

THE 34th
APEC TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
WORKING GROUP MEETING
(October 23 ~ 27, 2006, Auckland, New Zealand)

Chair's Report – Draft

INTRODUCTION

New Zealand hosted the 34th APEC Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TEL) meeting. Sixteen member economies in APEC were represented, they were: Australia; Canada; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; the Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; and Viet Nam. Also attending were the Director (Program) of the APEC Secretariat; representatives of 5 guests: AOEMA, APCERT, GBDe, Macao, China, INTUG; one official observer: PIF and two invited guests: OECD and ABAC.

Dr. Inuk Chung from the Republic of Korea, chaired the meeting.

PRE-TEL MEETINGS

The 34th APEC TEL meeting was preceded by a number of workshops and meetings:

Workshops

Monday, October 23, 2006	WTO Domestic Regulation Workshop
	M-Opportunity for All
Tuesday, October 24, 2006	Telematics Workshop
	Asia Pacific Information Society Vision Workshop
	Industry Futures Roundtable

Meetings

Monday, October 23, 2006	MRA Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, October 24, 2006	MRA Task Force Meeting

THE 34th APEC TEL MEETING

A. OPENING CEREMONY

The first Plenary of the 34th APEC TEL Meeting (TEL 34) was officially opened on the morning of Wednesday, October 25, 2006.

The delegates to the TEL 34 were welcomed by a Mihi in the form of an address in Maori, an official language in New Zealand, and a traditional song. It ended by a ‘hongi’ – touching noses – between the representative of the Maori tribe and the TEL Chair.

B. WELCOME ADDRESS

Following the opening ceremony, Mr. David Smol, Deputy Secretary of Ministry of Economic Development, New Zealand, gave a welcoming address. Mr. Smol briefly explained the importance of APEC to New Zealand; APEC economies providing around 71% of New Zealand’s two-way merchandise trade. He also introduced how New Zealand is taking maximum advantage of ICTs and developed a Digital Strategy for New Zealand, a national ICT development plan.

C. OPENING ADDRESS

In response to Mr. Smol’s welcoming address, Dr. Inuk Chung expressed his sincere appreciation to the hosts of New Zealand for providing a very well organized meeting venue for the 34th TEL meeting and the warm hospitality extended to the TEL colleagues. He also mentioned that the TEL 34 Meeting will mark as the very first time to work under the new structure, with the TEL new guidelines for enhancing efficiency of our work which would, all in all, support to better focus our work toward the TEL action plans.

Then, the TEL Chair welcomed all the delegates to the TEL 34 meeting and thanked TEL’s Muslim colleagues for participating in the meeting during the Ramadan period. His remarks ended by welcoming representatives from the APEC Business Advisory Committee (ABAC) and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and remarked that their participation would advance longstanding relationships with our group.

D. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

- A. Opening Ceremony
- B. Welcome Address
- C. Opening Address
- D. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- E. APEC Secretariat Report on APEC Developments
- F.* Steering Group Meeting Reports
 - 1. ICT Development Steering Group (DSG)
 - 2. Liberalization Steering Group (LSG)

3. Security and Prosperity Steering Group (SPSG)

G.* Discussion/Approval of New Project Proposals/Priority Setting

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

I. 1/2 Brief Voluntary Statements by Observers and Guests

J. * Discussion of Future Meetings – TEL 35; TEL36; TELMIN 7

K. 1/2 Other Business

(*) These items were discussed in the second Plenary meeting on Friday October 27, 2006.

(1/2) The discussion of these items took place during both Plenary meetings.

E. APEC SECRETARIAT REPORT ON APEC DEVELOPMENTS

Ms. Monica Ochoa, Director (Program) from the APEC Secretariat, gave a review on the recent APEC developments. In her report, she highlighted the APEC TEL-specific issues and informed the group that the report *Enhancing the ICT Regulatory Environment and Digital Capabilities of APEC economies* prepared by TEL in collaboration with relevant APEC Fora was welcomed; this was a task in response to the Senior Officials request to TEL at SOM I, to agree on how best to implement Leaders and Ministers' instruction on enhancing the ICT regulatory environment and digital capabilities of APEC economies.

She also reminded the group that the APEC Secretariat has been developing the APEC Information Management Portal (AIMP), a new online collaboration environment for APEC to facilitate interaction and to improve collaboration with other fora. As future plan, she mentioned that the APEC Secretariat, in collaboration with the TEL Chair and Executive Committee will prepare and launch the TEL Collaboration Site – one of the four modules on the AIMP - by the end of December.

As for TEL projects seeking APEC fund, the BMC approved the TEL Project Information Security Certifications Assessment Guide seeking US \$ 20,000 from the OA, however, including the TEL project Voice over IP (VoIP) Security Guidelines seeking US \$ 80,000 from the OA, 18 projects were not approved; the BMC members noted that the value of the projects proposed for funding was in excess over that available. Therefore, upon request of BMC members, the Secretariat is preparing some pointers for projects which had not been approved to be transparent and aid the submission of better quality projects.

