

Taking Over as Chairman of the AWG



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I became Chairman of the APT (Asia-Pacific Telecommunity) Wireless Group (AWG)—the second Chairman since the group was established—at the closing plenary of the 17th Meeting of the AWG (AWG-17) in Macao, China in September 2014.

My first contact with the APT was over ten years ago in November 2003 as a member of Japan's delegation to the 4th Meeting of the APT IMT-2000 Forum (APTIF-4) held in Bangkok, Thailand that year. Just before that in October 2003, the APT Management Committee reorganized the APTIF and approved establishment of the APT Wireless Forum (AWF) to deal with emerging wireless technologies, so the APTIF-4 was largely taken up with defining the purpose, areas of responsibility, and structure of AWF. The Republic of Korea suggested that the new AWF could provide expanded coverage of emerging wireless technologies and serve as a forum for sharing and discussing views on spectrum sharing. However, Japan was opposed to any taint of commercialism, and ultimately the AWF was organized along lines proposed by Japan. Involvement in lively discussions and compromises of the APT from the very beginning stood me in good stead in pursuing subsequent APT activities.

At the 6th meeting of the AWF (AWF-6) held in Da Nang, Vietnam in March 2009, a new arrangement involving two Vice Chairmen for the forum was approved. At the request of Dr. Young Kyun Kim (Samsung), the first Chairman of AWF, I was brought in as one of the Vice Chairmen. At the closing plenary of AWF-6, in my new role as Vice Chairman of the AWF, I proposed that “in light of the enormous changes in the environment surrounding AWF, we should change the name and reassess the organizational structure of the AWF,” and this proposal was approved. A Correspondence Group was soon established (Convener: Satoh) to undertake further discussions while the group was in session, but consensus and agreement on

the final structural arrangements and name change could not be reached until the 9th meeting of the AWF in Seoul, Korea in 2010, a year and a half later. Nevertheless, these discussions provided an excellent opportunity to forge deeper understanding and friendships with experts in other areas besides ITU-R Working Party 5D and 3GPP, and was time very well spent.

After I was elevated to Chairman of the AWG, I could not have been more pleased when we held the 18th meeting of the AWG (AWG-18) in Kyoto, Japan in March 2015. The meeting was hugely successful with spirited discussion, including the kickoff of new study items and issues that will be taken up in much greater detail at the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2019 (WRC-19). Here I would again extend thanks to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) for hosting the meeting, ITU Association of Japan (ITU-AJ) for serving as Liaison Secretariat for the meeting, and all the companies and individual members that provided support and cooperation to make AWG-18 a great success.

The 5th meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-15 (APG-15) was held at the end of July this year in Seoul, Korea, and agreement was reached on the Preliminary APT Common Proposal for the Council items for inclusion in the agenda for the upcoming WRC-19. This involves eight new draft Agenda Items of which four items were proposed by Japan, including a proposal to “consider identification of IMT in the frequency band(s) above 6GHz.” We can anticipate that much of the activity and discussion in the AWG for the foreseeable future will involve the four new draft Agenda Items proposed by Japan, which are certain to become critically important study items and issues. I would like to run AWG meetings in such a way that appropriate study results and findings can be output and delivered to related ITU-R Working Parties in a timely manner.

In order to streamline and expedite the activities of the AWG towards the WRC-19, I believe that we should reassess all areas of responsibility of working groups, sub-working groups, and task groups, and restructure these groups as required. Finally, I would again thank the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and all members of the AWG for their steadfast support and cooperation.

