|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14)** **Dubai, 30 March – 10 April 2014** | |  |
|  | | |
|  | |  |
|  | | **Addendum 15 to**  **Document** **WTDC14/****37-E** |
| **11 March 2014** |
| **Original:** **English** |
|  |  | |
| SOURCE: | Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (See Annex 2 to Document WTDC14/37) | |
| TITLE: | Proposal for ITU-D Study Group Questions | |

# 1 Introduction

APT Members appreciate the valuable and effective work of the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D) Study Groups.

APT Members consider that there are a number of matters that would benefit from further study, in the Study Period 2014-2018.

# 2 Proposal

APT Members propose that WTDC-14 consider matters for inclusion in study questions for the period 2014-2018, as detailed in the Annex.

ANNEX: ISSUES FOR STUDY IN 2014-2018

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ACP/37/18** | Objective(s): 2 |

# 1. Spectrum Management

**a. Background**

Harnessing the benefits of new technologies represents a key priority for both the Asia Pacific Telecommunity and the world at large. Mobile and wireless networks in particular have become increasingly important as enablers of economic growth and social interaction, and the past few years have seen a host of new digital devices and technologies to access these networks become available. Such devices have and will continue to drastically increase demand on spectrum resources that provide mobile and wireless connectivity. Data usage on mobile devices alone grew at nearly 142% in Asia Pacific from 2010-2012, and 46% of total mobile traffic worldwide is expected to be offloaded to other fixed wireless networks by 2017.

Additional mobile broadband capacity may be created by:

* further investment by operators in mobile infrastructure;
* increasing the technical efficiency of operation of mobile networks and deploying new technology; and/or
* increasing the amount of harmonized International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) spectrum that is available to the mobile communications industry at regional and national level.

Various ideas are being considered to address the challenge raised by increasing demand on spectrum, including the development and deployment of Dynamic Spectrum Access (DSA) technologies that utilize cognitive capabilities to opportunistically identify spectrum available in a particular location that may be shared among radio-communications services. DSA technologies use geolocation databases and spectrum sensing to remove the threat of interference with existing licensed and unlicensed services.

The four-year rolling Operational plan for the General Secretariat for 2014-2017 lists “Analysis of implications of emerging trends for the work of the Union”, including Dynamic Spectrum allocation, as one of the work items for the period 2014-2017.

While there is considerable work in other ITU Sectors on the issue of spectrum harmonisation, APT Members consider that there is benefit in the ITU-D considering how it can assist developing countries in relation to national spectrum allocation policies[[1]](#footnote-1).

**b. Issues for study**

APT Members request that WTDC-14 consider future ITU-D Study Group Question activity on the following:

Issues to be considered under this study may include:

* Approaches to shared spectrum access in order to foster innovation, interoperability, spectrum efficiency and cross-border frequency coordination;
* Monitoring and evaluation of benefits of shared spectrum access through White Space Devices, especially in making broadband access more affordable to lower-income populations, especially in developing countries;
* Sharing information and best practice on co-existence between White Space Devices and existing radio-communication services;
* Sharing information and best practices for regulators to the use of White Space Devices in VHF and UHF bands;
* Study the possibility of applying DSA and White Spaces technology to enable better and more cost-effective fulfilment of Universal Service Obligations (USO);
* Study the economic and social benefits of utilizing DSA and White Space technology and produce a set of recommendations on how such technology and policy innovation could facilitate broadband development in developing countries, and contribute to the goal of broadband penetration set forth by the UN Broadband Commission;
* Identify the amount of IMT spectrum currently in use by the mobile industry in different regions and countries;
* Identify appropriate best practices for developing countries to maximize future harmonized IMT spectrum availability, in order to minimise the potential for a spectrum divide.

The final expected output of the study would provide guidance to facilitate deployment of DSA technologies, especially White Space Devices and cognitive radio systems using VHF and UHF bands on an unlicensed or license-exempt basis that can be flexibly adapted to various regulatory contexts to harness this new technology and its benefits.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ACP/37/19** | Objective(s): 4 |

# 2. Usage of broadband networks, disparity in international Internet traffic and its implications on delivery of cost effective broadband services for development needs

**a. Background**

Various reports including the Document no. RPM-ASP13/3-E indicate the fact that long form videos, other types of video entertainment form the major part of International IP traffic. The situation requires critical evaluation of what could be the impact of huge disparity in traffic among various applications viz entertainment, development or infotainment etc.

**b. Issues for study**

Considering the fact that the video content is primarily occupying the major part of international traffic, there is a need to study the following:

* Pattern and trends of international internet traffic for various applications
* Relevance in the context of applications primarily used for development viz. e-governance, education, health etc. (development related content).
* Commercial impact of new investments required to meet the growing international internet traffic demands on delivering affordable broadband services to meet the development needs.

*Expected output*

* Assessment of the current situation of international traffic at global and regional level for various applications
* Provide guidelines on development related content broadband packages relevant for delivering services for development in an affordable manner.
* Cost models of development related content broadband packages

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ACP/37/20** | Objective(s): 3 |

# 3. Harnessing telecommunications/ICT applications for productivity

**a. Background**

The information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector has an increasingly wide impact and reach around the world. The development of ICT applications has become a key factor for harnessing the development of social and economic sectors of all countries, especially for developing countries.

Within the ITU Framework, ITU-D has a number of ongoing areas of study related to ICT applications such as guidelines, research, toolkits etc.

Telecommunication/ICT can assist organizations to improve the efficiency and level of organizational production, operation, administration and decision-making, etc. Furthermore, it can promote economic benefit and competitiveness. However, many organizations, including enterprises, government organizations and non-governmental organizations in developing countries, still encounter difficulties in terms of the use of ICT to enhance productivity.

In addition developing countries can harness the benefits of ICT applications for e-government activities.

**b. Issues for study**

APT Members request that WTDC-14 consider the future study of:

* Assess development of ICT applications such as e-government, e-health, e-business etc. at the regional and national level, taking into account previous studies
* To develop best practice guidelines and toolkits to assist developing countries to implement technical and policy requirements for ICT applications, including e-government applications in various organizations.
* Co-ordinate with other relevant sectors of ITU and other organisations.
* Share information and develop toolkits on how to enhance the productivity that can be achieved through the use of ICT applications in developing countries.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ACP/37/21** | Objective(s): 4 |

# 4. Study on the pricing issues on international mobile roaming and over the top (OTT) services and applications

APT Members support continuing ITU-D Study Group Question 12-3/1 and Question 26/2.

APT Members would also encourage increased priority on pricing issues of international mobile roaming and over the top (OTT) services and applications.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. See Plum Consulting “*Harmonised spectrum for mobile services in ASEAN and South Asia”* at: [www.plumconsulting.co.uk/pdfs/Plum\_Aug2013\_harmonised\_spectrum\_for\_mobile\_asean\_south\_asia.pdf](http://www.plumconsulting.co.uk/pdfs/Plum_Aug2013_harmonised_spectrum_for_mobile_asean_south_asia.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)