

TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Access Code for Inbound International Telephone Directory Enquiry Service (III)

Introduction

It was proposed in NAC Paper 1/2003 that "1080X" codes would be reserved for the provision of the Inbound International Directory Enquiry Service (the Service).

2. In the 48th NAC Meeting, members expressed different views on the allocation of codes for the Service. Some members opined that a single access code should be assigned for the Service so that the overseas callers could easily remember the code. However, this arrangement would lead to a practical problem of how to route the calls correctly to the destined network by the international gateway operators if there is more than one operator providing the Service. To overcome this problem, some members considered that a dedicated access code should be allocated to each operator who provides the Service.

3. At the same meeting, Reach Networks Hong Kong Limited (Reach) who provided the Service informed the Members that the usage rate of the Service was very low and was considering to terminate the Service. After the meeting, Reach confirmed that the Service was terminated.

Practice Elsewhere

4. In order to facilitate Members to consider the issue, OFTA has gathered some information on the provision of inbound international directory enquiry service in overseas countries. The results are tabulated below for reference:

Country	Access Code	Remark
Australia	1033	Assigned to Telstra for the Service. Telephone numbers of both Telstra and OPTUS's customers could be found.
Mainland China	114	Assigned to China Telecom. An area code should be dialled before "114". e.g. "dialling 86 10 114" would be connected to the enquiry service centre of China Telecom at Beijing which could only provide directory enquiry service for telephone numbers of their customers at Beijing.
South Korea	2114	Directory enquiry service for carriers KT and ONSE. Numbers of other carriers e.g. DACOM are not available.
UK	91000 1000	Assigned to British Telecom. Directory information for BT customers only. Directory information of other carrier e.g. Mercury Communications are not available.
USA	555 1212	Assigned to MCI. An area code should be dialled before the access code when look for numbers of MCI customers within the district. Numbers of other carriers e.g. AT&T and Sprint are not available.

OFTA's Consideration

5. It is noted that different countries implemented inbound international directory enquiry services in different ways. For example, in Australia and South Korea, overseas callers can inquire directory information of several carriers through a single access code. In other places like mainland China and USA, a dedicated access code is assigned to the operator who provides the service.

6. OFTA will continue to monitor the demand of access code for the Service and the development of the Service overseas. Meanwhile, Members are welcome to give their views on the allocation of numbering resources for the Service at any time to OFTA.