APEC TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION WORKING GROUP 31TH MEETING
(April 2-9, Bangkok, Thailand)

Chair's Report

INTRODUCTION

Thailand hosted the thirty-first meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Working Group on Telecommunications and Information (TEL). Nineteen economies of the APEC region were represented; they were Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Peru; Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; and Viet Nam. Also attending were the Director (Program) of the APEC Secretariat; the SMEWG Chair; representatives of six guests: APLAC, AOEMA, GBDe, INTUG, Macao, China and Colombia; and one official observer: PECC.

Ms. Salma Jalife from Mexico chaired the meeting.

OPENING OF TEL 31

The TEL 31 Meeting was preceded by a number of workshops, meetings and a roundtable:

Sunday, April 3, 2005	Wi-Fi Connectivity
Monday, April 4, 2005	MRA Task Force Meeting
	IPv6 Killer Applications
	CIO Training Model and Network for e-Government
	Next Generation Networks (NGNs)
	APEC Business e-Commerce Dialogue
Tuesday, April 5, 2005	e-Security Task Group Meeting
	Internet Measurement Analysis
	Regulatory Roundtable
	MRA Task Force Meeting

The first plenary meeting of TEL 31 was opened officially on the morning of Wednesday, April 6, 2005 by Mr. Kraisorn Pornsutee, Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT).

In his opening address, the Permanent Secretary extended a warm welcome to all the delegates of TEL 31. He then spoke about the importance of the projects run by the TEL, and recognized the implementation of two of them: the "e-University Network for HRD in e-Government" and the "CIO Training Model and Network for e-Government Development". He said both are good examples of how the TEL has promoted the use and adoption of information and communication technologies to help governments be more effective. He also referred to the work on Killer Applications for IPv6, as well as warning and disaster relief, as other important contributions of APEC TEL.

He said that Thailand was honored to host both the TEL and TELSOM1 meetings. The TELSOM's objective was to prepare for the upcoming Telecommunications and Information Ministerial meeting (TELMIN 6), scheduled for May 29 to June 3, 2005 in Lima, Peru. Ultimately, APEC is a forum of economic leaders, and TELSOM1 will become the filter through which the results of the work of TEL will be presented to the Ministers, for the advancement and benefit of all APEC.

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The TEL Chair, Ms. Salma Jalife, thanked Mr. Kraisorn Pornsutee for his opening address. She also voiced appreciation to MICT, the host of TEL 31, for providing a very well organized meeting in a very secure environment.

She said that since TELMIN 5 in 2002, the TEL has been working intensely on different initiatives to move forward from the Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII) to the Asia-Pacific Information Society (APIS). These initiatives have facilitated access to information services (including remote and under-served areas, and SMEs), and the majority of them are high quality deliverables that will be conveyed to TELSOM and Ministers.

She also noted that the most relevant asset of TEL lies in its talented participants. Based on their inspiration and efforts, TEL 31 will bring positive results and valuable outcomes to the next Ministerial.

The Chair reminded the group that APEC SOM requested from TEL specific work on APEC's contribution to WSIS, a TEL strategy for Disaster Preparedness, and enhancement of the e-APEC Strategy. She said that TEL was not alone in these tasks and that cooperation with other relevant fora and international organizations was important to avoid duplication of efforts.

Related to cooperation with other fora, the Chair welcomed Mr. Dae-Youl Lun, lead shepherd of the APEC SME Working Group, who joined TEL 31 to strengthen SME-WG relationship with TEL.

Referring to the phrase: "Disaster aid seems to last only as long as the media attention", she said that TEL must not forget the suffering of the survivors of the tsunami and should continue with its generosity and cooperation with the victims.

She thanked once again Mr. Kraisorn Pornsutee and the Thai organizers of TEL 31.

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After the departure of Permanent Secretary Kraisorn Pornsutee, the Chair introduced the members of the presidium: Director (Program) from the APEC Secretariat, Ms. Monica Ochoa; Vice-Chair Dr. Inuk Chung from Korea; Vice-Chair Dr. Arnon Tubtiang from Thailand; and the Chair's Assistant, Mr. Pablo Hinojosa.

