comprising 33 representatives, participated. In TEL 29, there are 18 economies, 5 guest members, one official observer, and more than 300 people participating.

Ms. Jalife praised the fact that, despite differences in culture, language, history, and geography, TEL members are continuously finding new ways to help their societies communicate better. In fact, TEL economies are perceptively moving from the Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure into the Asia-Pacific Information Society. Consequently, in her opinion, TEL 29 initiatives should help to move forward into the next phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and, first, towards the next Ministerial meeting, TELMIN 6.

The Chair again thanked the Secretary and promised him that diversity, creativity and innovation of all participants will result in positive outcomes for TEL 29. The Secretary then departed.

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The Chair introduced the members of the presidium: Director (Program) from the APEC Secretariat, Ms. Monica Ochoa; Vice-Chair Dr. Inuk Chung from Korea; and the Chair's Assistant, Mr. Pablo Hinojosa. The Chair lamented the absence of Dr. Arnon Tubtiang from Thailand, also Vice-Chair.

## A.	REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair opened the floor for comments on the proposed agenda. There were no comments from members and the agenda was adopted as follows:

Items with (*) were discussed in the second Plenary meeting on Friday March 26, 2004. Items marked with (½) mean that discussions took place during both Plenary meetings.

## B.	INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Chair, Ms. Salma Jalife, talked about her views on the present and future activities of the TEL. Highlights of her discourse are provided below:

➔ *From APII to APIS*

The TEL has to accomplish the transition from an Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure into the Asia-Pacific Information Society. The TEL should find practical solutions to work in this direction. APEC fora in general and APEC TEL in particular should work with efficiency and excellence to become the model to follow in terms of building an information society, and realizing the related economic and social benefits.

➔ *Executive Committee*

The Executive Committee of the TEL has new members. They will share their creativity and experience to help the TEL to achieve its objectives, taking into account the actions and directions addressed by the Ministers of Telecommunications and Information and also the priorities set up by Leaders to accomplish the Bogor Goals for a liberalized region.

➔ *Work Priorities of Steering Groups*

Convenors of the four TEL Steering Groups need to ensure that the objectives of all of its projects correspond to the recently adopted 11 APEC SOM policy priorities and 4 ECOTECH priorities. Attention should also be given to the conclusion of previous TELMIN directives and plans of action, and to the identification of priorities for TELMIN 6.. It is important to find those areas where work will need to be extended. Additionally, Convenors need to encourage reflection in their own Steering Groups on new input for Ministers in terms of a Plan of Action or a Pathfinder initiative with the aim of setting the foundations to enter into the Information Society and further APEC's objectives of free and open trade in the Asia Pacific region. The coexistence of Next Generation Networks, Wireless Communications and the Internet together with the traditional circuit switched networks, and related opportunities and implications for trade facilitation, ought to be an important focal point of this reflection.

➔ *Dissemination of Information*

Workshops surrounding the program of TEL meetings have proved to be (and will sure continue to be) very useful. However, it is important to find alternative means to disseminate information such as the exchange of experiences through inter-sessional work and the use of network applications such as Webinars and Virtual Forums. This will help to increase the TEL's effectivness and, potentially, reduce the costs of the meetings. Efforts to improve the different means of inter-sessional communications should continue, for example, upgrading the process of presenting Regulatory Update Reports. Further attention should be given to governance methods within the TEL to effectively incorporate the use of new technologies.

➔ *Cooperation with Other Fora*

TEL need to find ways to raise awareness on its past successes, ongoing work, and future objectives. For example, the TEL's approach to addressing challenges, as well as project findings and outcomes, may be useful for other APEC groups, as well as broader international processes such as the WSIS process and the WTO Doha round.

The TEL should also consider building on the successful partnerships it has developed for collaborating on specific issues, for example with the OECD.

➔ *Participation of Members*

TEL members need to be conscious to respond to surveys and questionnaires, to update matrixes and databases in order to be able to measure current status and evolution of the APEC region's telecommunications and IT environment. At the same time, project coordinators should consider the need to avoid burdensome reporting, and structure work to facilitate collaboration of members. The success of TEL in finding practical solutions to the needs of the region, depends highly on the collection of relevant and accurate information. Without this information it might be impossible to measure our success at reaching APEC

objectives, such as bridging the digital divide, and to respond to Ministers and Leaders appropriately.

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The Chair briefly reviewed the objectives and work done by the TEL. A summary of this review is presented in the matrix in **APPENDIX I**.

C. APEC SECRETARIAT REPORT ON APEC DEVELOPMENTS

The Chair called upon Ms. Mónica Ochoa, Director (Program) from the APEC Secretariat, to review recent developments of APEC. The full report is document PLEN/09 and the presentation is PLEN/09a.

The Director commenced her presentation by mentioning the new initiatives agreed last year in Thailand at the 11th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (11th AELM) and the 15th APEC Ministerial Meeting (15th AMM). These initiatives are inclined towards promoting free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region and also include complementary measures related to counter-terrorism.

