Report on the ITU-T CxO Roundtable 2024

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1. Introduction

The CxO Roundtable, hosted by Mr. Seizo Onoe, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) of ITU-T, was held on December 9, 2024, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The event was co-hosted by Telecom Review (a publishing company), Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) (UAE's regulatory body), du (a UAE-based telecom operator), and Huawei (a Chinese telecommunications equipment vendor). The term CxO refers to senior executives such as CTOs (Chief Technology Officers) and CEOs (Chief Executive Officers), and the Roundtable is designed to facilitate exchanges of views not only from a technical standpoint but also from broader perspectives such as business management and information governance. The focus is on industry priorities and related standardization efforts.

The CxO Roundtable was established under Resolution 68 of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2016 as a forum led by the TSB Director to discuss the outlook and priorities for standardization, as well as the needs and involvement of private-sector companies. As in 2023, the

Table: Session Topics

	Panel discussion on the business impact of standards Moderators: Bilel, TSB Deputy-Director, ITU, Charlyne Restivo, ITU Regulator: TDRA, Saif Bin Ghelaita Operator: Du, Saleem Alblooshi Vendors: -Ericsson, Per Beming -Huawei, Ahmed Riad Ismail
1.	Opening remarks and welcome 1. Seizo Onoe, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), ITU 2. Toni Eid, Founder, Telecom Review Group, CEO, UAE–host 3. Xiao Ran, Chief Strategy Officer, President of Standardization and Industry Development, Huawei, China–Co-host 4. Roundtable of introductions
2.	Adoption of Agenda
3.	ITU debrief on key outcomes of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24), October 2024
4.	Standards and applications for optical, quantum, terrestrial and non-terrestrial communication networks (part I) 1. Towards Sustainable ICT Infrastructure Fostering Future AI Systems-NTT, Japan 2. Insights into optical networks towards 2030 for the AI age–Huawei, China 3. Quantum information networks–CAS Quantum Network Co. Ltd., China 4. QoS assessment for satellite networks-Rohde & Schwarz, Germany 5. NTN for IoT-LoRa Alliance, USA 6. Seamless affordable 5G IoT connectivity everywhere–Sateliot, Spain 7. The future of public safety communications–GuardianSafetyNet, Canada
5.	Standards for AI-native networking 1. AI in networks-Nokia, Finland 2. AI for Networks and Networks for AI–Turkcell, Türkiye
6.	Standards for fraud mitigation and call validation 1. Real-time call validation framework–AB Handshake, USA 2. International do not originate for fraud mitigation–Somos, USA
7.	Standards for data processing and management 1. Overview of China data factor market construction-Shanghai Data Exchange, China
8.	Adoption of Communiqué and Closing

2024 meeting was held exclusively in person and limited to CxO-level participants, with representatives from 20 companies and organizations in attendance, in accordance with Director Onoe's intent.

2. Discussion Topics

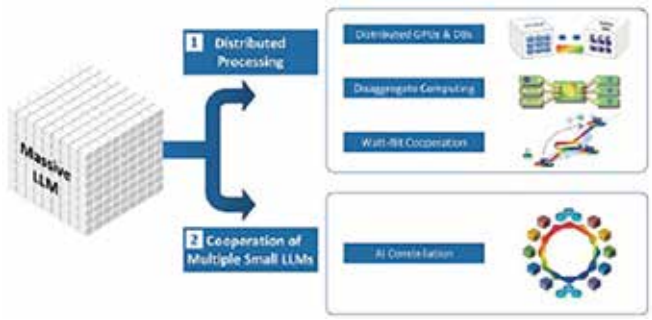
The main themes were determined in advance based on proposals from each CxO during five preparatory meetings, and the sessions were organized according to the topics and speakers listed in the program. This year's Roundtable focused on areas such as optical technologies, quantum, Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN), AI-native systems, and fraud prevention. The key issues shared among the CxO participants were compiled into a joint statement (communiqué).

3. Proposal from Japan

From Japan, Mr. Shingo Kinoshita, Senior Vice President and Head of the Research and Development Planning Department at NTT, participated in the meeting. He addressed challenges arising from the recent scale-up of AI, introducing the benefits of IOWN*1 and the lightweight LLM "tsuzumi"*2. He emphasized the need for a flexible, optimally functioning, distributed ICT infrastructure that delivers ultra-high performance (high speed, low latency, and low power consumption). He also proposed the formulation and revision of relevant ITU-T standards to enable its realization (see Figure 1).

The proposal received several supportive comments from participating CxOs, and the key points were adopted almost entirely and incorporated into the joint communiqué as a significant outcome of the meeting.

Figure 1: Proposal from NTT (Necessity of a distributed ICT infrastructure based on IOWN)



4. Looking Ahead

Although the CxO Roundtable is not a venue for direct discussions on standardization recommendations themselves, its joint communiqué often serves as a reference point to initiate discussions within ITU-T Study Groups. For example, the 2023 CxO Roundtable included a statement in the communiqué highlighting the need for ITU-T to study IOWN concept and its activities. Based on that recommendation, the July 2024 ITU-T SG13 (Future Networks Study Group) meeting reached an agreement to initiate the work item on the IOWN framework (Y.L2E2net-frm). Following the consensus reached at this year's Roundtable, it is anticipated that discussions within ITU-T on establishing and revising standards will advance—particularly in support of realizing a distributed ICT infrastructure that operates flexibly and optimally with the exceptionally high performance that characterizes IOWN.

Figure 2: Group photo of CxO Roundtable 2024 participants

*1 IOWN: A term coined from the initials of "Innovative Optical and Wireless Network," representing a next-generation information and communications infrastructure based on optical technologies. The initiative aims to create a well-being-oriented society where individuals can live more smartly and authentically.
(Reference: https://group.ntt/jp/group/iown/vision.html)

*2 tsuzumi: A lightweight Large Language Model (LLM) under development by NTT that delivers world-class processing performance despite its compact design.
(Reference: https://www.rd.ntt/research/LLM_tsuzumi.html)