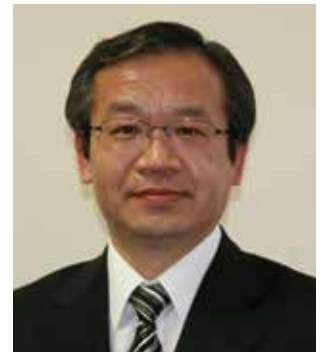


Appointment of a New ASTAP Chairman



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The Telecommunication Technology Committee

ASTAP, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Standardization Program, is a program established in 1998 for the standardization of telecommunications in the Asia-Pacific region. Its aims include (1) contributing to international standardization by constructing systems for cooperation and coordination of standardization efforts in the Asia-Pacific region, (2) cultivating standardization proponents within the region and supporting the development of telecommunication skills among members within the region, especially in developing countries, and (3) submitting the region's joint standardization proposals to the ITU and other international standards organizations.

Until 2010, ASTAP was chaired by Bob Horton (Australia), one of the committee's founding members. However, following the changes made to the ASTAP's working methods in 2010, this post was limited to two two-year terms and Seyed Mostafa Safavi (Iran) was appointed as the second chairman. At the 24th ASTAP Forum in August 2014, I was accepted as the third chairman.

The Telecommunication Technology Committee (TTC) has been an affiliate member^[1] of the APT since 2008, and with the aim of contributing to studies to strengthen cooperation among developing countries in Asia and bridge the standardization gaps, it has been playing an active role in ASTAP's standardization efforts. In particular, we have been part of the APT project since 2007, where we have been ascertaining the demand for, and utility of, solutions that use ICT to address social issues in fields such as healthcare, education, agriculture, the environment, and disaster relief, and we have been actively developing the fruits of this work within ASTAP.

The photograph shows the plenary session of the 25th ASTAP, which was held in Bangkok from the 2nd to the 7th of March^[2]. I am seated in the middle, between the new APT Secretary-General Ms. Areewan Haorangi and the new APT Deputy

Secretary-General Mr. Masanori Kondo. This ASTAP forum was attended by approximately 130 people, including senior representatives from 23 of the 38 member countries^[3] of APT (Asia-Pacific Telecommunity)^[4].

The new system of the ASTAP has a three-layer structure. Standardization issues are assigned to a first layer comprising 12 Expert Groups (EGs). These EGs are consolidated and classified into a second layer comprising three Working Groups (WGs): a Working Group on Policy, Strategy and Coordination (WG PSC), a Working Group on Network and System (WG NS), and a Working Group on Service and Application (WG SA). The WGs collect results from their subordinate EGs and iron out any differences between them. The third layer is formed by the plenary, which performs overall adjustment and gives final approval.

The EGs hold discussions on technical subjects such as bridging the standardization gaps, the relationship between ICT and the environment, M2M, future networks and next-generation networks, security, speech translation/natural language processing, seamless access, disaster prevention/recovery systems, multimedia services including the next-generation Web, and accessibility.

In the ITU, which has 193 member countries, when the government officials of each country vote on important matters such as standardization policies and the personnel of standards organizations, the Asia-Pacific region can exert influence on the ITU's decisions if the opinions of all 38 countries in the region can be combined together. To facilitate joint proposals as a regional standards organization to international standards organizations such as the ITU, the ASTAP forum always provides a valuable opportunity to promote exchanges with the Asia-Pacific region. Furthermore, since the Asia-Pacific region has a population of about 4 billion, many of whom live in developing countries, it constitutes a large potential market for future development, and I think it is essential to support the development of standardized technology that takes the needs of this region into consideration.

At ASTAP, through cooperative standardization efforts across the Asia-Pacific region, our policy is to promote the development of technology for disaster management, cyber security and ICT platforms, and to contribute to regional standardization and the cultivation of human resources.



■ Photo: ASTAP plenary

REFERENCES

- [1] <http://www.aptsec.org/affiliatemember>
- [2] <http://www.aptsec.org/2015-ASTAP25>
- [3] <http://www.apt.int/aptmembers>
- [4] <http://www.apt.int/>