On another important issue - the Fora review process undertaken by SCE - Monica informed the group that it is still ongoing and reported that the SCE Chair has encouraged Senior Officials to consult with their domestic agencies, especially with regard to possible mergers and disbandment of certain sub-fora. The next steps include the distribution of a revised paper incorporating comments and providing further explanations within the next few weeks to all Chairs, Lead Shepherds, Senior Officials and SCE members. Another SCE meeting will be held in the margins of CSOM to finalize recommendations for submission to CSOM. The full report is document PLEN/015.

Dr. Chung gave further explanations on the background of the Fora review process and reported to the group on TEL's comments, which has been drafted and agreed at the Heads of Delegation meeting (HOD), which will be sent to the SCE Chair after the Auckland meeting. (See Annex A for TEL's Comment on the Discussion Paper on Review of APEC Fora, 27 October 2006). As for the project, Voice over IP (VoIP) Security Guidelines, he requested the relevant steering group to discuss on this matter and asked to suggest on how to improve it. Also his special thanks went to Australia, Indonesia, Korea, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, USA and Viet Nam for their valuable inputs in preparing the *Enhancing the ICT Regulatory Environment and Digital Capabilities of APEC economies* report and to the Vice Chair for leading the task of drafting it.

F. STEERING GROUP AND TASK GROUP MEETING REPORTS

1. ICT Development Steering Group (DCSG)

The DSG Convenor, Prof. Ma Yan from China, tabled his DSG meeting report, which a full version is Document PLEN/025. He requested approval of one fund seeking project: Deployment of GCIO Training Model and Networking for e-Government Development (Thailand) (\$86,494).

2. Liberalization Steering Group (LSG)

The LSG Convenor, Mr. Colin Oliver from Australia, presented the summary report on the LSG meeting, which a full version is Document PLEN/022. No project funding requests were made by LSG however, there were requests for the assumption of a half-day Industry roundtable, a half-day workshop on interconnection, one full-day Regulatory Roundtable, two half-days MRA Task Force meeting plus a half-day WTO Domestic Regulation workshop, which were approved by the Plenary.

Then, MRA TF Chair, Mr. John Mitchell informed the group on the meeting results. He reported that the TF agreed to construct the MRA TF Website within the TEL Website and continue the discussions on the contents to be filled. The full report is in document LSG/024.

3. Security and Prosperity Steering Group (SPSG)

The SPSG Convenor from Malaysia, Mr. Shamsul Jafni Shafie, tabled his SPSG meeting report and briefly summed up the decisions made at the meeting. The full report is: Document PLEN/021.

Mr. Shafie reported to the Plenary that the SPSG has agreed to support Australia's proposal to re-submit the VoIP Security Guidelines project and seek APEC funding. Furthermore, there were requests for one and a half-day workshop on Malware and Related Malicious Activities over the Network (joint workshop by SPSG-APEC TEL and OECD) and one full day workshop for Network Security (joint workshop by SPSG-APEC TEL and ATRC-ASEAN) were made and they were approved by the Plenary.

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

The TEL Chair presented a table of new projects as below.

New Projects

DSG		
Deployment of GCIO Training Model and Networking For e-Government Development	By Thailand	\$86,494 OA
SPSG		
VoIP Security Guidelines	By Australia	\$80,000 OA

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The US suggested that the BMC may benefit from the VoIP Security Guidelines project proposal being reworded to clarify the purpose of the project particularly for readers who may not understand the technological aspects of VoIP. Australia responded stating that they would redraft the project proposal in order to simplify their intent. The redraft would not change the scope of the project or the budget.

The TEL Chair emphasized that we need to put our efforts together to acquire approval from BMC for the new projects will now be seeking urgent funding. Rankings on the two projects will be sought intersessionally from economies

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A table of roundtables and workshops proposed for TEL 35 was also presented. With some discussions among the member economies and TEL Chair informing the group that joint workshops with outside organizations such as ASEAN and OECD, will need SOM's approval, it has been approved as below:

Roundtable and Workshops

SG	Roundtable / Workshop	Economy	Duration
SPSG	Policies and Regulations Regarding Network Security (TEL and ASEAN joint workshop)	Malaysia	Full day
SPSG	Malware and Related Malicious Activities over the Network (TEL and OECD joint workshop)	Malaysia	1.5 day
LSG	Regulatory Roundtable	Philippines	Full day
LSG	MRA Task Force	Australia	2 Half days
LSG	Interconnection	USA	Half day
LSG	Industry Roundtable	Philippines	Half day
LSG	WTO Domestic Regulation	Singapore	(Half day)

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The Chair's presentation also suggested a possible program for TEL 35, and it is available in Document PLEN/024.