The Director said that APEC initiated the year 2004 in Chile with the theme "One Community, Our Future". In February-March, Senior Officials decided in Santiago during SOM I, the following eleven annual priorities:

Policy Priorities	Cross-Cutting Priorities
1. Support for the WTO 2. Inclusion of FTAs/RTAs discussions within APEC´s work Agenda 3. Implementation of APEC Security Commitments 4. Implementation of the APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan 5. Finalization and Implementation of APEC Transparency Standards 6. Implementation for the Structural Reform Action Plan 7. Preparations for the Mid-Term Review of the Bogor Goals	8. Capacity Building 9. Development of a Database on Implementation of APEC commitments 10. Interaction with APEC stakeholders 11. APEC Reform

These priorities for 2004 constitute important criteria for fora to develop and rank funding proposals of APEC projects. Additionally, for CTI and ECHOTECH projects, the following priorities may also apply:

ECOTECH Priorities (agreed by Ministers in October 2003)	CTI Priorities (agreed by CTI in February 2004)
1. Integration into the Global Economy; 2. Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building; 3. Promoting the Development of Knowledge-Based Economies; 4. Addressing the Social Dimension of Globalization	1. Support for the WTO; 2. Trade and investment facilitation (including IPR); 3. Implementation of the APEC Transparency Standards; 4. Implementation of Pathfinder Initiatives; 5. Contribution to the APEC Structural Reform Action Plan

The main task for all working groups is to work out specific policies and measures to implement these priorities.

On the subject of management issues, the Director spoke about decisions taken in the Budget and Management Committee Meting (BMC) of July 2003. The Operational Account budget for 2004 was US$2 million. Members agreed that they would not consider projects from fora which exceeded 10% of this budget (US$200,000). With regards to the TILF fund, she said that there was no guarantee that the contribution from Japan in 2004 could be maintained at the existing level of US$4,800,000. Also, Japan invited other member economies to contribute to the account; however, no new contributors came forward. BMC also indicated that future project proposals will be scrutinized more thoroughly and will be evaluated based on the SOM and CTI priorities.

Continuing on the subject of project funding, the Director said that concurrently with the TEL meeting, the BMC convened in Singapore to decide on urgent projects which were to be implemented after April 2004. The money available in the Operational Account was US$125,830 and the money available in the TILF Special Account was US$632,223. Those projects which exceeded US$20,000 will have to be sent to SOM for inter-sessional approval. Projects will be ready for implementation by mid to late April 2004.

For 2005 projects, the Director informed that they will be considered by BMC II (24-26 August 2004). Completed and ranked projects from the TEL should be submitted to the APEC Secretariat by Friday, July 30, 2004. The Director would be pleased to comment on projects prior to the deadline.

Other issues that the Director addressed in her intervention were the following:

- Project Overseers are reminded of the need to give adequate time to identify participants and speakers being funded to attend workshops. It can take several weeks to process their travel and for them to obtain visas.

- Project Overseers should contact the Secretariat on a regular basis, at least once every two months, for the duration of the project.

- The Evaluation Report should be submitted to the APEC Secretariat within eight weeks of the completion of the project with comments from the forum small group and the Chair/Lead Shepherd.

- The BMC would review the *Guidebook on APEC Projects* in a number of areas

- The new APEC Secretariat website, now conveniently located at www.apec.org, is available for use by APEC fora to communicate the benefits and outcomes of the process to appropriate audiences in member economies.

D. ADOPTION OF TEL 28 CHAIR'S REPORT

Since there were no comments to this document, the Chair's Report from the 28th Meeting of TEL was adopted.

E. STEERING GROUP AND TASK GROUP MEETINGS AND REPORTS

1. Business Facilitation Steering Group (BFSG) Meeting

The Chair asked the BFSG Convenor, Mr. YS Lee, to present his report. His full report is Document PLEN/28.

The Convenor said that the BFSG meeting was very successful and it had enthusiastic participation from member economies. He briefly summarized BFSG activities, including the eSTG meeting and the CERT workshop. With regards to BFSG on-going projects, he informed that the Steering Group approved with satisfaction nine reports.

No new project proposals were put forward by the BFSG. However, the Convenor requested the organization of a one-day meeting of the eSTG and a one day workshop covering 'wireless security' and 'Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT)' themes, both at TEL 30.

Finally, the Convenor made the following recommendations to the Plenary:

- That all new TEL project budgets seeking APEC funds be reviewed to ensure that the cost of uploading the relevant documents on the TEL website is reflected.

- That TEL, through the TEL Chair's office, should disseminate the results of the project BFSG/10 "e-University Network in HRD for e-Government", by Thailand and PECC, to the HRDWG of APEC.

- That there should be a TEL representation at the 2nd APEC High Level Symposium on e-Government to be held in 2004 in Mexico.

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The Chair, Ms. Salma Jalife thanked the Convenor Mr. YS Lee for his report and confirmed her disposition to participate at the 2nd High Level Symposium in Mexico. Ms. Jalife then invited Mr. David Hickman, Chair of the eSTG, to give a report on his Task Group meeting.

1.1.   Electronic Security Task Group (eSTG) Meeting

Mr. David Hickman, Chair of the eSTG, referred to his written report, included in Document PLEN/28, and began his oral presentation by mentioning that Hong Kong China had organized a very successful Incident Response and Forensics Workshop on Sunday, March 21, which dealt with issues relating to computer attacks and vulnerabilities, the proactive actions taken by various CERT teams to fight against these attacks, and the forensics methodology and tools to investigate these incidents.

