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OFFICE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

**TRAAC Paper No. 4/2013**

# Re-allocation of Number Blocks within "8x" Level for Mobile Services

Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs Advisory Committee
22 August 2013

# Introduction

- The annual growth of the number of mobile subscribers remained strong at about 8.7% over past five years (up to May 2013)
- At the 3rd TRAAC meeting held in April 2013, Members were in support of the Telecommunications Numbering Working Group (TNWG)'s proposal to re-allocate number block "57x" (having a million numbers) for mobile services
- In the light of the current consumption rate, such an amount would support mobile subscriber growth until around May 2014
- In order to meet the demand for mobile numbers beyond May 2014, the TNWG recommended that number blocks "8(4-7),9x" be re-allocated for mobile services

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# Current Utilisation of Number Blocks within "8x" (1/2)

- "80x" Numbers
  - Number block allocated for freephone services (numbers are of 9 digits)
  - "800" is used as the access code; "801" to "809" are reserved for expansion of the services
  - existing utilisation is only about 0.27% , primarily using "8009x"
- "8(1-3)x" Numbers
  - Number blocks allocated for personal numbering services
  - Since 1 January 2009, the former Telecommunications Authority had ceased to allocate personal numbers to fixed operators
  - OFCA also from time to time received applications for returning idle personal numbers from the fixed operators, indicating the demand has been diminishing

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# Current Utilisation of Number Blocks within “8x” (2/2)

- “8(4-7)x” & “89x” Numbers
  - Number blocks are currently held in reserve for possible 9-digit number migration, e.g. the “3&8” option and “87” paging migration option
  - Re-allocation of these number blocks for mobile services is recommended
  - “3&8” option and “87” paging migration option have to be dropped
- “88x” Numbers
  - Number block are reserved for possible 10-digit number migration using leading digits “33” and “88”, known as the “33&88” option
  - To keep this option available for further consideration as the way forward of future number migration, it is recommended to continue to keep “88x” numbers in reserve.

# Recommendation

- "84x", "85x", "86x", "87x" and "89x" (having about 5 million numbers) to be re-allocated for mobile services
  - This will better utilise number resources in the existing 8-digit numbering plan before migration to the 9-digit or 10-digit numbering plan
  - Consequentially, "38(4-7,9)x" to be taken out of reserve and be made available for number allocation for fixed services
- It is expected that these additional numbers for mobile services will be able to cope with the demand up to around April 2017
- The TNWG would monitor the utilisation of "80x" and "8(1-3)x", and would consider whether some of the number blocks within the range can be re-allocated for other telecommunications services

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# Next Steps

- Subject to the support of Members, OFCA will submit the recommendation to the Director-General of Communications (DG Com)
- The Numbering Plan and the Numbering CoP as well as other relevant documents will be updated to reflect the new arrangement after the approval of DG Com

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# Thank you

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# Annex

# Migration Options

| | "3&8" Option<br>Leading digits "3" and "8" for fixed and mobile services respectively | "3&7" Option<br>Leading digits "3" and "7" for fixed and mobile services respectively | "7" Option<br>Leading digit "7" for both fixed and mobile services | "33&88" Option<br>Leading digits "33" and "88" for fixed and mobile services respectively |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fixed numbers "2x", "3x" | 32x, 33x | 32x, 33x | 72x, 73x | 332x, 333x |
| Personal numbers "8(1-3)x" | 38(1-3)x | 38(1-3)x | 78(1-3)x | 338(1-3)x |
| Mobile numbers "9x", "6x", "5x" (except VoIP), "8(4-7,9)x" | 89x, 86x, 85x, 88(4-7,9)x | 79x, 76x, 75x, 78(4-7,9)x | 79x, 76x, 75x, 78(4-7,9)x | 889x, 886x, 885x, 888(4-7,9)x |
| VoIP numbers "58x" | 358x | 358x | 758x | 3358x |