



# **STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE APT STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM 2009-2011**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

In recent years telecommunication, information and communication technologies (ICT) environment has rapidly had far-reaching effects across the globe. This environment has been driven by the essential trends of convergence of technological platforms for telecommunications, information delivery, broadcasting and computing and the deployment of common network infrastructures for multiple communication services and applications, together with new regulatory movements.

Meanwhile, the market need for appropriate, high-quality, and global standards is increasing to ensure connectivity of telecommunication networks and interoperability of various telecommunication services. It is inevitable that industry and government need to work together and cooperate in developing and promoting global consensus-based telecommunication standards for the information society.

Carrying out the inceptive mission of promoting and coordinating expert activity in telecommunications standardization across the Asia Pacific region, the ASTAP has continued to make a significant contribution to regional and global standardization activities coping with the considerable change of the telecommunication, information and communication technology environment.

ASTAP's objectives support the APT's vision of fostering the development of telecommunication services and the information structure throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Through its Expert Groups (EG) and Working Groups (WG), ASTAP activities contribute to APT's four pillars which concern Frameworks, Development, Cooperation and Efficiency. In particular, ASTAP activities promote and support the following APT key areas:

- ICT Policy and regulation;
- Technology development and standardization;
- Bridging the digital divide; and
- Information sharing and data compilation.

The primary goal of the 2009-2011 Strategic Plan is to contribute to the growth of the Asia-Pacific by supporting endeavors toward bridging the digital divide and the standardization gap. ASTAP's main objective is to promote and coordinate expert activity in telecommunications standardization across the Asia-Pacific region. In pursuing this goal, ASTAP aims to strengthen its role as a core body in standardization activities in the Asia-Pacific region, as

well as supporting the APT's Development pillar.

- The 2009-2011 ASTAP Strategic Plan provides members with high level strategic direction on standardization activities by:
- Encouraging members to increase ASTAP standardization activities and high attendance levels;
- Increasing discussions on a diverse range of topics at ASTAP Forums; and
- Developing ways to enhance ASTAP's contribution to international standard making activities.

## **II. ASTAP'S ENVIRONMENT**

### **1. ASTAP'S EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT**

ASTAP's external environment is shaped by issues at both the regional and global level. Key issues that have influenced changes in the external environment include standards developments, technological convergence and working towards the development of NGN standards. The external environment is complex and competitive and there is a continued need for standards making bodies to work cooperatively in order to progress standardization issues at the regional and global level.

ASTAP has a strong position in relation to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and ASTAP has continued to facilitate the development of Proposals to the ITU Study Groups. ASTAP aims to develop stronger working relationships with other international standards bodies including, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

Given that ASTAP is a focal point for standardization activities within the APT, enhanced coordination among associated APT work programs is essential in order to further standardization activities in the Asia-Pacific region. Member's participation and contributions to standardization activities is fundamental to achieving ASTAP's objectives and strategies over 2009-2011 period.

### **2. ASTAP'S INTERNAL ENVIRONMENT**

ASTAP has made progress in many ways during the last period (2006-2008). ASTAP has continued to improve its work procedures and related rules for an openness and transparency to its activities. Several groups for new work items have been established meeting member's requirements and changes in the external environment. In terms of international standardization, ASTAP Expert Groups have developed a number of contributions expressing regional views that have been submitted to a range of ITU meetings. As a focal point of ITU, ASTAP also made a significant contribution to ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-06) and is doing so again for APT preparations for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly in 2008 (WTSA-08). Twenty one APT common proposals were proposed to ITU PP-06. These were either adopted, accepted in principle, combined as a solution with other

regions or Member States views to produce a satisfactory outcome, not pursued in the spirit of compromise, or were no longer required as a result of a range of decisions. There were no adverse outcomes for APT Members.

ASTAP is still in need of active participation of regional experts and enlargement of its membership. It is also necessary that ASTAP strengthen a regional role for global initiatives in strategic areas such as NGN, IPTV, Network Security, etc.

