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Acting Chairman, SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services

REVIEW THE OUTCOMES OF THE SATRC ACTION PLAN III

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Review of the Outcomes

of

Working Group on Policy & Regulation
and

Working Group on Network & Services
during SATRC Action Plan Phase III

Formation of the Working Group

- During the SATRC Action Plan Phase III, there were following three Working Groups:
 - i. Policy and Regulation
 - ii. Network and Services
 - iii. Spectrum
- In SATRC Action Plan Phase IV, WGs i & ii above are merged to form WG on Policy, Regulation and Services.

Working Group on Policy & Regulation

Four work items were assigned to the working group:

- i. Facilitation of Broadband in SATRC countries
- ii. Green Telecommunications
- iii. Key Regulatory issues on Voice-over-IP in SATRC countries
- iv. Critical Information Infrastructure Protection and Cyber Security

Meetings of the WG on P & R

- 1st meeting of the WG was held in New Delhi, India in August 2010
 - defined the scope of work and developed work plan for each of the work items.
- 2nd meeting of the WG was held in New Delhi, India in December 2011
 - reviewed work progress on the work items and the draft outcomes
- Workshop on Policy and Regulation was held on 3 – 5 May 2011 in Male, Maldives.
 - discussed the current Policy and Regulatory issues relevant for SATRC countries

Outcomes of the WG on P & R

- The Working Group finalized reports on all the four work items which were approved during 13th SATRC Meeting.
- i. SATRC Guidelines on Facilitation of Broadband in SATRC countries (Document: SATRC-13/INP-11)

Recommendations:

- a. Policy and Strategies
 - Government must play a very important role
 - Initiatives for enhancing both supply and the demand
 - Redefine Universal Services to include broadband
 - Strong policy and strategies to promote development of local contents through establishment of "Incubator centre"

Outcomes of the WG on P & R contd....

- b. Regulation on Spectrum
 - Review traditional way of licensing spectrum
 - Develop flexible and service neutral licensing system
- **c. Regulation** regulations that must be in place to ensure and promote the growth of broadband service:
 - ➤ Sharing of infrastructures through Open Access regulation
 - Licensing and authorisation framework
 - > IP interconnection
 - Competition through opening vertically integrated markets
 - Regulation in content
 - ➤ Ensuring secure cyber or on-line communications

d. Regional Network Connectivity

- Need to reduce the cost of international internet connectivity
- ➤ Initiative to build a regional internet network that would provide direct exchange of regional traffic without need to go through other international network.

Outcomes of the WG on P & R contd....

- ii. Report on Green Telecommunications (Document: SATRC-13/INP-12)
 - a. Recommendations to the Governments
 - ➤ Measures to promote green telecommunications should be an integral part of the National Policy.
 - ➤ Certification of all telecom products, equipments and services in the telecom network for Energy consumption by the year 2015.
 - ➤ By 2015, all mobile phones should be free of brominates, chlorinated compounds and antimony trioxide
 - Measures to collect and safe disposal of e-waste.
 - a. Recommendations for Service providers
 - Adopt a Voluntary Code of Practice encompassing energy efficient Network Planning, active infrastructure sharing, deployment of energy efficient technologies and adoption of Renewable Energy Technology (RET)
 - ➤ Should aim at Carbon emission reduction targets for the mobile network at 25% by year 2020.

Outcomes of the WG on P & R contd....

- iii. Guidelines on Key Regulatory issues on Voice-over-IP in SATRC countries (Document: SATRC-13/INP-13)
 Recommendations
 - a. Classification / Definition of VoIP Services for Regulation
 - ➤ Light touch regulation for PC-to-PC or IP-to-IP Voice Communication
 - ➤ Phone-to-Phone or Phone-to-IP device VoIP may be treated at par, in terms of interconnection, with PSTN/PLMN services.
 - b. Categorisation of the VoIP under Universal Service Obligation
 - c. VoIP Interconnection with legacy Networks
 - d. Access to Emergency Call Services from VoIP
 - e. Security and Privacy in VoIP Application and Services
 - f. Interoperability and Standardisation
 - g. International Call Bypass
 - h. Quality of Service

Outcomes of the WG on P & R contd....

iii. Critical Information Infrastructure Protection and Cyber Security (Document: SATRC-13/INP-14)

Recommendations

- a. Licensing & Regulatory Measures
 - > Develop a robust Lawful Interception Monitoring (LIM) mechanism
 - ➤ Establish country specific Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Sectoral CERTs
 - ➤ Establish a public-private architecture for responding to national level cyber incidents
 - ➤ Punitive measures against defaulting service providers in complying to regulatory instructions.

b. Legal Measure

- ➤ Adoption of appropriate legislation against the misuse of ICTs for criminal or disruptive purposes
- ➤ International cooperation, investigative assistance, common substantive and procedural provisions
- b. Technical and Procedural Measures
- c. Customer Education & Capacity Building

Working Group on Network & Services

Four work items were assigned to the working group:

- i. Ensuring Quality Mobile Handsets to South Asian Consumers
- ii. Evolution of NGN and NGA: Interconnection Tariffs in SATRC Countries
- iii. Retail Tariffs: QoS Sensitive Pricing for IP based Services
- iv. Roaming and International Tariffs in SATRC Countries

Meetings of the WG on N & S

- 1st meeting of the WG was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in July 2010
 - defined the scope of work and developed work plan for each of the work items.
- 2nd meeting of the WG was held in Tehran, I. R. of Iran in December 2011
 - work progress on the work items and the draft outcomes
- Workshop on Network and Services was held on 12 – 14 July 2011 in Thimpu, Bhutan.
 - discussed the current innovation and regulatory aspects of the issues related to network and services

Outcomes of the WG on N & S

- The Working Group finalized reports on two work items which were approved during 13th SATRC Meeting.
- i. Evolution of NGN: interconnection tariffs in SATRC countries (Document : SATRC-13/INP-19)

Observations:

- ➤ In SATRC countries, deployment of NGN is in the preliminary stage
- ➤ IP interconnection has not been adopted in any country of the region
- Internationally, though NGN has been deployed in some countries, charging mechanism for interconnection in NGN scenario is still evolving
- ➤ Report outlined some possible charging mechanisms in NGN scenario, which cannot be considered as the best practices guidelines for SATRC countries

Recommendations:

Continuation of work on Interconnection charging mechanisms in NGN in the next phase also

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Outcomes of the WG on N & S contd....

ii. Guideline for SATRC on Ensuring Quality Mobile Handsets to South Asian Consumers (Document: SATRC-13/INP-21)

Recommendations:

- a. Need for authentic and proper Declaration of Conformity (DoC)
- b. Harmonized Standard code to be published
- c. Need of unified standardization body
- d. Sharing database of IMEI/ESN of Mobile handsets
- e. Establishment of common accredited laboratory in the region
- f. Formulation of a mechanism for coordination among the member countries