

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Access Code for Inbound International Telephone Directory Enquiry Service (II)**

#### **Introduction**

In response to an application for using "1082" for inbound international telephone directory enquiry service ("the Service"), the Telecommunications Authority (the TA) proposed in the NAC Paper No. 8/2002 to assign the short code "1082" as a Category 3 code for the Service. In accordance with the Hong Kong Numbering Plan, a Category 3 code would be assigned to all operators who provide the Service. Following the discussion at the 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Members of the Telecommunications Numbering Advisory Committee were requested to comment on such proposal. This paper summarizes the Members' views expressed at the 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting and the comments made afterwards. The views of the TA are also given.

#### **Members' View and Comments Received**

2. At the 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting, some members queried the need for a dedicated code for the Service and considered that the existing directory enquiry short codes "1081", "1083" or "1088" or any 8-digit fixed numbers could be deployed for the Service. The need of a dedicated access code "1082" for the Service might need further deliberation. In addition, some members pointed out the difficulties and complexities in the commercial and operational arrangement among the overseas and local operators. They are also mindful that the proposed classification of "1082" as Category 3 code might lead to routing problems as the international gateway operators could determine the priority in delivering the calls to the various call centre with the same access code. Under these circumstances, it would be inappropriate to assign Category 3 short code for the Service.

3. Two submissions were subsequently received with regard to the NAC Paper 8/2002. New World Telecommunications ("NWT") considered that the operators could deploy the currently assigned "1081", "1083" and "1088" codes or other 8 digits numbers for provision of the Service. If a new code was required, NWT supported

the proposal that the code should be classified as a Category 3 code. Reach Networks Hong Kong Limited pointed out that it was technically not feasible for the international gateway operators to determine the destined network if a Category 3 code was assigned. As such, Reach considered that a unique code for each operator providing the Service was required.

#### **OFTA's Consideration**

4. The TA noted the Members' views on the proposed assignment and the potential problems on calls routing and operation for the Service. To facilitate the provision of telephone enquiry services to the overseas callers, the TA considers that numbering resources should be made available for the Service. Having considered the Members' views, the TA intends to reserve ten "1080X" codes for the provision of the Inbound International Directory Enquiry Service. The TA considers that ten codes should be adequate for the Service.

#### **Advice Sought**

5. Members are invited to give their views and comments on this proposal.

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