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## **Maldives**

### **Sub-regional issues on Policy and Regulation of the South Asian Sub-region**

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# Sub-regional issues on Policy and Regulation of the South Asian Sub-region

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# South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC)

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# Introduction:

- \* The South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC) is a key sub regional activity of APT
- \* It was established in 1997 in cooperation between APT and ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in a high level commitment from 9 South Asian countries
- \* SATRC is responsible for discussing and coordinating the issues such as radiofrequency coordination, standards, regulatory trends and international affairs which are of common interest to the telecommunication regulators in South Asian countries

# Objectives of SATRC:

- \* To discuss and co-ordinate of all the issues relating to regulations in telecommunications which are of common interest to the telecommunication regulators of the South Asian Countries
- \* To promote areas of potential co-operation in the regulatory aspects of telecommunications among South Asian countries
- \* To facilitate the exchange of information through meetings, workshops and other activities

# SATRC Members:

\* SATRC Members consists of the regulatory bodies of the following nine South Asian countries:

- \* Afghanistan
- \* Bangladesh
- \* Bhutan
- \* India
- \* Islamic Republic of Iran
- \* Maldives
- \* Nepal
- \* Pakistan
- \* Sri Lanka

# Working Principles:

- \* SATRC Meetings are held annually which are attended by the head of the telecommunication regulatory bodies of the SATRC Members
- \* Head of host regulator takes the chairmanship of SATRC until the next SATRC Meeting
- \* SATRC Meeting also elects the Vice-Chairman for the same term
- \* SATRC Meeting normally adopt SATRC Action Plan (SAP) to carry out detail works
- \* SATRC Meeting also incorporates industry-regulator dialogs in order to develop close relation with telecom industry sector



# Current Leadership:

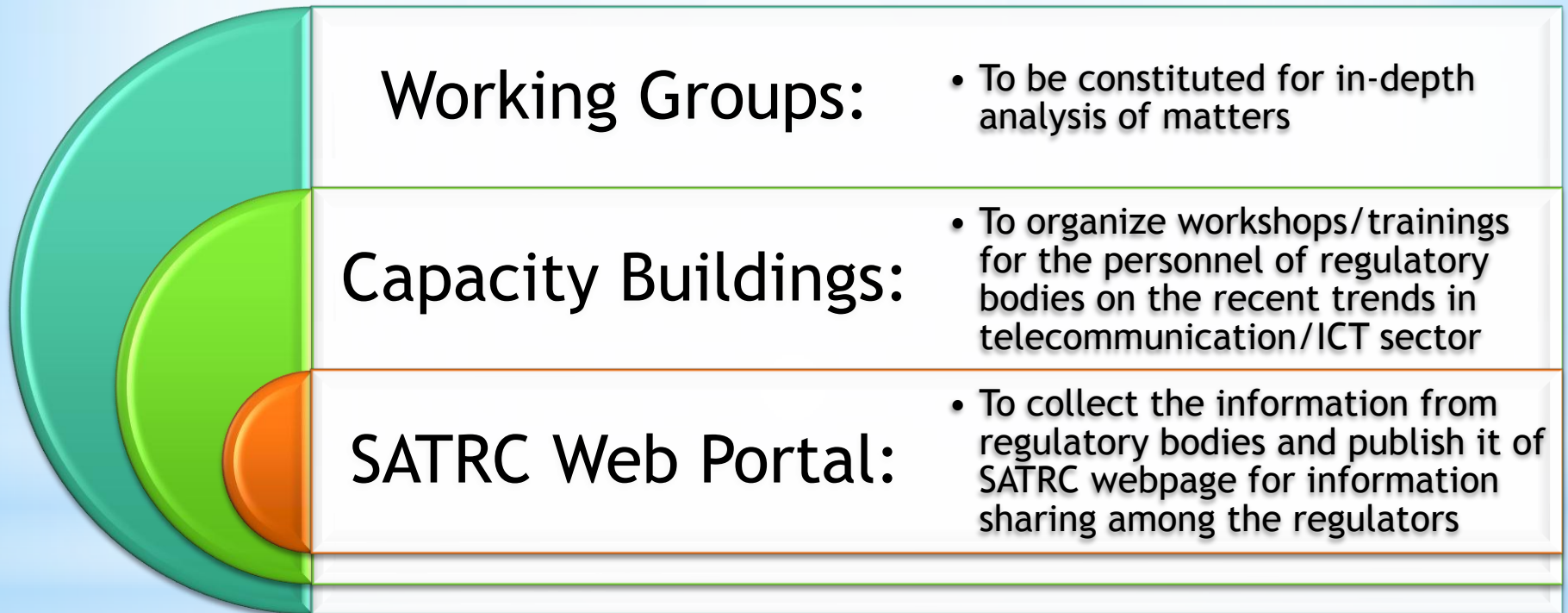
- \* Chairman: Mr. Sonam Phuntsho, Director, Bhutan Information, Communication and Media Authority (BICMA)
- \* Vice Chairman (Acting): Dr. Vijayalakshmy K Gupta, Acting Chairman and Member, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

