



GSC-14 Communiqué

Addressing Global Challenges Through Interoperable Standards

Geneva, Switzerland
16 July 2009

Participants at a unique international gathering of the world's leading standards development organizations highlighted the challenges of climate change as a key concern for this community and in particular for developing countries. It was agreed that ICTs based upon global interoperable standards are critical in dealing with this issue.

The 14th meeting of the Global Standards Collaboration (GSC) provided an opportunity for standards organizations to consider common challenges and exchange information and collaborate to address them with a goal to reduce duplication of work.

Following the 2008 GSC meeting, standards aimed at the use of ICTs to mitigate climate change continued as a key topic of discussion, with all participants agreeing that strong collaboration is of key importance here. It was highlighted that studies show that the use of ICTs can significantly reduce green house gas emission in other industry sectors, especially energy generation, transportation, buildings, and waste disposal.

The GSC-14 meeting saw a broad spectrum of items covered including international mobile telecommunications (IMT), NGN (next generation networks), home networks, emergency communications, cybersecurity, identity management, IPTV, reconfigurable radio systems, broadband wireless access and intelligent transportation systems (ITS). Topics highlighted as warranting further investigation included smart grid, service oriented networks, future networks and machine-to-machine communications /smart embedded device communications.

The host Malcolm Johnson, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, ITU: "Increasing the probability of interoperability will greatly increase both the quality of standards and quality of service for service providers and end users alike. ITU welcomes the opportunity to work with the world's most important standards bodies on this and other important matters. GSC has an enormously important role to play in globalizing the standardization process. GSC promotes the value of standardization to the international community by sending a clear message of efficiency and commitment to address global needs by working together to avoid the duplication of effort and wasted intellectual resource."

Zhu Gaofeng, Chairman of the Council of China Communications Standards Association, next year's GSC host: "GSC continues to be an important venue for coordination of global standardization strategies. It is clear that in an age with a proliferation of standards bodies and newly emerging technologies, industry requires this level of collaboration. I am very happy that we have achieved – again – this high-level agreement on a diverse range of issues, some of which are not just important in terms of market development but have much wider ranging social impact."



Susan M. Miller, President and CEO of ATIS, last year's GSC host: "The tremendous collaborative work of GSC expands our ability to deliver global standards which, at heart, are designed to promote innovation, foster market competition, advance infrastructure development, and enhance interoperability. The ability to do this is fundamental to the global ICT industry's primary objective – responding to and delivering on user needs with innovative services and solutions in a timely and cost-effective basis."

More than one hundred participants attended from the nine GSC member organisations as well as from observer organizations.

Participating organisations at GSC-14 included the Association of Radio Industries and Businesses (ARIB) of Japan, the China Communications Standards Association (CCSA) of China, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), the ICT Standards Advisory Council of Canada (ISACC), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) and Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) from the U.S., the Telecommunications Technology Association (TTA) of Korea and the Telecommunication Technology Committee (TTC) of Japan.

Guests and observer organizations included representatives from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), APT Wireless Forum, Broadband Forum, CDMA Development Group (CDG), European Patent Office (EPO), Home Gateway Initiative, International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Sector Board 4 (SB4), IEEE-SA, Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee 1, Open Mobile Alliance (OMA), UMTS Forum and the U.S. Patent & Trade Mark Office.

Background Information:

The 14th Global Standards Collaboration is the latest in a series of such events that commenced in Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1990. These events provide a strategic opportunity for dialogue among senior officials from national, regional and international standards bodies. The next GSC meeting will be hosted by CCSA in China.

The GSC-14 meeting provided a framework for exchanging information and establishing shared objectives to accelerate the process of global telecommunication and radio standards development.

More information on GSC-14 is available at www.itu.int/ITU-T/gsc/gsc14. Information on previous GSC meetings is available at the ITU repository www.itu.int/ITU-T/gsc.