

Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs Advisory Committee

Establishment of the Technical Regulatory Working Group

Purpose

This paper proposes to establish the Technical Regulatory Working Group (“TRWG”) under the Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs Advisory Committee (“TRAAC”) to study the various technical regulatory issues related to the telecommunications networks, systems and services in Hong Kong and to subsume the work undertaken by the existing Next Generation Network Working Group (“NGN WG”) in the TRWG.

Background

2. The NGN WG was first set up in 2009 to study technical issues in relation to the development and implementation of NGN by the local industry. Following the conclusion of a consultancy study on NGN commissioned by the former Office of the Telecommunications Authority in 2011 and the establishment of the Communications Authority in April 2012, the NGN WG was re-established under the TRAAC in July 2012.¹ Since then, it has studied and reviewed various technical regulatory issues related to NGN including, inter alia, network security, emergency call services, standardisation and interoperability, interconnection regime and quality of services, universal service obligation, numbering, naming and addressing, numbering portability and interconnection charging. The issues that are being studied at present mainly relate to interconnection among the NGNs of the operators and NGN development indicators.

3. From time to time, the Office of the Communications Authority (“OFCA”) needs to collaborate with and solicit inputs from the industry to conduct technical studies before formulating proposals and recommendations on the technical regulatory matters. A recent example is the insertion of “+” sign in the calling number display of mobile phones to help members of the public identify incoming calls originating

¹ http://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/en/content_757/traac02_2012.pdf

from outside Hong Kong. It is considered that the need for such technical discussion between OFCA and the industry on various telecommunications matters will continue to arise from time to time. However, there is a lack of a regular platform to facilitate regular discussion on such matters other than the NGN related issues in the NGN WG.

Proposed Establishment of the TRWG

4. Against the above background, it is proposed to establish the TRWG under the TRAAC to study various issues pertaining to the technical regulatory aspects of the telecommunications networks, systems and services in Hong Kong excluding those issues such as telecommunications numbering plan which are being handled by other working groups set up under the auspices of OFCA. The proposed TRWG will not only provide the telecommunications operators, industry members, other stakeholders and OFCA with a regular forum to exchange views and deliberate on the technical regulatory issues, but also will enhance the collaboration and leverage the expertise and knowledge of the TRWG members in providing opinions as well as formulating proposals and recommendations on the technical regulatory issues that arise from time to time for consideration by the TRAAC.

5. Upon the creation of the proposed TRWG, the current discussion of NGN related issues under the NGN WG will stop operation and all the matters undertaken by the NGN WG will be subsumed under the new TRWG.

Proposed Terms of Reference

6. The proposed terms of reference of the TRWG are as follows –
- (a) to study the technical regulatory issues related to telecommunications networks, systems and services in Hong Kong including NGN related issues, other than telecommunications numbering related issues being handled by the Telecommunications Numbering Working Group;
 - (b) to monitor the development of telecommunications technologies and technical regulations in other economies and relevant

organisations; and

- (c) to report the work done and make recommendation on items (a) and (b) above for consideration by the TRAAC.

Working Group Membership

7. We propose that the TRWG will be chaired by OFCA. Members of the TRAAC may nominate themselves or a representative from each of their companies/organisations to participate in the TRWG. OFCA may also invite representatives from other professional bodies and organisations to join the TRWG on a need basis. Ad-hoc subgroups may be set up to address special issues when required.

Working Procedure and Deliverables

8. OFCA will provide the necessary secretarial and logistic support for the meetings. The TRWG will meet on a regular and needed basis and the secretariat will report to the TRAAC on the work done and recommendations made by the TRWG for consideration and steering by the TRAAC.

Advice Sought

9. Members' views are sought on the proposal to establish the TRWG under the TRAAC and subsume the work of the NGNWG in the TRWG.

**Office of the Communications Authority
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