Source: Dr. Th. IRMER, Director TSB/ITU, Geneva

Title: Towards the next millenium - an overview of the changing global ITU standardization

Agenda item: 5.1

Document for:

Decision	
Discussion	
Information	x

Towards the next millenium - an overview of the changing global ITU standardization

by
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TSB

Mission: efficient, on-time production of high quality global standards for telecommunication (except radiocommuniation)

Product: at present, over 2300 standards ("Recommendations") are available; "Recommendations" = non-binding standards agreed upon by consensus, approved almost only by correspondence, published on paper, CD-ROM, and electronically through "ITU-T Recommendations Online". Production of service documents (e.g. Operational Bulletin, Registrar for International Freephone Service (IFS), since February '97)

Workforce: 14 Study Groups + Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG), supported by the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB)

Study Group 2	-	Network and service operation
Study Group 3	-	Tariff and accounting principles, including related telecommunication, economic and policy issues
Study Group 4	-	TMN and network maintenance
Study Group 5	-	Protection against electromagnetic environment effects
Study Group 6	-	Outside plant
Study Group 7	-	Data networks and open system communications
Study Group 8	-	Characteristics of telematic systems
Study Group 9	-	Television and sound transmission

Study Group 10 -	Languages and general software aspects for telecommunication systems
Study Group 11 -	Signalling requirements and protocols
Study Group 12 -	End-to-end transmission performance of networks and terminals
Study Group 13 -	General network aspects
Study Group 15 -	Transport networks, systems and equipment
Study Group 16 -	Multimedia services and systems

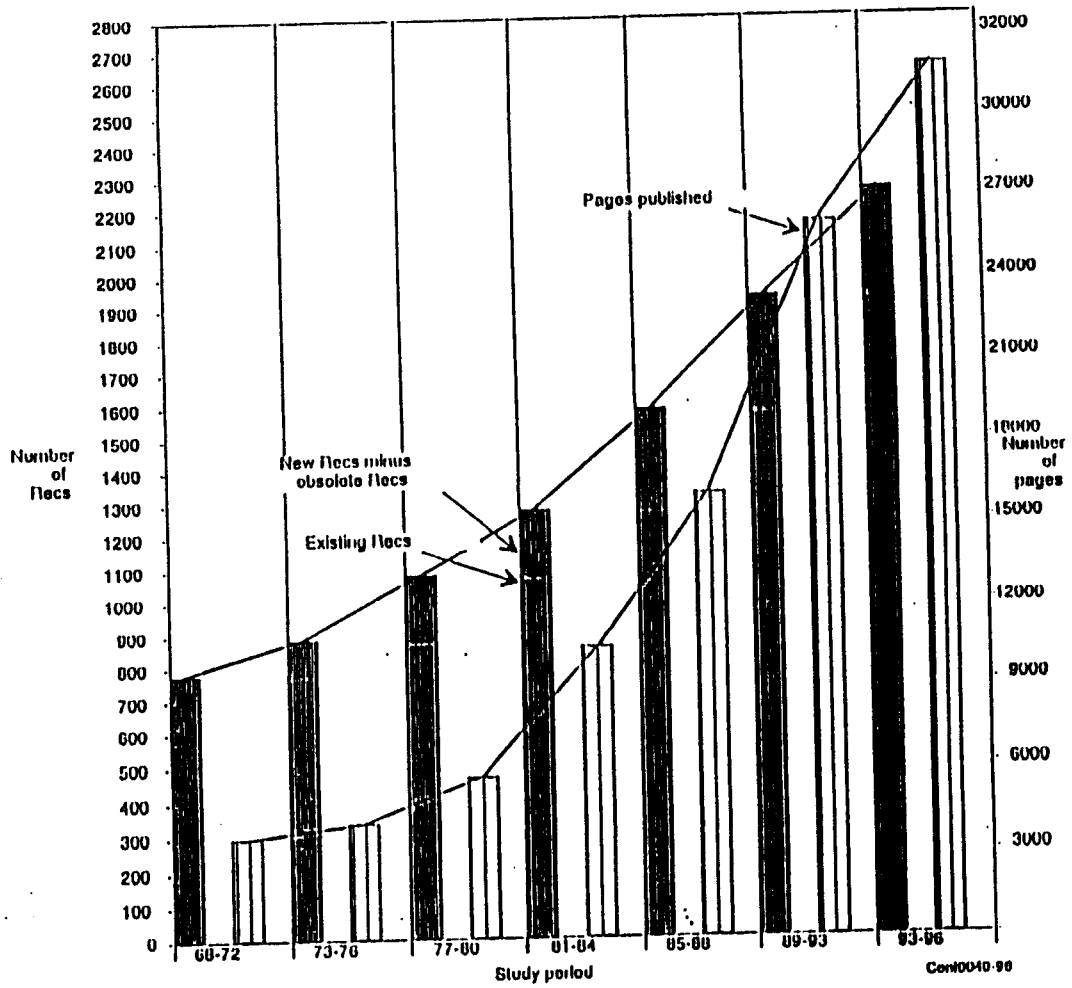
- Digital technology has led to the "digital revolution"
- New technical opportunities, solutions and products are evolving at a rapid pace ---> more new standards needed
- New standards tend to be more and more complex;
  visible effect: increase of volume of standards
- Obviously, more time required for development of such standards - but technology races forward !

