ITU-T Kaleidoscope 2009
Innovations for Digital Inclusion

ICT Standardisation in China, the EU, and the US.

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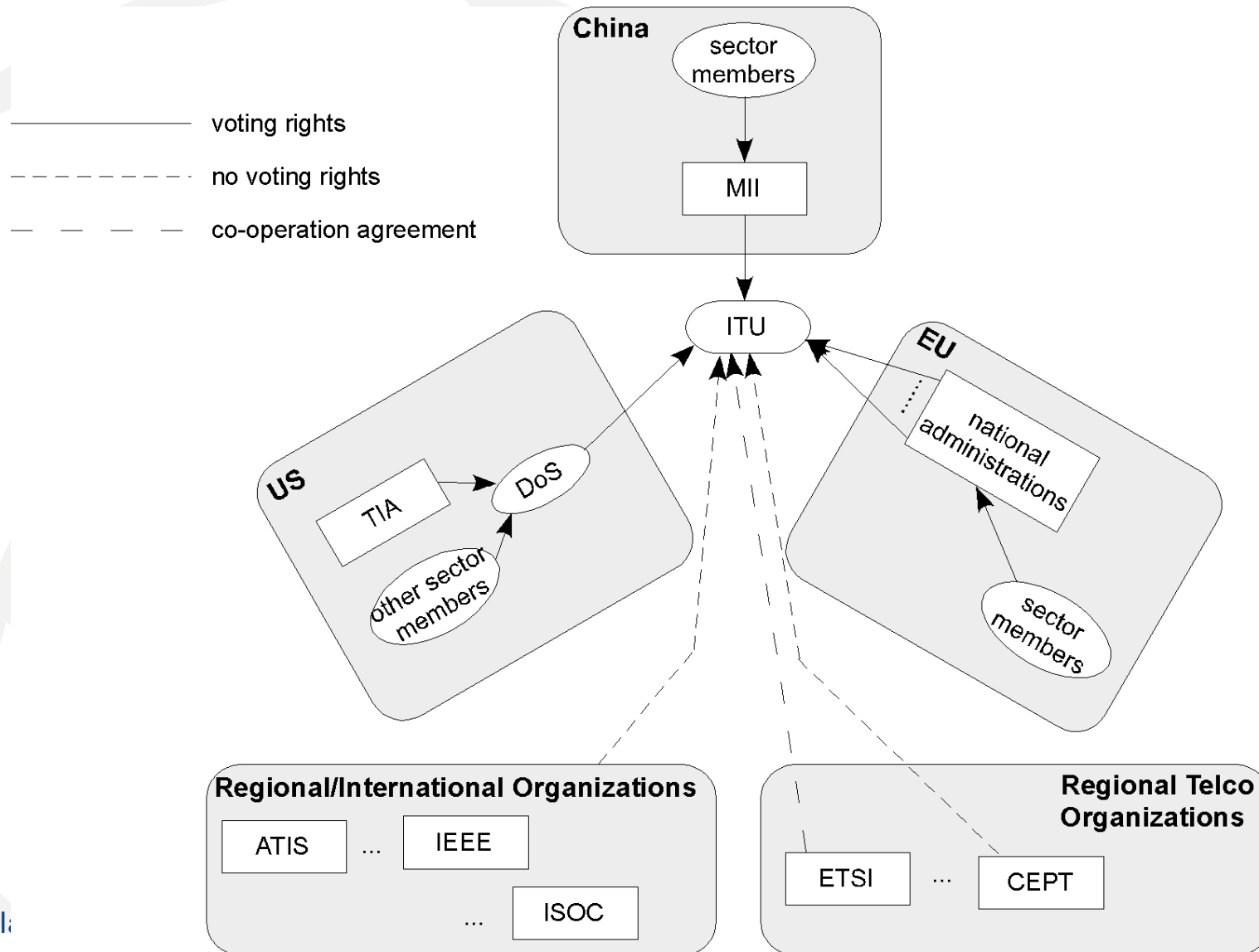