A.   REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

As there were no comments on the proposed agenda for the plenary sessions, it was adopted as follows:

A.		Review and Adoption of Agenda
B.		Introductory Remarks
C.		APEC Secretariat Report on APEC Developments
D.		Adoption of TEL 30 Chair's Report
E.	½	Roadmap for TELMIN 6
F.	*	Steering Group and Task Group Meetings and Reports
		1.- Development and Cooperation Steering Group
		2.- Human Resources Development Steering Group
		3.- Liberalization Steering Group
		3.1.- MRA Task Force
		3.2.- Brainstorming Session – Next Generation Networks
		4.- Business Facilitation Steering Group
		4.1.- Electronic Security Task Group
G.	*	Discussion/Approval of New Project Proposals/Priority Setting
H.		Input from TEL to TEL-SOM I
I.	½	Recent Regulatory and Policy Developments (Presentations by Economies)
J.	½	Brief Voluntary Statements by Observers and Guests
K.	*	Discussion of Future Meetings –TELMIN 6; TEL 32
L.	*	Handover of Chair
M.	*	Other Business

(*)   These items were discussed in the second Plenary meeting on Friday April 6, 2005.
(½)   The discussion of these items took place during both Plenary meetings.

B.   INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

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

➔ *Work agenda for TEL 31*

She proposed focusing the work of TEL 31 on the following four key priorities:

1. Addressing and getting consensus on the new initiatives that will be put forward for Ministers' endorsement.

2. Addressing and getting consensus on the accomplished and continuing work from the Program of Action of TELMIN5.

3. Addressing the requests made by SOM on the following matters:

    a. Disaster preparedness

    b. APEC's contribution to the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)

    c. Contribution to enhance the e-APEC Strategy (Accomplishing the Brunei Goals)

4. Discussing four new project proposals

- Leased lines, LSG, proposed by United States.

- Strengthening effective response capabilities, BFSG, proposed by Korea

- E- University Network in HRD for e-Government, HRDSG, proposed by Japan, Thailand and Indonesia

- Establishment of Government CIO Training Model & Network For e-Government Development, HRDSG, proposed by Thailand

➡ *Workshops and Regulatory Roundtable*

The Chair acknowledged the excellent results produced in the previous workshops and the TEL 31 Regulatory Roundtable, recognizing that these events will provide additional inputs to Steering Groups and will support their work. She also noted that future workshops should promote collaboration of TEL with other fora and must have a strong relationship with its current work.

➡ *Roadmap to TELSOM 1 and TELMIN 6*

The Chair informed the group about the agreement at the Heads of Delegation meeting regarding the Agenda for TELSOM 1, where they decided to work further on the current draft, proposed by Peru, of the Lima Declaration. She also encouraged all Steering Group Convenors to include specific proposals for the development of the Plan of Action in their reports, and noted that she expected them to present a compilation of work completed since TELMIN 5 by TELSOM 1.

➡ *Strategic Vision of APEC TEL*

The Chair finished her introductory remarks by reflecting on current and future strategies of TEL. Her vision is as follows:

- **INFRASTRUCTURE**

  1. Development of advanced, secure and reliable information infrastructure, particularly in remote and rural areas.

  2. Encouraging greater build-out of the Internet and next generation networks (NGNs).

  3. Examining the impact of the accessibility, availability and use of the Internet in each economy, with particular attention on SMEs.

  4. Facilitating R&D activities.

  5. Strengthening TEL's participation and cooperation with the private/business sector.

  6. Promoting more cooperation among governments, businesses, academic communities and social institutions in meeting these challenges.

