

Public Consultation on Better Utilisation of the 8-digit Numbering Plan

Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs Advisory Committee
21 April 2015

Background

- Recap the discussion in the 7th TRAAC meeting in November 2014:
 - Discussed two proposals on new number levels for mobile services;
 - Discussed proposal of raising the threshold of utilisation rate before allocating additional numbers to licensees;
 - No consensus was reached. Some Members suggested further study for new number levels for mobile services and for improvement of the utilisation rate of the “7X” level numbers.
- TNWG convened meeting in January 2015 to follow up the above matters:
 - Studied options for relocating active “7X” paging subscribers;
 - Studied a new proposal (Proposal 3) for new number ranges for mobile services;
 - “4X” and “7(0-3)X” will be re-allocated for mobile services;
 - “7(4-9)X” will be reserved for future expansion or longer digit migration.

Need for Public Consultation

- Considerations
 - Telecommunications numbers are scarce public resources
 - Diverse views from the industry in making available number blocks for allocation to mobile numbers
 - Some existing paging users will be affected if some of the “7X” level numbers are re-allocated for mobile services
 - Need of reviewing the special number blocks which have been reserved subsequent to previous public consultations
- Views of OFCA
 - Address the number shortage issues from a holistic manner
 - Solicit views from the general public and all interested parties on top of industry players

Topics in the Public Consultation

- The topics to be included in the public consultation will include, but not limited to, the following
 - Better utilisation of the number level allocated for paging services;
 - Allocation of the “4X” and “7(0-3)X” levels for mobile services;
 - Allocation of vacant number blocks in the “8(1-3)X” levels for mobile services;
 - Raising the threshold of utilisation level for allocation of additional numbers; and
 - Possible release of the reserved Special Number Blocks for ordinary allocation.
- OFCA will recommend to the CA to conduct the public consultation in the second half of 2015.

Thank you