

GSC-12 Communiqué

“Standardization: the bridge towards a ubiquitous world” Global Standardization Collaboration Intensifies

Kobe, Japan, 13 July 2007

The world’s leading telecommunications and radio standards organizations met from the 8 to 13 July 2007 to promote innovation and collaboration on next generation standards for converged fixed/mobile communication services. The Twelfth Global Standards Collaboration meeting (GSC-12), including a User Workshop, was hosted by ARIB and TTC in Kobe, Japan, and was attended by more than 100 participants from eight Participating Standards Organizations (PSOs) and the ITU.

Shuichi MATSUMOTO, GSC-12 Chairman, observed: “the progress reported in emergency communications standards was particularly significant here in Kobe given the 1995 earthquake that severely damaged this region. Also important here at GSC were the achievements in global collaboration to help bridge to a ubiquitous world through standards”.

In keeping with this goal, the meeting identified several new topics for collaboration:

- Network aspects of identification systems, including RFID and ubiquitous sensor networks
- Impact of the adoption of a common IMS (IP Multimedia Subsystem) specification on NGN standardization

Other key results of the meeting included:

- Significant progress was reported on the development of a unique functional IPTV architecture covering legacy and NGN (IMS and non-IMS) based platforms that is facilitating alignment between initiatives in ITU-T and other SDOs along with agreement on requirements covering areas such as home network, QoS/QOE, security, unicast and multi-cast,
- Agreement to use the recommendations of the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) task force report as the basis for ongoing work in the areas of automotive crash notification (ACN) and vehicle safety communications (VSC),
- Creation of a Task Force to exchange information and views on candidate radio interface technologies for IMT-Advanced which will enable a continuing cooperation on IMT standardization for the evolution of current and future mobile systems,
- Understanding that key standards are now in place around the world to support national requirements for Emergency Communications, and Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) including interoperability requirements of public safety and emergency agencies during their different operational scenarios,
- Recognition of the continuing need to standardize all aspects of mobile multimedia broadcast and multicast systems, and applications for entertainment, news, sport and information while recognizing the benefits and necessity of continued innovation in this emerging service category,

- Acknowledgement of the many new Cybersecurity related deliverables that are being produced by the ITU-T and PSOs to help service providers and equipment suppliers to identify security vulnerabilities, conduct risk assessment and develop mechanisms to mitigate risks.

In addition, the GSC reaffirmed its positions on IPR policy and on "open standards."

The Global Telecommunications Standards Collaboration (GTSC) and Global Radio Standards Collaboration (GRSC) meetings are a vital part of the Global Standards Collaboration. The GRSC and GTSC meetings aim to establish objectives to accelerate the process of global telecommunication and radio standards development thereby promoting interconnectivity and interoperability.

Specific resolutions on the following topics were agreed:

- Identity Management
- IPTV
- Healthcare ICT
- Continuing Cooperation on IMT Standardization
- Open Standards
- Next Generation Networks
- Cybersecurity
- Home Networks
- IP Over Broadband Networks
- Facilitating Liaison in Relation to Measurement Methodologies for Assessing Human Exposure to RF Energy
- Facilitating Liaison in Relation to Measurement Methodologies, associated Measurement Uncertainty and Calibration
- Broadband Services in Rural and Remote Areas
- Radio Microphones and Cordless Audio Standardization
- GSC ITS Task Force
- Support for WSC Workshop on ICT in Motor Vehicles - Geneva 2008
- Public Protection and Disaster Relief
- Mobile Multimedia Broadcast and Multicast
- Software Defined Radio
- Network Aspects of Identification Systems
- Global UWB Standardization, including UWB Radar and Sensor/Imaging Applications
- Personally Identifiable Information Protection
- User needs, consideration and involvement
- Intellectual Property Rights Policies
- Cooperation with Patent and Trademark Offices

Furthermore, the GSC agreed that the ITU would create a central repository to share events information.

Kohei SATOH, ARIB, said: "this meeting offered us all a good opportunity to discuss radio spectrum issues in the lead up to the World Radio Conference 2007 and the candidates for IMT Advanced radio interface technologies."

In addition, a User Workshop was held with the theme “User's Accessibility of Telecommunication”, that included sessions on ICT in Transport and ICT in Healthcare. Presentations were given on Japan's strong engagement in bringing in users needs (including users with special needs) into standardization and product and services development. The conclusion of the User Workshop stated that “User involvement is a critical factor in providing products and services” and is therefore also important for standardization development where global coordination is required more than ever. The GSC provides a unique platform for such coordination.

The GSC Web site (<http://www.gsc.etsi.org/>) contains details of the meeting and archives of previous meetings are available on the ITU site (<http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/gsc/index.html>).

Participants at GSC-12 included the Association of Radio Industries and Businesses (ARIB) of Japan, the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) and Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) from the US, the China Communications Standards Association (CCSA), the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), the ICT Standards Advisory Council of Canada (ISACC), the Telecommunications Technology Association (TTA) of Korea, the Telecommunication Technology Committee (TTC) of Japan, and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Guests and observers included representatives from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), Broadband Wireless Consortium of India (BWCI), Communications and Information network Association of Japan (CIAJ), European Patents Office (EPO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Sector Board 4, IEEE, International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ITU Association of Japan (ITU-AJ), Open Mobile Alliance (OMA) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Mr. Karl Heinz Rosenbrock (Honorary Director-General of ETSI) also attended as a special guest of ARIB and TTC.

Background Information:

The Global Standards Collaboration is the latest in a series of such events that commenced in Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1990. Their goal is to promote informal linkage among senior officials from national, regional, and international standards bodies in support of the work of the International Telecommunication Union. The next GSC meeting in this series will be hosted mid 2008 by ATIS in USA.

The GSC-12 meeting provided a framework for exchanging information, establishing objectives to accelerate the process of global telecommunication and radio standards development, and promoting interconnectivity and interoperability.

More information on GSC-12 and previous GSC meetings is available at: <http://www.gsc.etsi.org/> and <http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/gsc/index.html>.