  7. Implementation of NGN technologies.

- **POLICY AND REGULATION**

  1. Study further the challenges and implications of convergence.

  2. Commitments to the new WTO round.

3. Liberalization stocktake.

4. Facilitate the implementation of Interconnection Principles.

5. Continue the dialogue among policy makers and/or regulators.

6. Consolidate MRA on APEC-wide basis, develop MRA Management System and introduce MRA on technical norms.

7. Cooperation with other for a in related e-commerce policy issues.

- **INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND NETWORK SECURITY**

1. Implement security recommendations.

2. Expand the scope of TEL's e-security activities.

3. Framework for electronic authentication interoperability.

4. CERT initiatives.

- **HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING**

1. Implement the Digital Divide Blue Print for Action.

2. Cooperation among governments, businesses, educational and social institutions in human resource training.

3. Promote e-commerce related training programs and distance learning using ICT.

4. Support training activities that assist member economies to develop pro-competitive regulatory frameworks.

5. Regulatory training.

6. Support e-government initiatives.

C. APEC SECRETARIAT REPORT ON APEC DEVELOPMENTS

The Chair called upon Ms. Monica Ochoa, Director (Program) from the APEC Secretariat, to review recent APEC developments. In her report, she highlighted the APEC developments relevant to the work of TEL, in light of the outcomes of the 2004 Annual Ministerial Meeting and the SOM I meeting in 2005. She also informed the group on administrative procedures and deadlines to submit project proposals. The full report is document PLEN/15 and the presentation is PLEN/16.

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The Chair thanked the Director for her report, noting that new project proposals will be discussed carefully within each of the TEL Steering Groups.

On the topic of disaster preparedness, the Chair recalled the document that Vice Chair Arnon Tubtiang presented at SOM I, and acknowledged the contributions from Australia and Korea. She asked Convenors to discuss this issue at their working groups and report back to Dr. Tubtiang, who is preparing a strategy on this matter.

With regards to the APEC contribution to the WSIS, she noticed that few economies had participated in the Virtual Forum on the TEL website on this topic. She invited both Vice-Chairs to gather more comments and to circulate a final draft before SOM II by the end of May.

Regarding the contribution of TEL to enhance e-APEC strategy, she recommended all steering groups, specially BFSG, provide comments, based in particular on spam and viruses.

D.   ADOPTION OF THE TEL 30 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair's Report from the 30th TEL Meeting was submitted as Document PLEN/9. Since there were no comments to this document, the Chair's Report from the 30th Meeting of TEL was adopted.

E.   ROADMAP FOR TELMIN 6

There were no further comments on this topic since both, the agenda of TELSOM1 (Document PLEN/22) and a roadmap for TELMIN6, were addressed in the Chair's Introductory Remarks.

F.   STEERING GROUP AND TASK GROUP MEETINGS AND REPORTS

1.   Development Cooperation Steering Group Meeting (DCSG)

The TEL Chair asked Ms. Ashley Heineman, the DCSG Convenor, to present her report, a full copy of which is Document PLEN/30.

The DCSG Convenor presented a progress report on the activities related to Digital Divide, next generation networks and broadband. On broadband, she informed the group that the Draft "Key Principles for Broadband Development in the APEC Region" were approved *Ad Referendum* by DCSG. She said, however, that those principles still have to go back to capitals to be completed, and then be brought to TEL SOM just prior to TELMIN 6 for adoption. The Convenor provided some inputs to the issue of "Response to and Preparedness for Disasters" and also for the TELMIN 6 Program of Action.

She reported no new project proposals and requested the organization of a workshop on "Asia-Pacific Grid for Building New Regional Cyber-Infrastructure" at TEL 32.

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The Chair thanked the DCSG Convenor for her report and encouraged all economies to provide ICT statistics for the status report on Digital Divide. She said that if only few economies provide this information, then the overall assessment of APEC performance would be incorrect.

China made a comment on the "Key Principles for Broadband Development in the APEC Region" corroborating that this was still an open document, and that it was looking forward to provide additional comments inter-sessionally.

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/31.

The Convenor informed the Plenary that HRDSG approved two project proposals, (1) the third phase of the "e-University in HRD for e-Government" (self-funded) and (2) the "Development of Model Government CIO Councils" requesting USD$80,000 from APEC Central Fund. Also, he requested full-day workshop at TEL 32 on Telecenters.

He submitted the "Matrix of TEL HRDSG activities" as an input to TELMIN 6 and also reported on the issue of "Response to and Preparedness for Disasters" where the HRDSG proposed to support with training and possibly the organization of a forum for knowledge sharing.

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The Chair of the TEL, Ms. Salma Jalife, thanked Mr. Chang for his report.