Mr. Hickman also spoke about the activities that occurred during the eSTG meeting, such as those related to electronic authentication and security of information and networks.

On the first topic, electronic authentication, Mr. Hickman talked about the progress report of Project eSTG/20 "PKI Interoperability Guidelines", the aim of which is to facilitate cross border e-commerce by providing a basis for the legal recognition of electronic signatures from other jurisdictions. He said that it is hoped to have an agreed set of guidelines by TEL 30.

Also on this topic, the Chair of the eSTG alluded to a number of presentations given at the meeting concerning the use and evolution of PKI, electronic signatures and e-certification in different APEC economies.

With regards to security of information and networks, he mentioned that wireless security and Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT) were given prominence. On the latter, he said that the project of CERT Awareness Raising and Capacity Building has completed initial in-country training in Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. As a result of the allocation of new funds from APEC TILF (and additional resources from the United States), training is now ensured also in Mexico, Peru, Chile and Russia.

A number of CERT representatives were invited to give a strategic assessment of e-security issues and trends in the Asia-Pacific region. This was a very valuable exercise and it will continue as a permanent item on the eSTG agenda. The next report (TEL 30) will draw on the input and expertise of all the CERTs/CSIRTs operating within APEC. It serves to bring into sharp focus e-security issues and challenges all economies face.

Regarding Project ESTG/07 "Cybercrime Legislation and Enforcement Capacity Building", Mr. Hickman indicated that both a survey and a database have been completed. One-on-one capacity building assistance is also planned for four more countries (Thailand, Chinese Taipei, Vietnam and Peru).

Finally, the eSTG Chair mentioned that the BFSG Convenor had agreed that there would be a request for a full-day meeting of the eSTG at TEL 30, together with a full-day workshop covering 'wireless security' and 'CSIRT information sharing'.

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The Chair of the TEL, Ms. Jalife, thanked Mr. Hickman and asked him to clarify if the workshop costs were guaranteed by a sponsor. He indicated that the two workshops would be self-funded and that the United States had agreed to organize and manage both.

## 2.	Human Resource Development Steering Group Meeting (HRDSG)

The Chair of the TEL asked the HRDSG Convenor, Dr. Lang-Chee Chang, to present his report, a full copy of which is Document PLEN/27.

The Convenor asked the TEL to endorse three new project proposals agreed by HRDSG:

1. Project HRDSG/13, "Regulatory Training Implementation" by Australia, which is seeking US$144,000 from APEC TILF Special Account.

2. Project HRDSG/07, "APEC Telecenter Development Program" by Chinese Taipei, which is self-funded.

3. Project HRDSG/09, "Wi-Fi Connectivity in Rural and Remote Communities: Bridging the Digital Divide" by Canada, seeking US$33,550 from APEC Central Fund.

Also, the Convenor requested the preparation of two workshops at TEL 30: a half-day APEC Smart Community Development workshop (proposed by Canada) and a full-day APEC Telecenter Development Program workshop (proposed by Chinese Taipei).

With regards to Project HRDSG/04, "APEC-MRA HRD Project: Training Program Design for Phase II Implementation" by Australia, the Convenor said that it is expected to be completed in September 2004.

With regards to Project HRDSG/05 "e-University Network in HRD for e-Government" by Thailand and PECC, the Convenor said that the first activity during 2004 was the e-government workshop at TEL 29. This workshop will be followed by an on-line lecture, supported by JICA.NET and destined for Philippines (July), Indonesia (August), Vietnam (September) and Thailand (later).

The results of Project HRDSG/02, "SME Internet Safety Program", Project HRDSG/04 "APEC-MRA HRD Project: Training Program Design for Phase II Implementation", and Project HRDSG/06b, "Regulatory Training Design Project", will be reported in TEL 30.

To conclude, the Convenor asked other Steering Groups from TEL to provide feedback to Document HRDSG/10 "Matrix of TEL Activities - HRDSG". This matrix is based on the Program of Action of TELMIN 5 and is expected to be submitted for TELMIN 6.

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The Chair of the TEL, Ms. Jalife, thanked Mr. Chang for his report and permitted Prof. Toshio Obi, organizer of the e-government workshop, to give a brief summary report about the Workshop on e-Government, held on Tuesday, March 23.

2.1.   Workshop on e-Government

Prof. Obi said that the workshop was very successful. It comprised a full-day of activities and there were 48 participants. It was a very good example of cooperation between different Steering Groups, since both BFSG and HRDSG actively participated in this workshop. There were 11 speakers from different economies.

One of the main conclusions of the workshop was that e-government, together with major contents are core competencies of TEL. This working group should play an important role for the formulation of e-government policies in the APEC region.

Another issue of relevance was the continuity of coordination and cooperation between BFSG and HRDSG to enrich the APEC e-government work program.

Also raised was the need of a systematic CIO regional training program and the future creation of an APEC CIO council meeting.

Such topics as outsourcing, Open Source Software (OSS), accessibility, usability, public-private partnerships, information security, the shift from infrastructure to applications and policy reviews were also discussed during the workshop.

As a final point, Prof. Obi informed that a follow-up e-government workshop will be held in November in Tokyo.

