



Journal Title: Telecommunication Journal

Journal Issue: vol. 60 (no. 5), 1993

Article Title: World Telecommunication Standardization Conference

Page number(s): pp. 194-198

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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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World Telecommunication Standardization Conference

Over 450 standards approved and a new programme of work up to 1996 adopted

The World Telecommunication Standardization Conference (WTSC-93) concluded its work on 12 March 1993. The meeting, which took place in Helsinki (Finland), had started on 1 March. Four hundred and fifty-nine delegates from 68 countries and eight international organizations¹ participated. The Conference was chaired by Seppo J. Halme, Professor at the Helsinki University of Technology, assisted by five Vice-Chairmen: Messrs J. J. Silva (Brazil), Wang Zhanning (China), Y. A. Tolmachev (Russia), S. Mbaye (Senegal) and E. S. Barbely (United States).

One of the underlying tasks of the Conference was to further streamline the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector so as to increase its competitiveness in the global standardization arena. The process had been initiated at Melbourne, in 1988, at the last meeting of the legislative body governing standardization at the ITU (at the time called Plenary Assembly). The Melbourne meeting overhauled the structure, the organization, documentation, working methods in particular with the adoption of a method to approve standards as soon as they are considered sufficiently mature and stable to meet industry and market needs.

Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG)

At Helsinki, the ITU went one step further. The Conference decided to set up an advisory group whose role will be to review priorities and strategies for activities of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector, and review progress in the implementation of its work programme as well as to recommend measures to foster cooperation and coordination with other standards bodies and with other organizations having interests in telecommunication standardization. In the light of changing requirements, TSAG will provide advice on appropriate changes to be made to the priority and allocation of work of the Study Groups to adapt the output to market, industry and users' requirements. It will also recommend the setting up of Joint Coordination Groups (see below) when subjects under study so warrant as well as improvements to the working methods of the Sector whenever considered necessary.

TSAG will also provide the possibility to open up ITU to the new forces which are



ITU 930018

WTSC-93: general view of the conference hall

(Markku Mattila)



The Marina Congress Center, view of the conference
(Markku Mattila)

ITU 930019

shaping the world of telecommunications. The Conference appointed Mr B. Horton (Australia) as TSAG Chairman and Mr J. M. Fanjul Caudevilla (Spain) as its Vice-Chairman.²

Joint Coordination Groups (JCG)

In addition, new mechanisms were created to ensure the coordination of work on broad issues when they span several groups of experts or when questions under study are also of interest to radiocommunication experts. These, called Joint Coordination Groups (for intrasectoral coordination) and Intersectoral Coordination Groups, are aimed at facilitating the coordinated development of standards in a comprehensive and timely manner while ensuring that the work does neither overlap nor leave gaps. The work itself will be carried out by the relevant Study Groups and will be subject to the normal approval processes. The role of JCG will also include coordination with

external standards bodies such as ETSI, TTC or T1.³

The study areas proposed for the JCG are: telecommunication management network, universal personal telecommunications, broadband ISDN, audio-visual/multi-media services as well as quality of service and network performance. As three of these subjects are also core standardization areas considered by the Global Standards Collaboration Group of the Interregional Standardization Conference—an association of standards-setting bodies which includes ETSI, TTC, T1 and ITU—the synergy is expected to produce very positive results in these key areas.

Electronic document handling (EDH)

In addition, the Conference decided to step up plans for EDH given the critical importance of EDH capabilities to the standards-making process. To this end, an EDH

group will be set up under TSAG to review and study evolving EDH user needs and monitor the EDH development to meet those needs. WTSC-93 recognized the need for a long-term convergence of EDH standardization tools and an implementation based on an agreed EDH model which it approved. It acknowledged the fact that this will require interim arrangements to the desired basis of ODA and X.400 which in turn will require a

¹ European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), European Telecommunications Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT), International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT), International Telecommunications Users Group (INTUG), International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and Universal Postal Union (UPU).

² For the list of Study Groups Chairmen, see box.

³ These are regional standards-setting bodies for Europe, Japan and North America.

migration plan to be developed. The need to satisfy user needs through user-friendly systems and interfaces was also stressed.

ITUDOC

WTSC-93 launched officially ITUDOC—ITU's electronic document exchange service which not only includes administrative and general information documents but also the full texts of ITU telecommunication standards approved since 1988. ITUDOC users therefore have now immediate access to the latest versions of all recent standards. As information is becoming increasingly a perishable commodity, ITUDOC will increase the value of ITU standard-related documents to the users' community at large. The availability of all ITU telecommunication standards on CD-ROM was also announced at the Conference. Addressing the meeting, Dr Tarjanne said "today, the announcement of an entirely new electronic publication provides a perfect illustration of the policy of change which this Conference has attempted to strengthen, demonstrating how we are trying to bring state-of-the-art technology into our publication activities. In addition to the traditional printed form which will remain an important form of publication for a long time to come and fast delivery via the on-line ITUDOC service", he said "we are now bringing the Recommendations to your desktop on a compact disc. In the competitive world of publications, we are obliged to engage in proper product specification and product pricing, develop new channels of distribution and undertake product promotion efforts," he added.

Speeding-up standards production

Finally, the mechanism adopted at Melbourne which resulted in significant improvement in the timeliness of standards (on

average it went down from four years to 18 months), was essentially reaffirmed although some additional safeguards were introduced to take account of the concerns expressed by developing countries.⁴ For example, if a country considers itself to be adversely affected by a Recommendation approved under the accelerated approval procedure, it can refer the case to the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) who brings the case before the relevant Study Group for prompt attention.