3.   Liberalisation Steering Group Meeting (LSG)

The Chair of the TEL asked the LSG Convenor, Dr. Greg Terrill, to present his report, a full version of which is Document PLEN/28.

After informing the group about the LSG discussions, the acting Convenor announced the approval of a project on Leased Lines, proposed by the United States and seeking USD$ 26,650 from the TILF fund. Also he provided input for TELMIN 6 and thanked the work of Deputy Convenors Seiji Ninomiya from Japan and Dr Bumin Jang from Korea.

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The Chair thanked Dr. Terrill, LSG Convenor, for his report.

3.1   MRA Task Force (MRATF)

The TEL Chair asked the MRATF Chair, Mr. Andy Kwan, to present his report, which is Document LSG/20.

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The Chair thanked Mr. Andy Kwan, Chair of the MRATF, for his report.

The United States, Ms. Elizabeth Shelton, expressed her appreciation for the report and applauded the historical trajectory of the work of this Task Force. She also acknowledged Mr. Andy Kwan's ten years of commitment of to the work of this Task Force in his role as Chair. She encouraged all economies to complete their respective MRA negotiations.

3.2.   Brainstorming Session - Next Generation Networks (NGN)

The Chair of the TEL asked Mr. Bill Graham, facilitator of the NGN brainstorming session, to speak about the status of the work on NGNs. A full copy of the report prepared by Ms. Anita Dey, one of the organizers of the brainstorming session, is Document NGN/02. A draft discussion paper on the future of TEL work on NGNs, prepared by Mr. Bill Graham, is Document NGN/14.

The facilitator informed the group about a proposal to seek Ministerial endorsement of five collective actions coming out of the workshop: (1) interconnection/interoperability; (2) trade facilitation; (3) security, reliability and confidence; (4) capacity building; (5) underdeveloped areas.

The facilitator encouraged TEL to include these five collective actions in the work programs of Steering Groups and concluded with an invitation to all economies to distribute the work and exchange information on these five topics inter-sessionally by email.

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The Chair thanked Bill Graham from Canada for his support as the facilitator of the NGN brainstorming session and also acknowledged the work of its organizers.

4. Business Facilitation Steering Group (BFSG) Meeting

The Chair asked the BFSG Convenor, Mr. Y.S. Lee, to present his report, a full version of which is Document PLEN/29R.

The BFSGG Convenor reported the approval of one project proposal, "Strengthening Effective Response Capabilities among APEC Economies", seeking USD$20,000 in APEC funding. He also requested the organization of three workshops at TEL 32: (1) one day workshop on IT-based Disaster Early Warning Systems; (2) half day workshop (self-funded) on spyware proposed by Australia; (3) half day (self-funded) workshop on wireless security proposed by Australia. The BFSG also noted the proposal to organize a 2-day joint APEC-OECD workshop on security issues and requested the Plenary to take a decision on this matter.

The BFSG Convenor also informed the group about the selection of Mr. Michael Baker, AOEMA, as the official TEL's liaison with the APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG).

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The Chair, Ms. Salma Jalife, thanked Mr. Y.S. Lee for his report and asked him about the status of the three papers about spam.

The BFSG Convenor said that the three papers, "APEC Principles for Action against Spam", "APEC Implementation Guidelines for Action against Spam" and "Best Practice Template Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Cooperation on Combating Spam" were proposed by a small group and then approved by the BFSG.

4.1 e-Security Task Group

The Chair of the TEL asked Mr. David Hickman, eSTG Chair, to present his report. A full copy of his report is document BFSG/35.

The eSTG Chair reminded the group that the project "Strengthening Effective Response Capabilities among APEC Economies" and the four workshops included in the BFSG report were previously discussed and also approved by eSTG. Regarding the PKI Interoperability Guidelines, the Chair indicated that a press release has been issued and that Australia will cover the printing of costs of the document.

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The Chair, Ms. Salma Jalife, thanked the Chair of the eSTG, Mr. David Hickman, for his report and took this opportunity to show appreciation for his work in front of the ESTG and lamented his departure from the TEL due to modifications in his professional portfolio.