3.   Liberalisation Steering Group Meeting (LSG)

The Chair of the TEL asked the LSG Convenor, Mr. Colin Oliver, to present his report, a full version of which is Document PLEN/25.

The Convenor thanked the hosts from Hong Kong for the organization of TEL 29. He began his report by saying that the LSG supported the proposal for a workshop on Next Generation Networks (NGN) and requested two half day sessions for the MRA Task Force at TEL. There were no new project proposals from LSG requiring APEC funding.

Regarding the Regulatory Roundtable on Next Generation Networks, held on Monday, March 22, he said that this was a very successful event organized by Hong Kong. The next step would be to take the work addressed at the Roundtable forward by having a discussion at TEL 30. For this discussion, he recommended a less formal approach to facilitate open participation; for example, a classroom style rather than open square setting.

On Document LSG/15 "Progress towards Adopting and Implementing the WTO Reference Paper", the Convenor said that a draft report prepared by Canada has been circulated. Economies are requested to verify their information and provide comments to Canada (Susan Johnston) by the end of April, in order for the TEL Chair to submit the report to the Committee of Trade and Investment in mid-May.

On Document LSG/16 "Best Practices to Implementing the WTO Reference Paper Guide", the Convenor said that a draft of the paper will be circulated inter-sessionally to all economies for comments, and there will be a discussion at TEL 30. The final document will be presented for discussion and endorsement at TEL 31 and will be presented to TELMIN 6 for ministerial endorsement.

Regarding Project LSG/02a "Stocktake of Progress Toward the Key Elements of a fully Liberalised Telecommunications Sector in the APEC Region" and Document LSG/11 "Liberalization Stocktake – Next Steps", both by Australia, the Convenor said that the purpose is to revisit the *Reference List of elements for a Fully Liberalised Telecommunications Services Sector* adopted by Ministers at TELMIN 2 (1996), to assess its scope an recommend if there are necessary adjustments or additional measures. The LSG agreed that the project, in charge of the Australian APEC Centre, had been successful, confirming that the key elements are still relevant. LSG also agreed to allow further two weeks for economies to provide additional comments to the report before its publication.

On Document LSG/08 "Effective Compliance and Enforcement – Draft Guidelines and Practices", the Convenor said that the paper is now at an advanced stage. A further draft will be circulated at TEL 30. The final document will be presented for discussion and endorsement at TEL 31 and will be presented to TELMIN 6 for ministerial endorsement.

Based on the proposal from INTUG LSG/03 "Virtual Private Networks – Survey of current Regulation in APEC Economies", LSG agreed to create a short-term Task Group to develop and conduct a survey on VPN regulation in APEC economies. A report will be compiled for TEL 30 and will work as an input for the NGN workshop.

On the information exchange front, the Convenor mentioned an interesting presentation from INTUG and USA about pricing of leased lines (see Document LSG/06). LSG agreed to form a project group to develop a proposal for TEL 30 to advance further on this issue.

Related to the MRA Task Force Meeting, the Convenor reported that there is yet no nomination of a Vice-Chair for this Task-Force. He also said that China had made an announcement that it is prepared to implement Phase I in August 2004. Additionally, he briefly reported on the current status of Projects: MRATF/04 "APEC MRA-HRD Training Program Design for Phase II Implementation"; LSG/05 "MRA Management System (MRAMS)"; and the "Standards Equivalence Project".

The Convenor's final remarks were dedicated to the Collective Actions (Figure 1), which comprise LSG priorities with particular attention to the areas of: a) good regulatory practices, b) trade issues and c) developing business models and technologies. At TEL 29 there was no need to amend the current LSG Collective Action list; however, it will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

Figure 1

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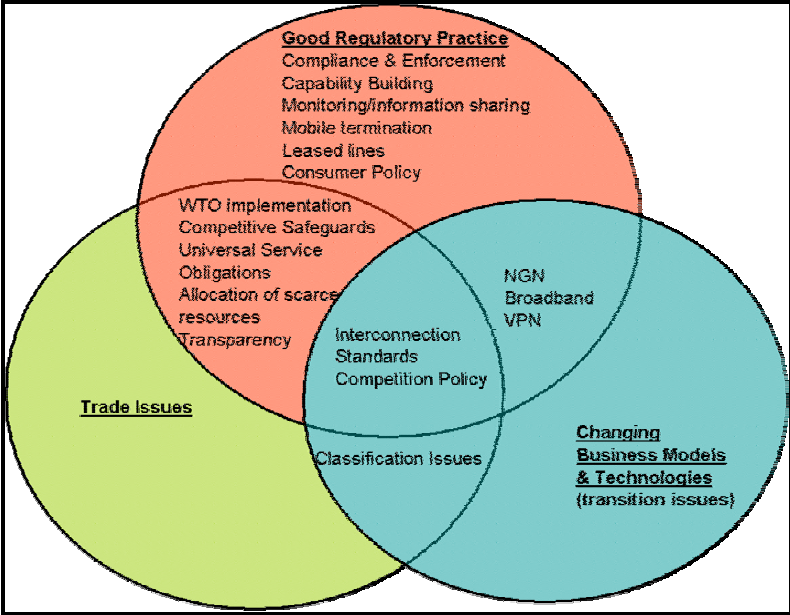
The Chair of the TEL, Ms. Jalife, thanked the LSG Convenor for his report.

