THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY
IAFI News

First meeting of NSG - 6 and NWP- 6 corresponding to SG-6 of ITU-R

The Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing (WPC) established National Study Group 6 (NSG-6) and its associated National Working Party 6 (NWP-6) through Office Memorandum (OM) no. T-11012/05/2023-ISR dated June 8, 2023. Shri N K Bhola, JWA was appointed Chairman, NSG-6, and Shri Rajeev Kumar, Director (Engineering), Doordarshan was appointed Chairman, NWP-6.

The inaugural NSG-6 meeting, held in hybrid format on January 6, 2025, with a physical presence at the Conference Hall, WMO Headquarters, Pushpa Bhawan, New Delhi, began with a welcome address by Chairman. He emphasized the significance of active participation and valuable contributions from stakeholders to the ITU-R Study Group 6 (Broadcasting Services), encouraging members to prepare for the next meeting.

The NWP-6 Coordinator then presented an overview of ITU-R SG-6, including its structure, scope, and associated Working Parties (WP-6A, WP-6B, WP-6C). The presentation also detailed the roles and activities of NSG-6 and NWP-6, and summarized key outcomes from the November 2024 SG-6 meeting. Chairman announced upcoming meetings of SG-6A from March 5-12, 2025, and SG-6 on March 14, 2025. He concluded by expressing gratitude for the active participation and valuable suggestions from all attendees.

WG-2 of NFAP-2025 Meeting in DoT

Fifth meeting of the WG-2 of NFAP-2025 was held on 14 January under the chairmanship of Shri N K Bhola, Director Monitoring and Joint Wireless Advisor, WPC. The meeting was organized to consider proposals of ISRO with regard to 2.0 GHz and 2.5 GHz. ISRO proposal was to delete IMT from parts 2.5 GHz bands. After great discussions, it was agreed to set up a further offline group to modify IND 26.

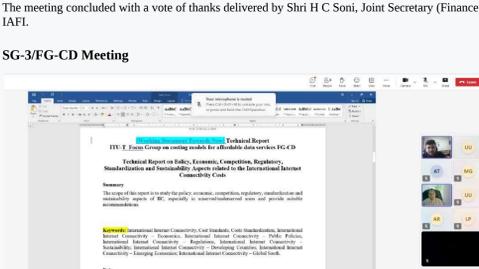### IAFI EC Meeting: – 15-01-2025

The 22nd Meeting of the IAFI Executive Council (EC) convened on January 15, 2025, at the CSOI, Vinay Marg, New Delhi, with provisions for both physical and virtual attendance. Eleven members joined the meeting physically and five members participated remotely. IAFI President, Shri Bharat Bhatia, presided over the meeting. Shri T R Dua, Chairman of IAFI, expressed gratitude to the members and commended the President, Shri Bhatia and his team for their contributions to the growth of the IAFI.

The President reviewed the action items from the 21st EC meeting and announced the addition of two new members and two honorary members, bringing the total membership to 163, comprising 113 individual paid members, 22 honorary members, and 28 corporate members. He highlighted IAFI's active engagement with international telecommunications organizations, including consistent participation in ITU-R, ITU-T, ITU-D, and APT activities, and timely responses to consultation papers from TRAI and TEC. Furthermore, IAFI maintained active involvement in meetings organized by DoT, TRAI, TEC, and WPC.

Key events since the last EC meeting were also reviewed, including a VIP dinner reception hosted for delegates attending WTSA-24 and the successful 4th Indian Spectrum Management Conference held on November 7-8, 2024. The President outlined IAFI's planned activities for 2025, including participation in the ITU-D World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 17-28, 2025. Members were encouraged to contribute to the 3rd APT Workshop scheduled for March 17-18, 2025, with a submission deadline of March 6, 2025. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Shri H C Suni, Joint Secretary (Finance), IAFI.

SG-3/FG-CD Meeting

DoT on 16-01-2025 arranged a virtual meeting, of FG-CD to discuss the issues likely to be raised in the upcoming meeting of the Focus Group on Costing Models for Affordable Data Service (FG-CD) functioning under SG-3 of ITU-T. The 5th meeting of the FG-CD will be held on 18-02-2025 at Gabon. Meeting was chaired by Shri S K Mishra and coordinated by Shri Satish Kumar MC, Dy Administrator, USOF, DoT. FG-CD consists of two working groups, WG-1&2 and three documents of WG-1 and four documents of WG-2 were discussed in the meeting.

Shri S K Mishra, Chair informed that following two contributions submitted by IAFI need pursuance.

1. The first contribution, Document I-065, was focused on the role of IPv6 in optimizing network infrastructure and reducing internet data costs. IAFI, through this document, explained to members that implementing IPv6 can lower internet data costs. Citing India's leadership in IPv6 implementation, with over 83% conversion from IPv4 to IPv6 and some of the world's lowest internet data costs, IAFI proposed a comprehensive study by the FG-CD to assess the potential financial impact of IPv6 implementation. Chairman suggested that IAFI should submit further proposals to investigate this area and determine the correlation between IPv6 adoption and internet data costs.