### **III. ASTAP OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES FOR 2009-2011**

#### **1. ASTAP OBJECTIVES**

The ASTAP's main objectives for the 2009-2011 period include:

- O1. Promoting regional cooperation on standardization, including appropriate institutional arrangements for the promotion of telecommunications standardization activities and harmonizing standardization activities in the Asia-Pacific region;**
- O2. Enhancing the level of expertise on standardization among the membership;**
- O3. Expanding contribution to global standardization activities as well as increasing the presence and voice of regional standardization in international standardization activities; and**
- O4. As appropriate, developing APT Recommendations in technical as well as related regulatory aspects, where necessary, to contribute to the interests of APT members.**

#### **2. ASTAP STRATEGIES FOR 2009-2011**

Given ASTAP's overall objectives, each strategy in the 2009-2011 ASTAP Strategic Plan is linked to the specific relevant objectives.

- S1. ASTAP will stimulate active participation of existing membership and attract new participants by promoting the benefits of working in, or with, ASTAP (Objective 1).**
  - ASTAP should encourage active participation of all of its membership by focusing on the needs of its membership, improving efficiency and being adaptable in its performance.
  - ASTAP should consider new ways to promote standardization activities in order to attract new members from industry sector.

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- ASTAP should carry out periodical promotion activities in cooperation with members in order to introduce ASTAP to potential new members
  - ASTAP should enhance its website to assist existing members and attract new members by providing relevant information and on the benefits of participating in ASTAP.
- S2. ASTAP will continue to create an environment in which interested parties can work effectively and efficiently together in partnership (Objective 1).**
- ASTAP should continue to look for ways to improve its current working methods and processes and devise new methods to raise its work efficiency and members' opportunities in working together in ASTAP.
- S3. ASTAP will continue to coordinate and cooperate with other APT work programs in relation to its standardization activities in this region (Objectives 1)**
- ASTAP should continue to liaise with other APT programs in order to avoid duplication of their activities and facilitating exchange of views and information on its standardization work in this region.
  - Where necessary, ASTAP should take appropriate steps to cooperate on topics connected with standardization which are identified by other APT programs.
- S4. ASTAP will concentrate its efforts in bridging the standardization gap and the digital divide among APT member countries (Objectives 1 & 2).**
- ASTAP should put best efforts to raise awareness of the problems associated with the standardization gap and digital divide and encourage member participation in related discussions and activities.
  - ASTAP should support various activities executed by major international standardization development organizations such as ITU-T and cooperate with them toward bridging the digital divide and standardization gap.
  - To increase the level of the expertise of standardization activities for emerging countries, ASTAP should consider developing an educational program about standardization activities and issues in developed countries and in major Standard Development Organizations.
- S5. ASTAP will establish appropriate relationship with major standards bodies and enhance efforts to promote the value of ASTAP (Objective 1 & 3).**
- ASTAP should establish cooperative working relationships with major international standards bodies and facilitate the participation of Asia-Pacific countries in the activities of the ITU, ISO, IEC and JTC1 and where appropriate, build regional partnership projects with other standards bodies on mutually interested standards-making topics.
  - ASTAP should promote its standardization activities as a unique standards body in this region to other inter-regional standardization bodies (e.g. CEPT, CITELE, ATU, GSC) and intra-regional standardization bodies (e.g. TTA, TTC), with a view to strengthening collaboration with them.

**S6. ASTAP will strengthen its role as a focal point for ITU in the field of standardization (Objectives 1 & 3).**

- In order to reflect regional views, ASTAP should facilitate development of APT Common Proposals (ACPs) and APT Joint Proposals (AJPs) based on consensus, to the Study Groups of ITU and TSAG.
- ASTAP should arrange or support APT preparatory meetings such as Assemblies and provide easy access to Asia-Pacific countries to collect and harmonize regional consensus into high level strategic meetings such as ITU PP-10, Council, WTSA-08, etc.
- ASTAP should continue to improve the process to submit APT Common/Joint Proposal to high level strategic meetings, Study Groups of the ITU and TSAG in order to reflect regional views.

