

ITU-BDT Subregional Seminar – Doha, 29 September – 1 October 2003

3rd Generation Partnership Project - Abstract

The 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) is a standardization initiative created between several regional standards development organizations from Asia, Europe and the USA. The project, which was created in December 1998, is producing specifications for a 3rd Generation mobile system that employs an innovative radio interface (UTRA) and an evolution of the GSM core network. Industry groups and more than 430 individual companies also participate in the work. In addition, 3GPP is responsible for the maintenance and evolution of the GSM specifications originally created by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute, ETSI.

The 3GPP has been recognized by the ITU as one of the sources of technical specifications for the IMT-2000 family. The technologies defined by 3GPP form two members of the ITU's IMT-2000 family. 3GPP specifications (and those for GSM) are grouped into "Releases": a Release differs from the previous one by having added functionality introduced as a result of ongoing standardization work. To date there have been three 3GPP Releases. Each containing many hundreds of specifications, these Releases have enabled the industry to proceed with the development of the growing number of operational systems based on the 3GPP technologies. A fourth Release is due in the coming months.

This presentation will summarise the structure and achievements of 3GPP, examine its relationship with other specification groups, and outline plans for the future.