Then China made the comment that it is important to be careful on how to proceed with the subject of NGN's. In its opinion, APEC TEL should not focus too much on this issue since it is not yet sufficiently developed in most economies. The risk with NGN's is to obtain low participation and distract resources from the TEL. In light of the coming TELMIN, the subject of broadband should have more attention.

The Chair of the TEL said that it is important to continue developing new discussions. However, what the term NGN encompasses. The TEL should agree on what NGN means, and what should be the expected. After a thorough examination, then TEL will decide on

the future course of action. For discussions at TEL 30, the Chair suggested to work inter-sessionally on a proper agenda.

3.1   MRA Task Force (MRA-TF)

The Chair of the TEL invited the MRA-TF Chair, Mr. Andrew Kwan, to make additional remarks with regards to the MRA-TF meeting. A full copy of his report is Document LSG/17.

Mr. Andy Kwan expressed hope that by TEL 30 a proposal will be made to embark into a new MRA. This would be an additional or a second approach to help further the liberalization of trade of telecommunications equipment.

4.   Development Co-operation Steering Group Meeting (DCSG)

The Chair of the TEL asked the DCSG Convenor, Ms. Diane Steinour, to present her report.

The Convenor reported that approximately 43 delegates attended the DCSG meeting. She informed that there was good cooperation from delegates and that they provided positive feedback to project reports and new proposals. The Convenor gave an account of the following topics: digital divide, broadband, NGN's, and e-inclusion.

On the digital divide topic, three Documents were discussed: DCSG/07 "Matrix of TEL Activities in Support of the Digital Divide Blueprint for Action"; DCSG/08 "Digital Divide Blueprint: External Stocktake" and; DCSG/09 "Monitoring Internet Access". The Convenor asked all economies to pay attention to these documents and provide advice inter-sessionally. As more accurate information and statistics are reflected in these documents, better information will be provided to Senior Officials.

With regards to broadband, the Convenor said that based on the outcomes of the third Broadband Workshop, held on Tuesday, March 23, DCSG approved the creation of a group to draft key principles to promote rapid deployment of broadband. The group will work inter-sessionally and will bring draft principles to DCSG at TEL30 for approval and ultimate adoption by Plenary for the attention of TELMIN6.

Related to the topic of NGN's, DCSG supported two projects including three workshop proposals: i) DCSG/23a: "Asia Pacific Grid Workshop for Building New Regional Cyber-Infrastructure", by Korea, comprising of a one full-day workshop at TEL 30 and requesting $20,000 USD to host another workshop at TEL 32; ii) DCSG/11, "Killer Applications for APEC IPv6 Environment Project Proposal" by Chinese Taipei, which as component of this project, includes a full-day seminar/workshop at TEL 31 (requesting $20,000 USD in APEC Central Funds).

Also on the NGN topic, DCSG reviewed Document DCSG/27 "Advancing Work on Next Generation Networks", but decided not to endorse a joint workshop at TEL 30 with LSG. The Convenor explained that DCSG believes more exploratory work is needed in a greater level of detail on NGNs, and the two endorsed workshop proposals will promote this exploration. DCSG also will keep holding open and permanent discussions and information exchange on NGNs.

The Convenor's final remarks were dedicated to the e-inclusion activity. She said that Canada presented a proposal for two workshops at TEL31 and TEL32 (see Document DCSG/15 "APEC e-Inclusion, Bridging the Digital Divide"). However, the DCSG expressed concern that it was not yet familiar with the target audience of the workshops. DCSG decided that Canada and other interested economies will prepare exploratory activities for the TEL30 DCSG information exchange session on this topic and will bring its proposal back to the table for consideration at that time.

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The Chair of the TEL, Ms. Jalife, thanked the DCSG Convenor for her report. The Chair noted that the agenda of this Steering Group's meeting was very large and therefore appreciated the hard work done by the Convenor and Deputy Convenors. She also understood that some issues on the agenda were not discussed due to the lack of time. Since one of these issues was a project report from an APEC funded project, the TEL Chair, for reasons of accountability, allowed time in this unique occasion for presenting this project report during the Plenary session.

Korea (Mr. Taesang Choi, from the Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute, ETRI) then presented his report on Project DCSG/20, "Flow-based Internet Traffic Measurement and Analysis". This project consists of a system to measure and analyze flow-based Internet traffic. Currently, it is in its third phase, where a second workshop (first in TEL 28) will be programmed for TEL 30. The final report of the project is expected in October-November of this year.

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Australia (Mr. Colin Oliver), asked Korea (Mr. Taesang Choi) about the potential uses of the project, for example, commercial arrangements. Also it showed interest about security settings.

Korea (Mr. Taesang Choi) said that the project may also be helpful for security purposes and he would like to share an on-line demonstration.

The Chair of TEL said that if there is residual time after the Plenary, then she will consent to this demonstration.

F. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS/PRIORITY SETTING

A short presentation was made, comprising new project and new workshop proposals:

New Projects

DCSG		
IPv6 Killer Applications, Chinese Taipei	OA	$20,000
Regional Cyber-Infrastructure, Korea	OA	$20,000

HRDSG		
Regulatory Training Implementation, Australia	TA	$144,000
WiFi Connectivity, Canada	OA	$35,550
APEC Telecenter Development Program, Chinese Taipei	SF	

All these projects were approved by the Plenary and will seek a total sum of $144,000 USD from the TILF Account and $75,550 from the APEC Operational Account.