Ms. Duangtip Surintatip from Thailand observed the importance that they have placed, as hosts of this meeting, in information security and as an example referred to the encryption of the wireless network during the TEL meeting. She also noted the hard work of the CERT from Thailand.

Mr. Liu Ziping from China asked about the process of approving the Convenor's reports in Plenary. He wanted to know if it was still possible to provide comments to these reports.

The Chair said it was possible to provide inter-sessional comments to Convenor's reports.

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

A short presentation was made by the Assistant to the Chair, Mr. Pablo Hinojosa, comprising new project and new workshop proposals:

New Projects

HRDSG	
Development of Model CIO Councils By Thailand and Indonesia	$80,000 OA
e-University in HRD for e-Government By Japan and Thailand	Self-funded

LSG	
Leased Lines By USA, Australia, Korea, Vietnam	$26,250 TA

BFSG	
Strengthening Effective Response Capabilities By Korea, Japan, AOEMA	$20,000 OA

All these projects were approved by the Plenary and will seek a total sum of USD$100,000 USD from the APEC Operational Account and USD$26,250 from the TILF Account.

Canada agreed to postpone the programmed workshop "APEC e-Inclusion: Bridging the Digital Divide" until TEL 33. This project seeking USD$25,706 was approved at TEL 30 in Singapore and will be submitted for BMCII consideration.

The Director (Program) from the APEC Secretariat, Ms. Monica Ochoa, explained that TILF Special Account projects are now being implemented by January 1st each year (or the day of their approval if later). She also spoke on the "Guidebook on APEC Projects", which requires the establishment of a small group (with at least two members) to make comments to the Evaluation Reports prepared by project overseers after the completion of each project. She finally noted that 2006 projects will be considered at BMC II, scheduled for August 23-25, 2005.

New Workshops

TEL 32		
BFSG	APEC-TEL / OECD-WPIPS on Security	2 days
BFSG	IT-based Disaster Early Warning Systems	Full day
BFSG	Spyware	Half day, SF
BFSG	Wireless Security	Half day, SF
DCSG	Asia-Pacific Grid Workshop By Korea	Full day
HRDSG	Workshop on Telecenters	Full day

TEL 33		
HRDSG	e-Inclusion, Bridging the Digital Divide By Canada	Half day

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The Chair, Ms. Salma Jalife, gave an explanation about the proposed joint APEC-TEL / OECD-WPISP workshop. She said the OECD Secretariat projected the organization of this workshop at TEL 31. However, due to the closeness of TELMIN 6, she proposed its postponement until TEL 32. She recognized that neither the eSTG nor the BFSG could get an agreement on the approval of this workshop and she suggested the integration of the spyware and security workshops with the APEC/OECD workshop.

Ms. Elizabeth Shelton from the United States, expressed concerns about the proposed APEC-OECD workshop, specially in light of a future collaboration with OECD on another joint event on Spam. Although she agreed that these are two separate events, she wanted to ensure that these are extremely well planed and bring successful outcomes.

The Chair, Ms. Salma Jalife said she will continue to work inter-sessionally to develop this joint APEC-OECD workshop and stressed the importance of collaborating with other international organizations.

H.   INPUT FROM TEL TO TEL SOM I

PROGRAM OF ACTION

The Chair, Ms. Salma Jalife, suggested the creation of a small drafting group to compile the valuable inputs emanated from the Steering Group meetings, in order to conclude with the development of the Plan of Action. She hoped that Convenors and Vice-Chairs could participate in this drafting group and spread out a draft in the course of the following two weeks.

DRAFT LIMA DECLARATION

A draft of this document, which has been circulating prior of the TEL 31 meeting, will be presented for discussion at TEL SOM I.

I. 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.

Hong Kong, China; Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, Brunei, Chinese Taipei, Singapore, Peru, New Zealand, and the United States made short presentations on the first plenary meeting on Wednesday, April 6. Korea, Malaysia, Canada, China, Malaysia, Mexico and Viet Nam made their presentations at the second plenary meeting on Friday, April 9.

J. BRIEF VOLUNTARY STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS AND GUESTS

1. SMEWG

The Chair of the TEL asked Mr. Dae-Youl Lun, Chair of the SMEWG, to present a brief voluntary statement, a full version of which is Document PLEN/21.