H. 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.

Chinese Taipei; Japan; Korea; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Australia; Canada; New Zealand; Thailand; Singapore; China and Viet Nam made short presentations on the developments.

I. BRIEF VOLUNTARY STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS AND GUESTS

Representatives from INTUG and GBDe made brief voluntary statements, which the full report is PLEN/012 and PLEN/016, respectively.

Report on the Industry Futures Roundtable

In response to Chair's request for a report on the Industry Futures Roundtable held on 24 Oct. 2006, INTUG, the organizer of the Roundtable, started by mentioning that since the issue dealt at the roundtable is cross-cutting to all steering groups, reporting the result of the discussion at the Plenary is useful. At the roundtable, different areas of efficient access to business models were sought and discussions including optical fiber, satellite services were undertaken and whether to allow policy and regulatory issues have also been dealt. Through this roundtable, in particular markets, new technology and services at low costs were found. And it was agreed that the Industry Roundtable is important for industry involvement and hope to continuously hold the meeting in the future.

USA, Canada and the TEL Chair congratulated INTUG and supported on having more of the Roundtables in the future in TEL.

ABAC's Proposal to TEL

The representative from ABAC, participated at TEL 34 meeting in order to introduce the ICT-Enabled Growth Project and also request for TEL's participation in the "Development of a Tool Kit of Regulatory and Policy Measures to Promote Innovation and Capture Information and Communication Technology-Enabled Growth." The full report is document PLEN/019.

Dr. Chung suggested that the TEL further seek for possible areas and scope of cooperation in the near future and will seek for members' views and approval intersessionally.

J. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETINGS – TEL 35; TEL36; TELMIN 7

The HOD of the Philippines expressed that he has the honor and privilege to host TEL 35 from 22 to 27 April in Manila.

Following, the TEL36 host, Chile, suggested to hold the meeting either in September or October 2007 and informed the group that the Ramadan dates will be taken into consideration when setting the exact dates in the future.

Then the Chair announced that Japan will be the host for TEL 37 and when requested Japan to take the floor, Japan mentioned that hopefully the TEL meeting could be held in March 2008.

The TELMIN 7 host has been decided as Thailand. The HOD of Thailand reported that the exact dates for TELMIN 7 has not been decided yet but will hold it in year 2008 and possibly in February. However, she promised that the exact dates will be confirmed to the group in the near future.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Chung presented the Guidelines on the Rotation and Activities of the Convenors and Deputy Convenors of the Steering Groups in TEL (DRAFT - Rev.5) and mentioned that these Guidelines were distributed beforehand for review and comments to the HODs and the Executive Committee members. And with some comments from the floor on the details of the Guidelines, the Chair suggested that he would circulate the revised version and seek members' approval intersessionally.

Closing Remark

In his closing remark, Dr. Chung expressed his appreciation to the TEL member economies for their hard work and collaboration and especially to the Convenors and Deputy Convenors of the steering groups for their leadership under the new structure. And on behalf of the TEL member economies, Dr. Chung expressed his sincere appreciation to New Zealand, especially Frank March and Manjula Shivanandan, for all their work which led to a successful TEL 34 meeting. Dr. Chung expressed his hope to see the TEL members in the Philippines and closed the meeting by giving a big hand to the organizers of TEL 34.

[Annex A]

TEL's Comment on the Discussion Paper on Review of APEC Fora (27 October 2006)

In 2006, the APEC TEL has reformed its structure in order to effectively reflect the changing ICT environment and better focus our work toward the Leaders' and Ministers' directives and instructions. TEL has restructured to three steering groups (Liberalization, ICT Development, Security & Prosperity) from former four steering groups (Business Facilitation, Liberalization, Development Cooperation, Human Resource Development) and has also adopted many own guidelines (Guidelines for New project proposal, Workshop, Approval of self-funded project, Rotation and activities of Convenors and Deputy Convenor of SGs) for better efficiency and effectiveness of meeting.

Since its establishment in 1990, TEL meetings have been held consistently twice a year and the number of participants has risen to have approximately more than 600 participants a year from approximately 18 member economies, 3 Observers and 8 Guests, and huge participation from private sector and academia.

Through 6 ministerial meetings held since the first one in 1995, Ministers have adopted many Declarations and Action Plans from the TELMINs and TEL has been working according to the Action Plans given by our Ministers.

As SCE's Discussion paper mentioned, "the TEL has been operating effectively, with a large agenda and well attended meetings." Furthermore, the number and the quality of the agenda and deliverables to the Senior Officials are growing more than ever and in the process, overlapping work has occurred between TEL and ECSG.

Therefore, the TEL welcomes the suggested options for consideration in the Discussion Paper on Review of APEC Fora to incorporate appropriate and relevant ECSG activities into the TEL to enhance synergy in policies and activities within sectors.
