

## **IMT and IMS Technologies in Developing Countries**

- The world is increasingly going digital. IMT and IMS technologies are the cornerstones of mobile network and service deployments around the world. IMT refers to 3G (and beyond) mobile networks, while IMS is a powerful way of performing network and service control in the IP-based communications.
- Increasingly IMS is also being used for various fixed networks and services.
- The standardization of radio access parts of IMT has been going on ITU-R for a number of years. ITU-T engages in the global standardization of network aspects of IMT and IMS.
- Development of IMT and IMS standards exemplify the close cooperation of between ITU-R and ITU-T on one hand and external standards organizations (such as 3GPP, 3GPP2, IEEE, ATIS, ARIB, ETSI, CCSA, TTA, TTC) on the other.
- This collaboration and cooperation ensures that resources are used in a very prudent way, and there is no re-invention of existing solutions.
- Deployment of IMT and IMS are quite widespread in the developed countries for some years now. The developing countries are about to experience such deployments in the very near future.
- WTSA in 2008 realized the need of studying the special circumstances and scenarios in developing countries that will have to be met for successful deployment and smooth operation of IMT and IMS. They approved a Question under ITU-T SG13 to investigate the customer/user needs, technology, market, and standardization requirements from the perspective of developing countries.
- SG13 has started work in these areas and quickly realized that, to be successful, close collaboration with external industry organizations such as GSM Association, CDMA Development Group, WiMAX Forum will be needed. Such cooperation will be essential to gather information on the industry's past experiences and concerns in the implementation of IMS/IMT in the developing countries.
- We are currently focusing the collaboration in the wide areas of technology requirements, user requirements, roadmap/migration, interoperability, operation and product support.
- On the other hand cooperative relationship has been established with ITU-D, which has a long-standing, hands-on experience in working with developing nations to help bridge the digital gap.
- The three branches of ITU, the external standards bodies, and the major global industry organizations have come together to ensure that developing countries get the benefit of the best practices learnt so far as they plan to deploy two major technologies IMT and IMS in their regions.