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The Chair, Ms. Salma Jalife, thanked the Chair of the SMEWG and recognized the importance of coordination between Working Groups. She agreed that TEL and SMEWG have HRD in common and promoted the selection of a Liaison on each of the groups to improve communications. As ageed in BFSG, this liaison would be Mr. Michael Baker from AOEMA.

2. GBDe

The Chair of the TEL asked Mr. Ross Borell, Executive Director of the GBDe Secretariat, to present a brief voluntary statement, a full version of which is Document PLEN/26.

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Salma thanked GBDe and considered their views as very relevant to the TEL, so she hoped for a continued exchange of views.

3. INTUG

The Chair of the TEL asked Ms. Rosemary Sinclair, representative of INTUG, to present a brief voluntary statement, a full version of which is Document PLEN/10.

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The Chair, Ms. Salma Jalife, thanked INTUG and said that without their input there is an incomplete equation, so she supported and encouraged the valuable contributions from the consumers perspective.

4. PECC

The Chair of the TEL invited Liz Williams, representative from PECC, to present a brief voluntary statement. Full copies of her statements are Documents PLEN/17 and PLEN 18.

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The Chair of the TEL, Ms. Salma Jalife, appreciated the input and support from PECC.

5. AOEMA

The Chair of the TEL invited Mr. Michael Baker, representative from AOEMA, to present a brief voluntary statement. A full copy of his statement is Document PLEN/33.

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The Chair of the TEL thanked AOEMA for their continued spirit of collaboration with TEL and also encouraged the renewal of its guest status.

6. MACAO

The Chair of the TEL invited Mr. ???, from Macao China, to present a brief voluntary statement, a full version which is Document PLEN/06.

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Tha Chair thanked Macao, China, for their report and announced that AOEMA and APT are on the process of renewing their guest status at TEL.

K. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETINGS – TEL 31, TELMIN 6 AND TEL 32

The Chair of the TEL, Ms. Salma Jalife, introduced Peru as the host of TELMIN 6, and Korea as the host of TEL 32.

Carlos Romero, from Peru, showed a video about Lima and gave a short presentation with logistical information about the Ministerial meeting.

Dr. Kim, from Korea, showed a video and gave a short presentation with logistical information about the next TEL meeting, which will be September 5-9 in Seoul.

L.   HANDOVER OF CHAIR

The Chair, Ms. Salma Jalife, made her final remarks and presented a summary of the activities of TEL in the last two years. An outline of her summary follows:

- **FROM Chinese Taipei (THROUGH Hong Kong and Singapore) TO Bangkok**

  - The difficult process of finding volunteer economies to host meetings

  - Thanks to Chinese Taipei for organizing a meeting with short notice and short time to prepare it.

  - Then two outstanding meetings, marked by efficiency in their organization (Hong Kong and Singapore), and now Bangkok that has received TEL very warmly.

  - The work done by the host economies has been outstanding.

- **TELMIN 6**

  - The Chair had to call for the postponement of TELMIN 6 until 2005, in view of the lack of support of any economy to host it in 2004. Finally it was possible to build a bridge for the Ministerial to happen in Latin America.

- **SOM MEETINGS**

  - Thailand, Chile and Korea as the hosts of APEC since 2003.

  - SOM II 2003 in Thailand.- TEL helped to configure APEC's contribution to the first phase of the World Summit of the Information Society at SOM II 2003 (Khon Kaen, Thailand). Thailand, as the host of APEC 2003, presented this contribution from APEC in WSIS at Geneva.

  - SOM I 2004 in Chile.- The Chair of the TEL participated in the ECSG meeting and the WG coordination meeting. She had the chance to meet other Lead Shepards in person and exchange views on the way APEC working groups could collaborate to reduce duplication of work in different fora and be able to focus on the 7 SOM policy priorites and the 4 cross-cutting priorities for the year 2004.

  - SOM II 2004 in Chile.- TEL presented its report on "Progress towards Adopting and Implementing the WTO Reference Paper" in the meeting of the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI).

  - SOM III 2004 in Chile.- TEL presented a report on its activities.