New Workshops

TEL 30		
BFSG	CSIRT + Wireless Security	f-day
BFSG	ESTG Meeting	f-day
DCSG	Regional Cyber-Infrastructure, Korea	f-day
LSG	MRA TF Meeting	2 h-days
HRDSG	Smart Community Development, Canada	h-day
HRDSG	Telecenter Development Program, Chinese Taipei	f-day

TEL 31		
DCSG	IPv6 Killer Applications, Chinese Taipei	f-day

TEL 32		
DCSG	Regional Cyber-Infrastructure, Korea	f-day

All these workshops were approved by the Plenary.

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The Director (Program) of the APEC Secretariat, Ms. Mónica Ochoa, made some initial comments on the outcomes of the BMC meeting, held in Singapore in parallel with the TEL meeting (March 24-25). She said that the BMC will continue to scrutinize carefully all requests for funding. The BMC now requires that projects requesting funding from the TILF Special Account should have an element of self-funding of the order of 50% for projects from developed economies and of the order of 20% from developing economies.

For All Operational Account project proposals, those which respond to the APEC 2004 priorities and the priorities of ECOTECH will be more favorably received. She also said that all projects put forward for APEC funding should have the active involvement of at least three economies as proposing/co-sponsoring economy. The APEC Secretariat is keen to provide any support to review proposals and accommodate them to the new criteria, in order to put them forward for re-consideration.

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USA (Ms. Elizabeth Shelton) expressed some concerns about the lack of balance between the costs of the different proposals agreed to by the Plenary. Without having any comment against any project, she proposed to find innovative ways to pair down the cost of the proposals and to distribute money more equally between all Steering Groups. She suggested that for the next meeting, TEL should agree on new procedures to allocate funds more equitably.

G.   PRESENTATIONS BY ECONOMIES OF THEIR RECENT REGULATORY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

The Chair invited member economies to present brief updates of their recent regulatory and policy developments.

Australia, Philippines, Hong Kong, China, Brunei, Canada, Korea, and Chinese Taipei made short presentations on the first plenary meeting on Wednesday, March 24. New Zealand, United States, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and Mexico presented their reports at the second plenary meeting on Friday, March 26. Peru, although not attending, submitted its report.

Most economies provided an electronic copy of their reports which have been loaded onto the TEL 29 website.

H.   BRIEF VOLUNTARY STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS AND GUESTS

1.   INTUG

The Chair of the TEL invited Ms. Rosemary Sinclair, representative from INTUG, to present a brief voluntary statement. A full copy of her statement is Document PLEN/21.

Ms. Sinclair said that INTUG is very encouraged by the work of TEL because it is oriented towards the promotion of effective competition in the telecommunications sector. She said that users in the Asia-Pacific region have benefited significantly from TEL in the last 14 years because today there is more choice, greater innovation and better prices.

With regards to broadband, she said that the workshop held on Tuesday, March 23, was excellent. Some of the case studies presented in this workshop reflected interesting issues from the end-users' perspective. She suggested the creation of a database on broadband contemplating statistics from different services (DSL, cable, fiber to the home and wireless), such as speed's availability, prices charged and the provision mode (business, residential).

Crucial for the provision of broadband services is the supply of national and international leased lines. INTUG strongly encouraged economies to take steps to measure the performance of incumbent operators in their provision of leased lines. This is necessary in order to ensure that they are provided in a non-discriminatory manner, including price.

On the topic of mobile services, Ms. Sinclair described about a recent position paper by INTUG aimed to help companies reduce their spending on charges for international roaming charges. Additionally, she encouraged all economies to ensure that prices for termination of calls to mobile networks be cost-oriented. Where competition has not achieved this, then regulatory measures are necessary.

Finally, Ms. Sinclair said that INTUG will continue to work with OECD, the European Union, ITU and CITEL to improve regional cooperation and international understanding of the nature of the telecommunications industry for the benefit of users.

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The Chair of the TEL, Ms. Salma Jalife, deeply appreciated the input from INTUG. She observed that most of their proposals deal with the need to gather relevant information and measure different telecommunication services. She acknowledged that having good databases and statistics of services, costs and regulatory regimes is an important opportunity area for the TEL. She encouraged all the Convenors to introduce these ideas into the work of their own Steering Groups.

2.   GBDe

The Chair of the TEL invited Mr. Tomohiko Yamakawa, representative from GBDe, to present a brief voluntary statement.

Mr. Yamakawa introduced two documents related to the CEO GBDe Summit held in New York in November 2003 (PLEN/07 and PLEN/08). This summit entailed discussions between governments, businesses, consumers and international organizations. The main topics were: emerging trends, information society vision and future work of GBDe. Recommendations had been agreed on six issues: Internet payments, unsolicited electronic communications, ADR and trustmarks, future of the Internet, broadband, cybersecurity and RFID.

Mr. Yamakawa also spoke on the inevitability of convergence and its various dimensions. He recalled, for example, Document BB/02, "The Ubiquitous Society", presented by Japan in the Broadband Workshop.