# SATRC Action Plan (SAP):

- \* SATRC Action Plan (SAP) aims to addressing the regulatory issues and challenges of common concern to its members
- \* Concept of developing SAP was initiated in 2005 from the fact that the key issues can be addressed in a more focused and concentrated manner by adoption of SAP
- \* SAP provides a common charter to SATRC members for delivering the synergy of collaborative wisdom and action
- \* Normally, a SAP is adopted for an implementation period of two/three years

# SATRC Action Plan (SAP): (2)

\* Basic Components of SAP are:



# SATRC Action Plan (SAP): (3)

- \* For financing the implementation of the various activities and projects under the SAP, a core fund was created from the extra-budgetary contributions made by the SATRC members
- \* SATRC Members contributes voluntarily to the fund for implementation when a new phase of SAP is adopted by the SATRC
- \* Non SATRC members, but are members of APT also contributes to the activities of SATRC. Eg. Japan

# SATRC Action Plan (SAP): (4)

\* Completed SAP Phases:

SAP Phases	Implementation Year	Core Budget (USD)
SAP Phase I	2005 - 2007	86,200
SAP Phase II	2008 - 2009	141,000
SAP Phase III	2010 - 2011	164,000
SAP Phase IV	2012 - 2014	113,400

\* Currently, SATRC is implementing SAP Phase V for the implementation period of 2014 - 2016 with core budget of USD 116,817.

# SAP Phase V:

- \* SAP Phase V adopted at the 15<sup>th</sup> SATRC Meeting in 2014 at Paro, Bhutan for the period of 2014 - 2016
- \* Under SAP Phase V, two WGs are working:
  - \* **Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services:** to deal with the issues related to policy, regulation and service development of Telecommunication and ICT sector in the region
  - \* **Working Group on Spectrum:** to deal with the issues related to spectrum management, monitoring, sharing and coordinated efficient use of spectrum for different service in the region

# SAP Phase V: (2)

\*Work Items assigned to the Working Groups:

Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services	Working Group on Spectrum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Measures to protect interests of consumers of telecom services</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Spectrum re-farming in SATRC countries</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Policy, regulatory and technical aspects of OTT services in SATRC Countries</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Spectrum requirement estimation for IMT in SATRC countries</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Emerging licensing framework including exit and relicensing policy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increasing role of network sharing regulation for SATRC countries: From passive network sharing to mobile virtual network operation</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>International connectivity for the provision of providing broadband services</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Non-Ionizing radiation safety in frequency bands used for mobile telephone</li></ul>

# SAP Phase V: (3)

- \* The Working Groups have a chairman and enlisted experts from each of the 9 SATRC Members
- \* Working Groups meet physically at least once a year to discuss the detail of works of the work items, and to review the progress of the works
- \* Majority of the works are done offline by correspondence



# SAP Phase V: (4)

## Workgroup Meetings:

- \* Two workgroup meetings were held in 2015.
  - \* 1. Workgroup on Policy, Regulation and Service
    - \* 25-26 February 2015, Nepal
  - \* 2. Workshop on Spectrum
    - \* 27-28 May 2015, Sri Lanka

# SAP Phase V: (5)

## Capacity Building:

- \* Two workshops are planned to be held during this phase of SAP.
- \* The topics are related to the activities of the SATRC Working Group and recent trends.
  - \* 1. Workshop on Policy, Regulation and Service
    - \* 16-18 December 2015, Nepal
  - \* 2. Workshop on Spectrum
    - \* Q1, 2016, Bhutan

# Status and Way Forward

- \* Works of the working groups are proceeding as planned.
- \* Issues and topics identified for this phase of the work are discussed and updated at the workgroup meetings.
- \* This year's SATRC Meeting is scheduled to be held from 25-27 August 2015 in New Delhi, India, hosted by TRAI.
  - \* High level participation from South Asian countries is expected
  - \* Progress on the works will be reported at SATRC
- \* All work items are expected to be completed within the duration of the work cycle (2014 -2016)

**Thank you!**