**S7. ASTAP will promote itself as an attractive forum for industry entities to achieve standards development work throughout the region (Objectives 1 & 4).**

- ASTAP should be flexible in responding to regional industry's demands and motivate their active participation in its activities.
- ASTAP should provide opportunities to exchange information on new technologies and regional ICT industry needs with a view to identifying new strategic work areas or items.
- ASTAP should internalize the strategic topics into its work areas and concentrate on these topics.
- Where appropriate, develop an APT Recommendation to cover our regional ICT needs.

**S8. ASTAP will encourage membership to propose new questions and initiatives and consider trends in technology and regulation to better assist study direction (Objective 4).**

- ASTAP should encourage all membership to develop idea and research on technology convergence standardization.
- ASTAP should develop standards, where appropriate, to ensure the interoperability and smooth operation and interconnection of networks and reducing operation costs.

## **V. SUMMARY**

The ASTAP Strategic Plan 2009-2011 is designed to provide ASTAP members with high level strategic direction for their standardization activities during the given three-year period. The Plan will assist ASTAP EGs and WGs by providing high level direction, so members can plan their workload and measure their own performance.

The objectives and strategies of the ASTAP are achieved through the activities of EG, WG and Chairman which are supported by the APT Secretariat. Accordingly, taking into account the

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Strategic Plan, the EGs, WGs and Chairman are encouraged to assess how their individual work items and Terms of Reference support the objectives of the Strategic Plan. In addition, the EGs, WGs and Chairman are also encouraged to report at each ASTAP forum meeting, how their work plans and work items are progressing the objectives of the Strategic Plan.

[Annex] The lessons learnt from ASTAP Strategic Plan 2006-2008

[Annex]

## The lessons learnt from ASTAP Strategic Plan 2006-2008

### 1. INTRODUCTION

ASTAP developed its Strategic Plan 2006-2008 which was approved by the 29th Session of the APT Management Committee in 2005. For assisting implementation of the Plan, ASTAP also made the mechanism including performance indicators. Based on the mechanism, the implementation status of the Plan has been monitored and reviewed regularly at every ASTAP meeting.

This document intends to review major activities related to the Plan and learn lessons from it.

### 2. MAJOR ACTIVITIES RELATED ASTAP STRATEGIES 2006-2008

#### 1) Participants of ASTAP Forum Meetings (Strategy 6)

The total number of participants at each ASTAP has been stable, but participation from Affiliate Members has been on the decrease from the 11<sup>th</sup> ASTAP to 13<sup>th</sup> ASTAP in both aspects of entities and participants. The present state of participants at ASTAP meetings is shown at the Table 1 and the Figure 1.

Table 1. The Number of Participants by ASTAP Meetings

	Total	Full Member		Associate Member		Affiliate Member		Others <sup>1)</sup>	
		M <sup>2)</sup>	P <sup>3)</sup>	M	P	M	P	M	P
11th ASTAP	115	20	49	1	1	17	51	3	14
12th ASTAP	121	21	63	1	1	14	40	5	17
13th ASTAP	103	20	56	2	2	14	35	4	10

1) Others: APT Secretariat, other organizations, international organizations, eligible Non-members

