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CCITT to enter a new era

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IXth CCITT Plenary Assembly: general view of the conference room

The CCITT is set to enter a new era in structure and operation as a result of decisions taken at its IXth Plenary Assembly held in Melbourne, Australia.

The CCITT is a permanent organ of the ITU established to study technical, operating and tariff issues to facilitate compatibility between different countries' networks.

In recognition of the rapid pace of technological change, and the massive shake-up occurring in all facets of the telecommunication industry worldwide, the CCITT has adopted a Resolution which allows for accelerated approval of standard Recommendations.

In his closing speech, Mr Mel Ward, Chairman of the Plenary Assembly, stressed the importance of the new mechanisms: "It has become very clear to me in the Plenary and in discussions how essential it will be for the CCITT to expedite its Recommendations in the future; unless that becomes a reality there is no doubt that other standards-setting organizations will fill the vacuum".

"The previous four-year time span was just too slow for the now exponential rate of technological innovation", he added. "The new arrangements—where a Study Group can request the member bodies to approve a Recommendation in advance of the four-yearly Plenary Assembly—could realistically see approvals being granted within nine months".

The conference was attended by 550 delegates from 84 administrations, 15 international organizations and 13 operating agencies. Fifteen Study Groups considered 368 new draft and 388 amended Recommendations—an increase of 20% over the previous Plenary. All Recommendations were approved.

Reflecting the current technological innovations there was strong emphasis on ISDN and broadband protocols.

Editor's note: this text is taken from a communiqué about the CCITT Plenary Assembly which took place in Melbourne from 14 to 25 November 1988. A full report on this event will be published in a forthcoming number of the *Telecommunication Journal*.

CORRIGENDUM

Article by Mr S. K. Hajela *et al.* on "Post-investment in telecommunications: operations management" published in the *Telecommunication Journal* of October 1988, page 685, 3rd column, lines 6 and 7: the expression "frequency division multiplexing (FDM)" should read "main distribution frame (MDF)".