

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Report on APT-ITU Joint Workshop on ENUM**

#### **Background**

The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) jointly organised a workshop on ENUM on 21 May 2004 in Brunei Darussalam. The objectives of the workshop were to create awareness and a wider understanding of ENUM issues, to review the global trials of ENUM and the readiness for the implementation of ENUM. In the workshop, speakers from the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) ENUM Working Group, ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, Australia, Japan, Mainland China, South Korea, Singapore and Austria gave their views on ENUM. OFTA had attended the workshop and would like to share the experience gained in the workshop with Members.

#### **Abstracts of ENUM Trials and Experience in Overseas Countries**

##### *Australia*

3. In Australia, an ENUM consultative body, Australian ENUM Discussion Group, was formed in March 2003. The group comprised members from the telecommunication industry, internet service providers, academics and consumer groups. Australian ENUM trial was divided into three phases. In the first phase to be conducted in the second half of 2004, a dedicated number range would be allocated for the trial which would not interconnect with the PSTN. The first phase would last for about one year. In the second and third phases, tests on mobile and fixed network numbers would be introduced respectively. The speaker considered that the authentication and authorisation of the identity of an applicant for ENUM were key issues to be resolved. For example, a secure online system for validation of ENUM subscribers and the customer's rights to use the corresponding ENUM after relinquishment of the E.164 number will have to be considered.

### *South Korea*

4. South Korea had commenced its trial on ENUM in 2003 and planned to launch commercial services in 2005. Korean ENUM Service Council was set up to oversee the development of ENUM. The Council is composed of representatives from the South Korean Government, fixed operators and mobile operators. The presented statistics indicated that only about 1,500 users had registered for the trial in between October 2003 and January 2004. The speaker considered that further study on the following areas was required: the appropriate business model for ENUM, the impact of introducing ENUM on the South Korean telecommunication policy and whether ENUM was attractive to the end users.

### *Austria*

5. The first phase of Austrian trial on ENUM was completed in October 2003. The commercial launch of ENUM service was planned for October 2004. The speaker considered that basic issues for ENUM i.e. proper functioning of ENUM technology and ENUM policy and administration had been resolved. The speaker observed that the ENUM trial in which the residential subscribers could use ENUM service with their existing telephone numbers did not attract many users. The speaker considered that a new number range should be allocated for other ENUM services.

### *Mainland China*

6. Mainland China set up its trial system in July 2003. The objective of the trial was confined to technical assessment on the feasibility of ENUM technology. Mainland China had concerns on the selection of Top Level Domain (TLD) name for ENUM i.e. E164.arpa versus a new generic TLD. At present, there was no consensus on the TLD for ENUM.

### *Singapore*

7. Singapore initiated a limited trial on ENUM with participation of hardware manufacturers and service providers. The speaker considered that the IP telephony was already round the corner but the ENUM market was still

in its infancy with insufficient support from the network operators and ISPs. The speaker envisaged that due to the vast impact and diverse interests on the technology, drafting the appropriate ENUM policy would require careful consideration. On the other hand, relevant parties should also devote resources to tackle other challenges such as handling of emergency calls, quality of service, power failure, market impact, universal service and licensing regime to ensure that the ENUM services could successfully be launched.

### **Way Forward**

8. It is generally agreed that ENUM is a potential candidate for bridging the PSTN with the Internet. We understand from the workshop the problems encountered in the trials and the anticipated challenges for full-scale implementation of commercial ENUM services. OFTA will continue to monitor the development of ENUM. Members are welcome to submit their comments on the development of ENUM in Hong Kong to OFTA.

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