These measures should further help the ITU to respond to the dynamic and on-going forces which characterize the standardization environment by producing standards faster and more efficiently, by making them available rapidly, by strengthening concerted action with other global and regional standardization organizations, by continually monitoring market, industry and users' needs and adjusting the work of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector to meet them and more generally by providing strategic direction to the work of the ITU. The question of broader participation (including participation in the decision-making process) in the standardization work of the ITU with reassessed rights and obligations is a matter which will be taken up by the next Plenipotentiary Conference on the basis of recommendations put forward by the ITU Council.

Work programme until 1996

The Conference approved the programme of work of the 15 Study Groups which will be meeting throughout the next three years. Study Groups are groups of experts whose role is to prepare standards for telecommunication systems, networks and services as well as the operation, performance and maintenance of equipment. Their work also covers tariff principles and accounting methods for international telecommunications. The work programme for the 1993-1996 period comprises 289 Questions covering nearly every aspect of tel-

ecommunications and includes such a diversity of subjects as new ISDN services, directory services for telematic services, tariff principles for global virtual network services or for intelligent networks, customer network management service, colour faxes, programming communication interfaces, telematics on ISDN, long-term intelligent network architecture and intelligent network capability sets, signalling requirements for future public land mobile telecommunication systems, telecommunications for the physically impaired, integrated video services, broadband connectionless data service on broadband ISDN, optical systems, synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) and asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) equipment, to name but a few.

Consolidation of standardization activities

The Conference also addressed the transfer of Questions from the Radiocommunication Sector to the Telecommunication Standardization Sector to consolidate the network-related standard-settings activity. A number of issues are to be included in the work programme of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector as quickly as practicable. Items which the Radiocommunication Sector has identified as appropriate for transfer to the Telecommunication Standardization Sector but which are also relevant to the Radiocommunication Sector will be open for participation of interested radio specialists of the Radiocommunication Sector without added financial obligations.

Essentially, WTSC-93 identified coordinating Study Groups for each item. All questions as currently formulated in the Radiocommunication Sector together with those elements identified for transfer will be passed to the Chairman of each coordinating Study Group. The role of the coordinating Study Groups is to coordinate the claims of other Study Groups on elements of the work to be transferred.

⁴ See the interview with Theodor Imer, *Telecommunication Journal*, March 1993, page 103.

Chairmen of coordinating Study Groups will examine with the relevant Study Groups of the Radiocommunication Sector as appropriate how to integrate the issues in their work programme and will propose questions to address the issues. They will also identify which Study Groups of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector or of the Radiocommunication Sector will be charged with the study of these questions and will then advise the TSB Director accordingly. The latter will then submit the results of the exercise to the June meeting of TSAG. A joint meeting of TSAG and the Ad Hoc Group for the Radiocommunication Sector to take place in June 1993 will decide the formal integration of the questions into the work programme through established approval procedure or other means as rec-

"Much more is needed"

In his closing address, ITU Secretary-General Pekka Tarjanne stated that the action taken at this Conference was additional steps in the on-going ITU reform process, which should contribute to maintaining the pre-eminent role of the Union in the area of standardization. He added: "The only way to succeed is to look forward. The results of this Conference, in my mind, offer a good platform, together with the results of the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference, for future action. The Nice Plenipotentiary Conference of 1989," he continued, "led to a major change for the Development Sector; the Geneva Additional Plenipotentiary Conference led to major changes in the Radiocommunication Sector. The Telecom-

to be able to live up to our challenges", he said, "much more is needed. I am thus looking forward to a lot more work, many more changes both in Kyoto in 1994 and at the next WTSC in 1996 or 1997."

Over 450 standards adopted

The Chairman of the Conference, Mr Halme, giving an overview of the main achievements of the Conference indicated that the adoption of over 450 standards where the largest number belonged to the Q-series, reflected the growing emphasis in networks and distributed intelligence. He also said that one of the crucial tasks of WTSC-93 was to set up TSAG which will be a very important body in the future of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector. The designation of the experts who will lead the work of the Study Groups for the next few years was also high on the agenda. "After long discussions we were able to find acceptable compromises which will guide our future work," the Chairman said.

The Minister of Transport and Communications of Finland, Mr Ole Norrback, hailed the work accomplished by the Conference and called it "a long step forward in standardizing new networks and applications. The development of broadband integrated services digital networks will bring new possibilities to working places and homes," he said. The opportunities for new kinds of telematics and broadcasting will expand enormously and the further development of intelligent network techniques will alleviate the problems which we have encountered in Finland while re-doing the numbering plan," the Minister added. Mr Norrback recalled that wars and disturbances in certain parts of the world were rendering telecommunications useless and tended to destroy the results achieved with patient work. "Let us all hope that we can develop and construct the global network in peace and people are given the freedom to exchange information and thought with their fellow humans in all countries," he concluded.



Pekka Tarjanne during his speech

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ommended by TSAG. The deletion of the items from the work programme of the Radiocommunication Sector will be made by the next Radiocommunication Assembly next November.

munication Standardization Sector has taken small steps forward in Melbourne in 1988, in Nice in 1989, in Geneva in 1992 and in Helsinki in 1993. However these steps do not suffice, Dr Tarjanne stressed. "In order