- SOM I 2005 in Korea.- TEL had the privilege of being represented at this meeting by its two Vice Chairs, Dr. Inuk Chung and Dr. Arnon Tubtiang. SOM requested the TEL to prepare APEC's contribution for the WSIS meeting for consideration at SOM II (21-31 May 2005). SOM also agreed to a proposal by the SOM Chair that Korea follow the practice of Thailand and represent APEC at the WSIS in November. Regarding APEC's Response to and Preparedness for Disasters, Dr. Arnon Tubtiang gave a report on the APT-ITU Meeting on "Role of ICT for Disaster Reduction", held in Bangkok on February 28.

- **PROJECTS**

  - All except very few TEL projects were approved by the BMC since 2004. In some cases there were some reductions in the amount of funding approved (not exceeding 20%) and a corresponding increase in the amount of self-funding by the project proponents.

  - In 2004, five projects were funded by APEC, comprising USD$284,400. In 2005, six projects are being funded by APEC, allocating USD$309,240.

  - Only one third of APEC members have been project proponents at TEL: Korea, Canada, Australia, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan. It is important to promote the diversification of proponents.

- **PROCESS AND PROCEDURES**

  - Paperless Meetings.- Implementation of "paperless" meetings. Together with wireless Internet access environment in the venue.

  - Online Work.- The APEC TEL website and the POC email reflector are two of the most important assets of the Working Group. Thanks to Korea for dedicating resources to maintain these assets, which hopefully can be self-sustained in the near future.

  - Procedures.- The Chair with the help of Vice-Chair's, worked together in the development of some additional guidelines for TEL. These guidelines are aimed to improve: a) the process of submitting projects; b) the efficiency of the work carried out by Steering Groups; c) clarity on the process of proposing/approving workshops; d) the opportune distribution of Steering Group and workshop agendas.

- **GUESTS**

  - GBDe as new Guest of TEL. Renewal of the status of Macao, China; INTUG, AOEMA and APT.

- **THE LEADING TEAM**

  - The Chair expressed special thanks to all of those that were part of the Executive Committee during her mandate: the Vice Chairs Dr. Inuk Chung (KR) and Dr. Arnon Tubtiang (TH). From BFSG: Mr. YS Lee (KR), Dr. Frank March (NZ), Mr. Tran Quang Cuong (VN). From DCSG: Ms. Ashley Heineman and Diane Steinour (USA), Mr. Po-Chou Liang (TW) and Prof. Ma Yan (CN). From HRDSG: Dr. Lang Chee Chang (TW);

Mr. Leung Wing Kan (HK) and Ms. Sudaporn Vimolseth (TH). From LSG: Mr. Colin Oliver and Greg Terrill (AU), Mr. Eiji Makiguchi and Mr. Seiji Ninomiya (JP) and Dr. Chong-Hoon Park (KR). From the eSTG: Mr. Steve Orlowski and Mr. David Hickman (AU), Mr. Richard Downing and Ms. Sallie McDonald (US) and Mr. Gunadi (ID). And the support of Bruce Bennett and Monica Ochoa in the APEC's Secretariat.

She finished her remarks by saying that leading APEC-TEL was a priceless experience for her and was pleased that someone with the competence of Dr. Inuk Chung was taking on the role as the next TEL Chair. She also said that Heads of Delegation had agreed that Dr. Arnon Tubtiang will continue as Vice-Chair and should succeed Dr. Chung after the completion of his term.

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Mr. Bill Graham from Canada addressed the Plenary to thank for the work of the Chair and her team in the last two years. Meanwhile a presentation with numerous pictures of the Chair was shown on the screens and a scrapbook was given to the Chair and the Assistant to the Chair as a gift from the TEL.

[The Chair and her assistant may wish to appreciate this action, which was organized by delegates of different economies].

M.   OTHER BUSINESS

WSIS

Ms. Salma Jalife encouraged Dr. Chung and Dr. Tubtiang to continue to gather comments on the draft APEC input into the WSIS.

Disaster Preparedeness

Ms. Salma Jalife encouraged Dr. Tubtiang to continue as the point of contact on this topic.

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The meeting adjourned at 13:00 on Friday, April 9.