

CLOSING SPEECH

Dr. Eun-Ju Kim
ITU

Y.E. Mr. Xi Guohua and Ms. Li Xueying, Vice Ministers
Mr. Chen Yin, Deputy Director General of the MII, China
All experts and distinguished participants, and
Ladies and gentlemen,

First, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you – speakers and participants – for your kind and active participations in the Seminar.

I hope experiences and practices shared, discussed and exchanged for the last two days would be a useful means in identifying guidelines and can be applicable to prepare for and implement the NGN not only by the policy-makers and regulators but also by the private sectors.

Before closing, let me highlight some lessons and experiences expressed from each speaker representing organizations or countries in addition to the overview of ITU activities on NGN (Dr. E.J.Kim): e.g.,

1) **Australia:** (Mr. Neylan)

- Detailed regulatory requirements for the NGN experienced & practiced in Australia, especially in the aspects of interconnection, number portability, QoS, USO and so forth.
- Australia's emergency call service.
- Law enforcement obligations
- Protection of communications
- Health and safety of customer equipment

2) **China** (Mr. Jiang)

- Overview convergence between internet and telecom, which have wider impacts
- Successes & problems of Internet, especially converged telecom & internet
- Direction of NGN
- Ways & issues to deal with two different business models of NGN driven by different telecom & Internet regulatory environments
- Technical issues & overview of NGN: e.g. QoS

China: (Mr. Wu)

- Overview Chinese status of ICT (especially Internet), comparing with other countries.
- Pointed out negative effects of Internet such as fraud, hacking, virus etc., which cause inefficiency.
- Security issue is very important for NGN; which requires technologies like IPv6 and IPsec to enhance security etc.

- Soft-switch is very important as ITU develops its international standards, but we need different levels of security as services & applications etc.: (e.g., IP-CAN, IMS, etc.).
- Intelligence should be not only at end-user devices, but also at network levels. This is required regulations and standards by regulators and ITU.

3) Hong Kong, SAR (OFTA): (Mr. Kwan)

- Policy objectives & principles
- Telecom market environment in Hong Kong
- Development of IP technology
- NGN trend & issues
- Some regulatory issues for new technologies including NGN: e.g.,
 - Regulations & licensing
 - Technology neutrality
 - Resources allocations
 - Interconnection & charging
 - Consumers' interests & issues

4) EU – 25 Countries (Ms. Birkett)

- Characteristics, implications, and challenges of NGN
- Ways of dealing with convergence & NGNs (e.g. technology neutral approach)
- Overview of EU framework, especially key regulatory issues & characteristics raised by the NGN: e.g.,
 - Licensing
 - Light touch regulation (competition)
 - Identify markets
 - Access (international)
 - Consumer protection aspects
- 2 cases of EU regulatory approach: e.g. VOIP, Wi Fi
- Concluded that an NGN environment will offer greater opportunities, but it may create more bottlenecks as control points.

5) France: (Mr. Carugi)

- Overview French telecom markets (e.g. fixed, mobile, internet etc.)
- Overview highlights of work French Regulatory Authority & Regulations

6) R.O. Korea: (Dr. Shin)

- Introduced Korea Information Infrastructure and Broadband Convergence Network project in Korea.
- IPv6 activities in Korea from various aspects: e.g., policy and promotion, network and application.
- KOREAv6 project with various trials and examples of using IPv6 technologies (e.g. government and offices, campus, home, ISP, HDTV, hospital, gateway for SOHO, and

VOIP).

- Various effects of IPv6

7) USA(FCC): (Mr. Libertelli)

- Few characteristics of NGN: e.g.,
 - Customer/public interest
 - Public hearing before making decisions
- 3 trends in NGN regulation: e.g.,
 - VOIP: e.g. hybrid call – how to compensate between operators etc.
 - A unified intercarrier compensation regime: e.g. 'bill and keep' regime
 - Spectrum policy reform: esp. unlicensed wireless services, devices, & spectrum to avoid frequency interference
- Social & public safety policies for IP-enabled communications: e.g.,
 - Universal Service & US funds (9%)
 - The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act, enacted in response to rapid advances in telecom technology.
 - Emergency call services
 - Access to people with disabilities (e.g., video relayed services), which eventually intend to empower all customers.

8) ITU-T: NGNFG: (Mr. Knight)

- ITU Focus Group on NGN: its background, aims, deliverables (e.g., technical specification etc.).
- System components of NGN: e.g., customer terminals and networks, access networks, core network (control, transport etc.).
- Regulatory requirements and issues: i.e., although new regulatory requirements are not in scope within the NGNFG, technical solutions are included in its scope: (e.g., privacy, user identification, emergency calling etc.).

9) IETF and ITU-T SG13: (Mr. Carugi)

- IMS and 3GPPs
- IP multimedia in IETF
- NGN developments in ITU-T SG13 (JRG-NGN)

During the panel sessions of Questions and Answers, foreign experts and Chinese participants to some extent have agreed on the need of balance between top-down regulation and no-regulation or light regulation led by industry self-regulation to encourage innovation of technologies and growth of ICT markets. Also, panels have discussed and recommended: e.g.

- Points of intelligence: whether at end-user devices or networks.
- Whether to be developed by public or private sector (e.g. ISP) for the NGN.
- Ways of participation at standardization activities at ITU & others to ensure security and

development of NGN.

- Needs for migration to new technologies towards IPv4 and IPv6 etc. to prepare for the NGN, whilst utilizing the existing PSTN both in the developed and developing countries, taking into account the reliability and stable nature of PSTN, especially in China where teledensity is still low.
- Core values extended to the NGN: Universal Service, Law enforcement, communication with the disability etc.

Having summarized all presentations & discussions, this seminar attended and led by Y.E. Mr. Xi, Vice Minister, and all senior telecom policy-makers & regulators in China has well demonstrated to cover policy and regulatory aspects at a macro level as well as technical and standard issues at a micro level, relating to new technologies, especially the NGN. We have shared the view that the appropriate policy & regulatory environment is very critical for facilitating continuous technological innovations as well as for developing not only ICT Industry but also the entire markets, since ICT is the mainstay for the overall socio, economic and political development in the information society.

In conclusion, I am very thrilled & interesting to recognize that we all are at the heart of evolution towards the Information Society through engaging in the continuously evolving telecommunication and ICT sector. I believe, roles of both public and private sectors for the development of ICT infrastructures such as the NGN is very critical for our future generations since its policy, regulatory and technical frameworks being developed today will have impacts on whether they – all stakeholders - enjoy the NGN, which “offers unrestricted access by users ... with mobility for consistent and ubiquitous provision of services.” I wish this seminar to play as a seed for you to harvest the fruitful results with localized and indigenous policies and regulations for the NGN.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all of you, particularly Ms. Zhang who convinced me to organize this seminar in 2004, all the technical and administrative staff who assisted in holding this seminar very successfully and smoothly, the telecom administration and telecom operators in Changsu province hosting this seminar, and, the utmost, all participants from the central and provincial governments in China.

Looking forward to meeting & working with you all again for new emerging telecom & ICT regulatory & technological issues in the future, ITU and all foreign experts express the warmest gratitude to the MII, especially Y.E. Mr. Xi and Mme. Li, Vice Ministers, for kind hospitality, supports and participations.