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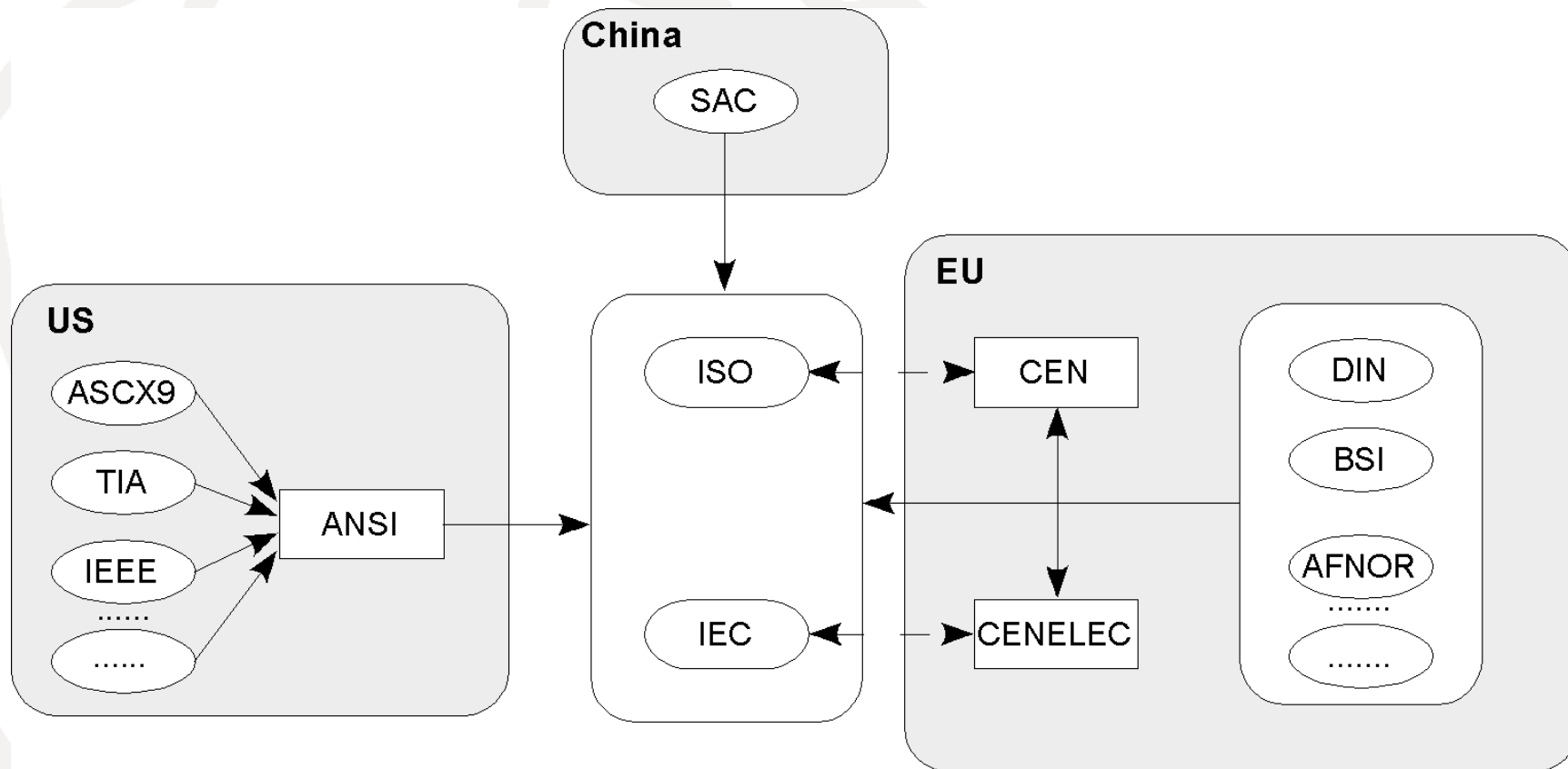**Mar del Plata, Argentina, 31 Aug – 1 Sep 2009**

Three different overall approaches

- Over 250 ANSI-accredited national SDOs in the US.