2) M: Number of Countries, Companies, or Organizations

3) P: Number of Participants

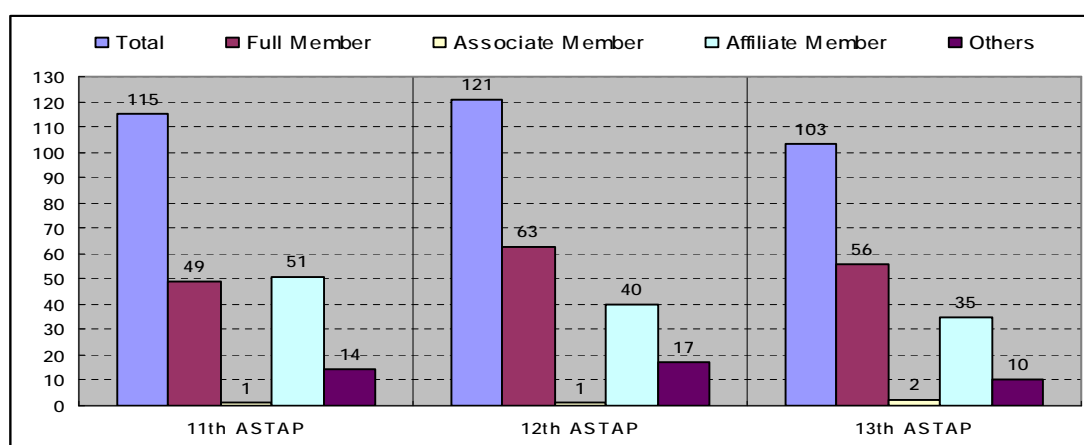


Figure 1. The Participant Number of Members by ASTAP Meetings

Considering the analysis results of meeting participants, ASTAP should make greater efforts to encourage active participation of existing members and attract new members and existing members from industries.

## **2) Workshop & Symposium (Strategies 8)**

ASTAP held workshop and symposium in connection to ASTAP meetings for identifying new strategic areas and surveying industry needs.

- ITU/APT Symposium on Network Security (11th ASTAP Forum)
- ITU-APT Workshop on NGN Planning (12<sup>th</sup> ASTAP Forum)

Those events connected to ASTAP meeting led to the increase in member participation. Therefore it is highly recommended to hold workshops or seminars for promoting participation from industries as well as identifying new items for its future work.

## **3) International Standardization (Strategies 1, 3, 5 & 8)**

As a focal point of the ITU, ASTAP supported and arranged preparatory meetings for ITU PP-06 and WTSA-08 in collaboration with other APT work programs. Through its preparation activities for ITU PP-06, ASTAP developed 21 ACPs and 1 AJP which were either adopted, accepted in principle, combined as a solution with other regions or Member States views to produce a satisfactory outcome, not pursued in the spirit of compromise, or were no longer required as a result of a range of decisions.

- The 3rd APT Preparatory Meeting for ITU PP-06 (Feb. 12-13, 2006)
- 4 Coordination and 2 Briefing Meetings at ITU PP-06 (Nov. 6-24, 2006)
- The 1st APT Preparatory Meeting for WTSA-08 (Oct. 5, 2007)

In addition, ASTAP developed 2 AJPs which were adopted by ITU-T TSAG and SG16 respectively reflecting regional views. ASTAP also developed the first APT Recommendation that was approved by the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of APT MC.

- AJP on Networked RFID in ITU-T (by NID EG)
- AJP regarding Accessibility Guidelines (by AU Group)
- APT Recommendation on Radiocommunication Systems for Early Warning & Disaster Relief Operation (by DMCS EG)

Recently ASTAP has shown a significant contribution to international standardization as well as regional one. Based on the regional consensus, it should be pursued to strengthen practical standardization reflecting regional industry's needs such as developing ACP, AJP, and APT Recommendation.

## **4) Working Methods and Environment (Strategy 7)**

ASTAP has improved its website and bulletin board based on best design practices and international standards. The website has been modified and restructured in line with comments and recommendations of its members. Several security features have been incorporated in the Email Reflectors and Bulletin Board. The modifications were carried out in close coordination with the Expert Group Rapporteurs. A log-in ID system is now in place for anyone wishing to access ASTAP Forum documents.

In addition, ASTAP has revised its rules and procedures for an openness and transparency to its activities and also developed new templates for its documents.

For its work efficiency and effectiveness, ASTAP should continue to improve work environment including its working methods.

### **5) Establishment of New Groups (Strategies 4 & 8)**

ASTAP has established two groups (1 expert group and 1 other group) for new working items:

- SNLP (Speech and Natural Language Processing) Expert Group
- BSG (Bridging Standardization Gap) Group

ASTAP should promote to internalize and focus on the strategic topics through establishment of new group with a view to reflecting regional industry's demands and strengthening a regional role for global initiative in those topics.

### **6) Others (Strategies 2, 4 & 6)**

Other than those, ASTAP has performed many tasks such as cooperation with other organizations and other APT work programs for efficiency and avoiding duplication, standards development related works, promotional activities, and so on.