Basic conflict:

HOW to develop MORE NEW and MORE COMPLEX standards in SHORTER time periods?

Nasty question:

DO WE REALLY NEED ALL THESE STANDARDS ?



The sleepless-night-graph of the TSB Director

TSB

- ITU-T's mandate: setting up of global standards, securing global interconnectivity of networks and interoperability of services

- Regional standardization organizations actively support ITU's work, but they may have in addition specific regional standardization tasks which are not covered by ITU, such as to set up standards for:

  - regional networks and services (paging, regional mobile / satellite networks

  - certification /type approval for terminal equipment

  - further detailing or enhancing global standards for specific regional needs ("downstream")

  - preparing regional viewpoints on global standardization issues underway in ITU ("upstream")

  - practical training ("hands-on") on standards making and implementation in the region

Global Information Infrastructure (GII)

- not from scratch, federation of networks
- first set of basic standards ready (principles, architecture, scenarios, etc.)
- focussing on interface standards (interconnectivity and interoperability)

New standards for multimedia systems and Internet

- videoconferencing on Internet, text conversation for impaired people
- multimedia conferencing, PCM modems at 56 Kbit/s

Internet standards

- telephony via Internet, performance,
- interworking with PSTN and other networks

Third generation of mobile systems (IMT 2000):

- worldwide interoperability ("family concept")
- common core network but different air interfaces?

- Universal International Freephone Service (UIFN) in operation
- International Premium Rate Service in preparation
- The "Millenium Bug" -
  how to avoid computer problems in telecommunication networks
- Revision of international numbering system
- Reforming the eroding accounting rate system
  - Cost-based international settlement as objective - but how to achieve it?
  - Several candidates (termination /interconection /settlement charge ...)
  - Several regimes, in future, reflecting different degrees of liberalization?
- Next ITU Policy Forum (16-18 Marchy '98) will focus on accounting rate system and its replacement
- Charging in the Internet - but how?

Membership:

188 Administrations (as of right), Member States
129 ROAs
160 SIOs
39 others (regional, international organizations,etc.
] Sector Members
31 new applicants in 1997

Production :

234 new
132 revised
] ITU-T Recommendations
79 Circulars,
237 reports,
2200 UIFN numbers,
> 500 entries into the ITU-T IPR database

> 500 normal
> 2000 delayed
] Contributions printed and distributed

EDH :

- All texts produced (see previous slide) are now posted on the ITU-T Web page
- received increasingly documents via EDH
- staff reinforcement for EDH : six

IPR :

- Standard text for IPR statement
- Debate on Clause 2.3 (no licence - no Rec.) continues
- "Fair and reasonable" in case of multi-IPR claiments

Copyright:

- new rules for electronic copies necessary
- ownership of source codes (e.g. for algorithms)

- Efficient cooperation between TSAG, Study Groups and TSB resulted in many proposals submitted to WTSC-96

- All proposals were accepted, smooth running of conference appreciated by participants due to efficient preparation

Some highlights:

- Acceleration of approval procedure (5 months less, additional cost savings (no "letter ballot" any longer)

- "Lead Study Groups" and "Focus Groups" replacing Joint Coordination Groups: transition towards project-oriented standardization

- TSAG upgraded to perform tasks between WTSCs

- Structural changes in Study Groups (new SG "Multimedia Systems and Services", merging of SGs 1 and 14 with other SGs)
- Extension of EDH within TSB and with its membership
- New financial management - SGs are "cost centers" and are administering their own "budget", measured in translated pages
- Strengthening of cooperation with other standardization organizations, including Forums and Consortia

Conclusion and objective:

- To produce standards faster, better and more efficiently with existing resources

- Maintaining Study Groups (SGs) for clearly defined work areas
- Standardization projects involving several SGs to be increasingly carried out by "Project Groups" (PGs)
- Replacing Questions for Study Groups and Project Groups by defined mandates and work programmes
- Focus Groups as "drivers" to advance standardization in a Study Group
- Work programmes continuously updated, reviewed by TSAG
- Detailed sectoral budgets, SGs and PGs are "cost centres" and manage their own "budget", measured in translated and printed pages

- In practice, Member States and Sector Members are enjoying already today equal rights and obligations in ITU (exception: approval of draft Recommendations)

- Participation, documents, contributions, drawing up of work plans, assuming responsibilities (chairmanship of ITU-T bodies): no discrimination between Member States and Sector Members

- Introduction of "alternative" approval process will remove the existing exception: draft Recommendations (except those bearing policy or regulatory implications) will be approved <u>on an equal footing</u> by Member States <u>and</u> Sector Members in a Study Group meeting

- Alternative approval process would cover about 90% of all ITU-T Recommendations

- Recognition of the fact that, under the roof of ITU, its three Sectors have different tasks, different needs and - increasingly - also a different membership

- Although there is need for a common set of basic rules and procedures for all three Sectors, each one should have its freedom to develop its own procedures and working methods, to execute its tasks and to satisfy its customers as efficiently as possible

- ITU-T is the Sector most exposed to changes in technology and environment and the (previously) indicated changes are crucial for ITU-T to maintain its pre-eminence in global standardization

- Active participation of ITU-T Member States and Sector Members in preparing proposals for PP '98 (ITU-2000, TSAG....) is essential and therefore encouraged