- Three European Standards Organisations, plus 30 National Bodies.

- Two central entities in China – the Standardization Administration of China (SAC), Ministry of Information Industry (MII), plus subordinate bodies.

Telecommunication Standardisation - The Players

voting rights
no voting rights
co-operation agreement

China
sector members
MII
ITU

US
TIA
DoS
other sector members

EU
national administrations
sector members

Regional/International Organizations
ATIS ... IEEE
... ISOC

Regional Telco Organizations
ETSI ... CEPT

ICT Standardisation - The Players

Public R&D <-> Standardisation

- **US**: *"Industry should support standards development through ... funding of research, ..."* (US-NSS).
- **EU**: virtually non-existent; situation may improve.
- **China**: unclear; contradicting reports.

Stakeholder representation

- **US**: all stakeholders are represented (typically vendors dominate); corporate or individual representation.

- **EU**: ETSI like US SDOs (corporate rep.); NSOs are sole members of CEN/ CENELEC (individual rep); typically vendors dominate in all ESOs.

- **China**: largely universities and public research institutes.

Integration of standards consortia

- **US**: consortia considered a legitimate and important part of the global ICT standards system.

- **EU**: consortia still considered '2nd class'. But recently: integrating standard-setting consortia would benefit the EU ICT industry ....

- **China**: preference for formally institutionalised organisations.

Regional coverage

- **US**: primarily American National Standards or US Standards under international umbrella; IEEE international.

- **EU**: clear European focus with international co-operation (CEN, CENELEC); international (ETSI).

- **China**: thus far, largely national significance (likely to change, though).

SWOT Analysis - EU Strengths

- Close and long-standing co-operation with international counterparts.
- Contradiction-free standards.
- Close links to European policy makers.
- Well respected internationally (ETSI).
- Pioneers in innovative approaches towards 4G (such as 3GPP; ETSI).
- Partly flexible approach to standardisation.
- Representation of at least part of the 'Third Estate' (consumers, SMEs).

SWOT Analysis - EU Weaknesses

- (Financially) dependent on policy makers.
- Slow-moving process, not 100% suitable for fast-moving technologies.
- Sub-optimal type of representation (through NSOs; CEN, CENELEC).
- 'New Deliverables' lack broad consensus.
- Policy largely ignores standards consortia.
- Limited links R&D <-> standardisation.
- Overly European focus (CEN, CENELEC).

SWOT Analysis - EU Opportunities

- Good links to international -> strengthen the EU position in the global arena.

- High reputation (especially ETSI) can attract international know-how, contributions, and members.

- Flexibility will be helpful for newly emerging topics.

- Wide participation increases democratic legitimacy (e.g., for the the IoT).

SWOT Analysis - EU Threats I

- Financial dependency may lead to reduced international importance (focus on support of EU policy).

- Inadequate level of consensus may render 'New Deliverables' irrelevant.

