



Journal Title: Telecommunication Journal

Journal Issue: vol.51 (no. 12), 1984

Article Title: Editorial: The CCITT Plenary Assembly

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Page number(s): pp. 631-632

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(ITU) للاتصالات الدولي الاتحاد في والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم أجراه الضوئي بالمسح تصوير نتاج (PDF) الإلكترونية النسخة هذه والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم في المتوفرة الوثائق ضمن أصلية ورقية وثيقة من نقلاً.

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The CCITT Plenary Assembly

When the full implications of the integration of new technologies and many technical changes into the functional, equipment and operational standards are appreciated, I am convinced that the VIIIth Plenary Assembly will be acknowledged as one of the most important in the history of the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee.

Several important issues of standardization were considered at Malaga-Torremolinos. Some of them concerned telematics, including terminal equipment for such services. Others included guidance for the future evolution of the integrated services digital network (ISDN), which is now at a crucial stage. This orientation was given through a number of Recommendations which were approved by the Plenary Assembly. These, together with existing Recommendations, will permit Member countries to start building networks which would be able to evolve in a harmonious manner into the global integrated network of the future. This is an advantage not only to developed but even more to developing countries. Large-scale expansions of existing nuclei of telecommunications networks in developing countries are now possible with a more powerful but generally less expensive technology.

Some countries are already on the verge of the information society which depends upon practical and effective convergence of communication and computer technologies.

However, there are two aspects of this evolutionary process that ought not to be lost sight of.

First is the fact of our living in a world of rapid change in which man-to-man communications are more and more being replaced by man-to-

machine communications and sometimes even by machine-to-machine communications.

In this context the large measure of technical similarity which exists between telecommunications and data processing and the way this has given rise to new forms of end-to-end telecommunications cannot be overlooked. The dividing line between data processing and telecommunication has tended to blur since, from the telecommunication service point of view, we are really only dealing with other forms of telecommunication devices.

In view of this, it was important to ensure not only that the CCITT could execute its work programme with the necessary celerity, but also that the appropriate liaisons exist with other institutions which have complementary normative functions so as to ensure that the ITU can fully assume its responsibilities towards all interested parties in telecommunications, and this especially so in this age of telematics and computer communication.

A Resolution adopted by the Plenary Assembly asserted the role and function of the CCITT as a permanent organ of the ITU which is the intergovernmental organization for the establishment of world-wide telecommunication standards consistent with the International Telecommunication Convention and the directives of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

Thus the parameters have been set for enhancing the efficient development of international standards. This will include the observance of close liaison with other organizations involved in related standardization work, particularly the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and

the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and avoiding potential duplication of efforts. The importance of co-ordination at the national level was stressed with a view to the ultimate goal of timely and cost effective results.

The second aspect of the evolution of telecommunications I wish to underline is that if new systems and services are to realize their full potential they have to be amenable to global use. This is to say, they must be responsive to the needs of different types of users, be they in the developed or developing world, in large or in small countries, in cities or in villages, at home or in the office. This aspect was also kept in perspective by the Plenary Assembly.

By its very nature the work of our International Consultative Committees must match closely developments in technology. This implies not only that the study programmes undertaken have to cover all the key areas where new developments are taking place but also that the structure of the CCIs be adapted from time to time to reflect and more adequately respond to these new developments. That the VIIIth Plenary Assembly took this into account is shown by the fact that it created a new special Study Group to study the new structural organization of the CCITT in view of developments in technology and notably the ISDN.

The Plenary Assembly also gave adequate attention to the timely publication of manuals through Study Groups and Special Autonomous Groups (GAS), to facilitate the information flow for the application of the new requirements and their consequences. Recognizing that some groups had completed their tasks, a decision was taken to establish two new groups to study techniques of demand and traffic forecasting and the introduction of public data networks. Certain Study Groups have also been entrusted with the production of specific manuals on important subjects.

One of the most important events in the formulation of future international telecommunication

regulatory policy will be the World Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference in 1988. In 1982 the Union's Plenipotentiary Conference charged the CCITT with preparing "proposals for a new regulatory framework to cater for the new situation in the field of new telecommunications services". The VIIIth CCITT Plenary Assembly, accordingly, set up a special Preparatory Committee to work on the subject and to submit the results to the IXth Plenary Assembly in 1988.

New provisions and rules have become essential to cope with the rapidly changing telecommunications environment (new enterprises, common carriers and a variety of new services and applications).

The enormous expansion of telecommunications technology in recent years is no secret as reflected by the Study Groups' work programmes during the last four years which culminated in the adoption of Recommendations amounting to some 10 000 pages. They represent a 40% increase over that of the VIIth Plenary Assembly held only four years ago.

Finally, the VIIIth Plenary Assembly elected the new Director of the CCITT, Mr. Theodor Irmer (Federal Republic of Germany). He has been Chairman of CCITT Study Group XVIII for many years and is responsible in his administration for developing and implementing the ISDN. His expertise and experience are bound to benefit the work of CCITT and I take pleasure in welcoming him most warmly as he is about to take up his new function.

To the outgoing Director, Mr. Léon Burtz, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the valuable work he has contributed to the CCITT during his tenure of eight years—a period of unprecedented growth in its activities—and to the collaboration always manifested at ITU headquarters. He has the best wishes of all his colleagues and friends for a long and happy retirement.

R. E. BUTLER