

Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs Advisory Committee

Establishment of the Telecommunications Numbering Working Group

Purpose

This paper proposes the establishment of the Telecommunications Numbering Working Group (TNWG) to study the various telecommunications numbering related issues.

Background

2. The former Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) had established a Telecommunications Numbering Advisory Committee (NAC) to advise it on the development, implementation and administration of Hong Kong's telecommunications numbering plan. Under the former NAC, an NAC Working Group was established in 2007 and 2008 to study various short-term and long-term numbering issues. The NAC Working Group had provided valuable recommendation to NAC, such as allocating level '5X' numbers for mobile services, improving efficiency of number usage through raising the number allocation threshold, reviewing the number demand and suggesting various digit migration options.

3. With the set up of the Communications Authority (CA) and the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) in April 2012, the numbering issues which are previously addressed in the NAC are taken up by the Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs Advisory Committee (TRAAC).

Proposed Establishment of the TNWG

4. The demand on telecommunications numbers, especially from the mobile services sector, remains strong in recent years. There is an on-going need to review the numbering plan so as to ensure adequate numbering resources are made available to existing and new services. It is therefore proposed to set up the TNWG under TRAAC to take up the functions previously handled by the NAC Working Group.

Proposed Terms of Reference

5. The proposed terms of reference of the TNWG are as follows –
- (a) To explore the number levels/blocks that can be allocated to mobile services after exhaustion of “9”, “6” and “5” numbers, taking into account the result of the study of future migration options;
 - (b) To estimate and/or project time frame of the exhaustion of various number categories/levels, including demands for new services, using existing and new numbering allocation arrangement;
 - (c) To study and evaluate the long term needs and the various possible options for migration to a new numbering plan when the existing 8-digit plan reaches the end of its useful life;
 - (d) To explore various options to improve number utilisation efficiency (e.g. thresholds for new number block application);
 - (e) To summarise views and/or make recommendation on the above topics or aspects; and

- (f) To discuss other related issues as identified by the working group.

Composition, Working Procedures and Deliverables of the TNWG

6. The TNWG will be chaired by OFCA. Members of the TRAAC may nominate themselves or a representative from their company/organisation to participate in the TNWG. OFCA may also invite other professional bodies and organisations to join the TNWG on a need basis. Ad-hoc subgroups may be set up to address special issues when required. OFCA will provide the necessary secretarial and logistic support for the meetings. The TNWG will regularly report to the TRAAC on the works done and make recommendations to the TRACC on all issues related to the telecommunications numbering plan in Hong Kong.

Advice Sought

- 7. Members are invited to consider and endorse the proposal on the establishment of the TNWG under the TRAAC.

**Office of the Communications Authority
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