Finally, GBDe spoke on its intention to introduce a proposal in eSTG for a half-day workshop on e-commerce.

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The Chair of the TEL welcomed GBDe's initiatives and wished for a further exchange of ideas. She recommended Mr. Yamakawa to discuss his workshop proposal within the BFSG.

Japan (Mr. Eiji Makiguchi) appreciated the statements made by guests and also recognized the importance of including the private sector, for example, GBDe, in the organization of workshops.

3. APLAC

The Chair of the TEL invited Mr. John Mitchell, representative from APLAC, to present a brief voluntary statement. A full copy of his statement is Document PLEN/20.

He noted that few people are conscious of the nature and activities of a laboratory accreditation. He said that a key aim of APLAC is to minimize the volume of testing that is necessary for manufacturers to market their products in the APEC region. One of the most significant influences of APLAC in TEL has been the development of an MRA between accreditation bodies. He said also that APLAC is the first sponsor of the MRA Management System and invited others to join this effort as well.

4. AOEMA

The Chair of the TEL invited Mr. Yuichi Tosaki, Vice-Chairman of AOEMA, to present a brief voluntary statement. A full copy of his statement is Document PLEN/19.

The representative spoke on the importance of SME's and how they can develop an efficient communications strategy. For this to happen, he said that it is important to count on good advice -- first, on the options and implementation strategies, and second, on security matters. He confirmed that AOEMA is committed to help TEL to provide this advice through training, education and awareness-raising strategies.

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Ms. Jalife joined AOEMA in stressing the significance of SME's and thanked its support to TEL.

5.   Macao, China

The Chair of the TEL invited Mr. Vai Hong Fong, representative from Macao, China, to present a brief voluntary statement. A full copy of his statement is Document [PLEN/22](#).

He thanked TEL for the renewal of Macao's guest status, and presented a brief update considering recent developments in the regulatory front.

6. PECC

The Chair of the TEL invited Mr. David Parsons, representative from PECC, to present a brief voluntary statement.

He informed that PECC was given the task by SOM to monitor and assess the implementation of the e-APEC Strategy. The assessments of this strategy will be reported to SOM and various Ministerials. He invited TEL to consider issues such as security and trade, e-government, information economy and human capacity building. He welcomed any information that the TEL could give on these topics. Specially useful would be the provision of case studies (stories of success), in different APEC economies, which could be included in the document that is being prepared by PECC.

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The Chair of the TEL thanked PECC for its contribution and encouraged Steering Groups to contribute to the e-APEC Strategy.

I.   DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETINGS – TEL 30; TEL 31; TEL 32; TELMIN 6

Singapore (Mr. Muhammad Hanafiah) confirmed that the next TEL meeting will be held 19-24 September, 2004 in the Singapore International Exhibition and Convention Center.

The Chair of the TEL, Ms. Salma Jalife, said that she is expecting an official confirmation of the host for TEL 31.

Korea (Dr. Inuk Chung) informed that this economy will be very glad to host TEL 32. Dates and venue will be announced soon.

Regarding the next ministerial meeting, TELMIN 6, the Chair of the TEL informed that she is still discussing the issue with three potential economies which will probably host this important meeting. As soon as she has confirmation of one of these economies, she will let all know.

J.   OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Inuk Chung, Vice-Chair of the TEL, made some remarks on the progress and endeavors of the working group. He said that the Chair, Ms. Salma Jalife, has been working hard to secure a host for TELMIN 6. In the meantime, he encouraged each of the Steering Groups to start preparing for this event and work on identifying roadmaps for the future.

Dr. Chung moved for an improvement of the mechanisms to propose projects in TEL. He proposed to give the procedures more consistency, formality and efficiency. Also he asked all economies to submit new project proposals in advance of the meetings, in order to have sufficient time to review them and make proper consultations.

Regarding TEL Website, the Vice-Chair said that in addition to the two big sponsors, there is still room for more sponsors. He reminded everyone that it is also necessary to include the cost for the uploading into the Website in all projects.

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The Chair of the TEL thanked the Vice-Chair and complemented his remarks by establishing the following priorities for the setting of the agendas of each of the Steering Groups, Task Forces and Task Groups:

Priorities for setting SG, TF and TG Agendas	
FIRST	Progress Reports from On-going Projects
SECOND	New Project Proposals (with proper format)
THIRD	Discussions, Information Exchanges, etc.

She also spoke on the need to improve the procedure of submission and consultation of Regulatory Updates. This will be worked inter-sessionally.

Then she congratulated the Executive Committee for its hard work and thanked all the economies for their participation.

As her last remark, she expressed sincere appreciation to Hong Kong, China, for successfully hosting TEL 29. She thanked the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau (CITB) and the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) for their support for hosting this meeting.

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The meeting adjourned at 13:00 hrs. on Friday, March 26.