- Slow processes, European focus, and national representation (CEN/CENELEC) may lead to international marginalisation.
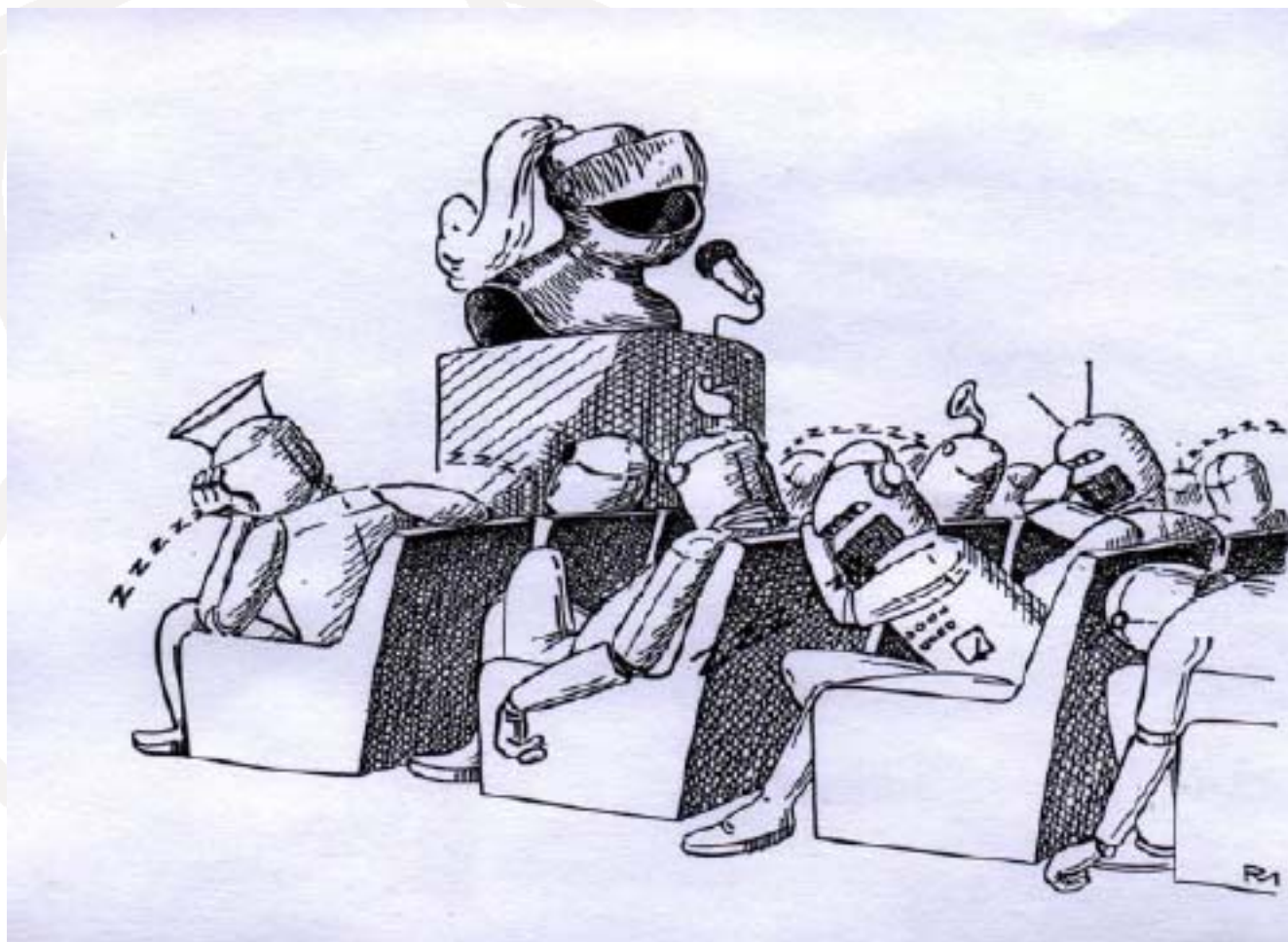
SWOT Analysis - EU Threats II

- Continuing to ignore consortia may leave Europe stranded with possibly irrelevant European standards.

- Poor links R&D <-> standardisation may
  - make it difficult for ESOs to exploit state-of-the-art technical knowledge,
  - render European standards inadequate,
  - and may hinder ESOs from addressing crucial future topics.

Some Final Remarks

- China's centralised system is strong in supporting policy, but inflexible.
- US and EU still are the power houses in international ICT standardisation.
- This may well change through the increasing influence of primarily Asian countries, (most) notably China.

Thank You Very Much for Your Attention

Questions, Please .....