APPENDIX 1.- MATRIX OF TEL OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Objective	Strategies	Actions
INFRASTRUCTURE		
1. Development of advanced, secure and reliable Information Infrastructure, specially in remote and rural areas.	▪ Provide access at affordable prices ▪ Monitor ICT access ▪ Alternative policies and technologies	Broadband workshops, digital divide monitoring, statistics, CERT and legal frameworks.
2. Encouraging greater buildout of the Internet	▪ NAPs ▪ Broadband accessibility, availability and use	APII Cooperation Center, APII Technology Center, Development and Financial Resources Catalogue, Spectrum Policy and Management Database, Asia Pacific Grid Implementation Project, IP based WLL to bridging the Digital Divide in rural areas
3. Examining the impact of the Internet and broadband accessibility, availability and use on the economy.	▪ Particularly on SMEs	Broadband workshops, Regulatory Roundtable on NGN, Monitoring Internet Access, Technical Support to SMEs, SME Internet Safety Training Program.
4. Facilitating R&D activities and analyses.	▪ Technologies and applications to meet ICT needs ▪ Timely implementation and wide application of next generation technologies	Advanced Satellite Test-bed project, APII IPv6 R&D Test-bed project, APII Test-bed project, Test-bed service IPv6
5. Strengthening its participation and cooperation with the private/business sector.	▪ Development of information communication infrastructures and services ▪ Attention to appropriate standards for enhanced access, productivity, interoperability and security	MRA initiatives, Community Based Networking, Strategic Partnership, Global B2B interoperability

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Objective	Strategies	Actions
6. Promoting further the cooperation among governments, businesses, academic communities and social institutions in meeting these challenges.		Technology Center, APII Cooperation Center, Development and Financial Resources Catalogue, e-University Network in HRD for e-Government, Awareness Seminars, e-Government from a users perspective, e-mail practices for a Culture of Security-Safety Mail.
7. Implementation of NGN technologies	▪ Collaborative action	Regulatory Roundtable NGN

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION POLICIES AND MARKET REGULATION		
1. Study further the challenges and implications of convergence.	▪ Exchange information on experience and practical responses to convergence	Regulatory Roundtables, Regulatory structure projects. Effective compliance and enforcement.
2. Commitments to the new WTO round.		Liberalization stocktake study and workshop, WTO workshops, WTO Reference Paper implementations,
3. Encourage adoption of commercially based and equitable arrangements for Internet connectivity.	▪ ICAIS related issues	Flow-based Internet traffic studies
4. Facilitate the implementation of Interconnection Principles		Interconnection training project
5. Continue the dialogue among policy makers and/or regulators	▪ Interconnection, NGN's, wireless, broadband	Regulatory Roundtables
6. Implement MRA on APEC-wide basis and develop MRA Management System	▪ Principles on the application of standards and regulatory arrangements	Guide and Management Tools for the MRA, Supplier Declaration of Conformity, Good Regulatory Practices for the development of Mandatory Telecom Standards, Regulations and Requirements, Comparison of the Equivalency of Selected Telecom Standards, MRA Management

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Objective	Strategies	Actions
		System, Proposed MRA on Telecom Equipment Standards and Requirements
7. Cooperation with other fora in related e-commerce policy issues	• Good practices • Establish trusted and transparent legal and regulatory framework for e-commerce • Online information and transaction services offered by governments to be accessed by businesses and citizens	Collaboration with OECD on trust agenda issues, GBDe, AOEMA, e-government work workshop, seminar and program

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND NETWORK SECURITY		
1. Implement recommendations contained in resolution 55/63 UNGA	• Statement by ministers on the security of information and communication infrastructures	Work Program on cybersecurity and cybercrime (eSTG), Workshop on Legal frameworks combating cybercrime
2. Expand the scope of TEL's e-security activities	• Voluntary transfers of technologies	APEC Cybersecurity Strategy, Wireless Security, CERT, Forensics and Incident Reporting Workshop, Cybercrime legislation survey and database, CERT Capacity Building project, Cybercrime legislation and enforcement capacity building, one-on-one capacity building assistance
3. Framework for electronic authentication interoperability	• Electronic authentication and signatures	User of biometric applications, PKI interoperability guidelines, TEL-ESSI joint meeting, electronic signatures in e-trade, OECD implementation plan for OECD guidelines for the security of information systems and networks, OECD Global Forum on Information Security

APPENDIX 1.- MATRIX OF TEL OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Objective	Strategies	Actions
HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING		
1. Implement the Digital Divide Blue Print for Action		APII Technology Center, Active Partnerships for Internet Access program, Awareness Seminars
2. Cooperation among governments, businesses, educational and social institutions in human resource training	▪ Maximize existing training resources of apec economies ▪ Other regional for a and international bodies ▪ Gender and youth perspective ▪ Human capacity building ▪ Specifically addressing concerns of developing economies	e-government from a users perspective, awareness seminars, e-mail practices for a culture of security-safety mail, e-government work program, global B2B interoperability, e-University Network in HRD for e-Government,etc
3. Promote e-commerce related training programs and distance learning using ICT		e-University Network in HRD for e-Government, TEL e-commerce skills standard project, SME Internet Safety Training Program, Human Resource Development program of APII Cooperation Center, Vendor Training Material Database and Information Technology Awareness, Training and Education Materials, EduPACT an alliance for IT literacy and skills development, IT Security Training Material Project
4. Support training activities that assist member economies to develop pro-competitive regulatory frameworks		Liberalization Stocktake training, Regulatory Training Design Project, APEC-MRA HRD project for Phase II implementation.