2. During the third FG-CD meeting in Malawi, the IAFI presented a contribution citing a study by the British website zable.co.uk on the cost of 1GB of mobile internet data. The study revealed that data costs are lowest in developed economies like Israel and Italy, while being significantly higher in similar countries like the UK and USA. The IAFI highlighted India's low data costs compared to many developing nations. To understand this phenomenon, IAFI submitted a draft questionnaire to the FG-CD. Contribution was discussed and members suggested that the questionnaire should be formatted in a yes/no format. IAFI subsequently submitted revised questionnaire at the November 2024 meeting (I-064). The proposed questionnaire was discussed at the meeting, and the draft questionnaire attached to IAFI's proposal was uploaded by the TSB for online feedback from stakeholder, using the link "https://forms.office.com/e/SgBLbd2mY4." The Chair emphasized the importance and suggested IAFI for pursuing this matter with member states and stakeholders in getting reply.

IAFI Radio Group Meeting – 17-01-2025

IAFI Radio Group meeting was organized in virtual mode on 17-01-2025 to review and finalize the contributions to be submitted in the upcoming WP-5D meeting, which is likely to be held from 03 to 14 Feb, 2025 at Geneva, Switzerland. After detailed discussion, following seven contributions has been finalized.

a. IAFI and WWRF joint contribution on "Characteristics Template and Evaluation Template as part of IMT-2030".

b. Further updates on Working Document M.2527 regarding "Applications of the terrestrial component of IMT for specific societal, industrial and other usages".

c. Proposed Liaison Statement regarding determination of draft new recommendation ITU.T V.3211 (ex. V.FMSC-ABC-REQ) " Fixed, mobile and satellite convergence: requirements of supporting airborne broadband communication for IMT-2020 networks and beyond".

d. Updates on working document regarding "Mitigation of interference for IMT network under tropospheric ducting effect".

e. Updates on working document regarding "Coordination of stations in the fixed service (FS) with IMT stations in the frequency band 6 425-7 125 MHz".

f. Updates on working document regarding "Usage of IMT for Aircraft to everything (A2X) Communications".

g. Updates on working document regarding "Usage of the IMT for object detection and tracking".

All above documents were circulated to members for further update, if any and final version will be submitted to ITU on 23-01-2025.

SG-20 /ITU-T Meeting

IAFI is participating in the ITU-T SG-20 Meeting regarding "Internet of things (IoT) and smart cities and communities (SC&C)". Meeting started from 15th January and will continue till 24th Jan, 2025. Total 155 documents will be presented in the meeting. China submitted almost 80 contributions.

Bid farewell to Ms Madhu Arora, ex-Member (Technology)

On 17th Jan, 2025, IAFI hosted a farewell luncheon to honor Ms. Madhu Arora, retired as Member (Technology), the Digital Communications Commission (DCC), DoT. The event was attended by numerous dignitaries, including senior officers from the DoT, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), and Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing (WPC), along with senior industry executives. IAFI President, Shri Bharat Bhatia, addressed the gathering and presented Ms. Arora with a bouquet. Ms. Aarush Qureshi, General Manager, IAFI, then presented a memento to Ms. Arora. The celebration was further brightened with musical performances by several attendees.

Ms Madhu Arora was 1986 batch ITS officer, hold B.Tech degree from Delhi College of Engineering, an MBA from University of Queensland and LLB from Campus Law Centre, Delhi University. She took over the charge of Member (Technology), DCC in April, 2024, succeeded Ms Gunjan Dave.

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Deadlines	IAFI Preparatory Meetings
ITU-T SG20 – Internet of Things, digital twins and smart sustainable cities and communities	15th – 24th Jan 2025	03rd Jan 2025	-
ITU-D Extra-ordinary Meeting of the TDAG	23rd Jan 2025	11th Jan 2025	-
APT SATRC Workshop on Spectrum	21st – 23rd Jan 2025	11th Jan 2025	-
ITU-R Working Party 5D (WP 5D)	04th – 13rd Feb 2025	23th Jan 2025	-
ITU-T SG3 Regional Group for Asia and Oceania (SG3RG-AO)	10th Feb 2025	30th Jan 2025	-
ITU-R Working Party 6C (WP6C) – Programme production and quality assessment	03rd – 07th Mar 2025	22nd Feb 2025	-
ITU-T SG13 - Future networks and emerging network technologies	03rd – 14th Mar 2025	17th Feb 2025	-
ITU-R Working Party 6A (WP 6A) – Terrestrial broadcasting delivery	05th – 12th Mar 2025	24th Feb 2025	-
ITU-R Working Party 6B (WP 6B) – Broadcast service assembly and access	05th – 13th Mar 2025	28th Feb 2025	-
ITU-R Study Group 6 (SG 6)	14th Mar 2025	02nd Mar 2025	-
ITU-R Working Party 7B (WP 7B) - Space radiocommunication application	17th – 26th Mar 2025	05th Mar 2025	-
ITU-R Working Party 7C (WP 7C) - Remote sensing systems	17th – 26th Mar 2025	05th Mar 2025	-
ITU-R Working Party 7D (WP 7D) - Radio astronomy	17th – 26th Mar 2025	05th Mar 2025	-
ITU-R Radio Regulations Board (RRB)	17th – 21st Mar 2025	05th Mar 2025	-
APT: The 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-3)	17th – 18th Mar 2025	07th Mar 2025	-
ITU-D Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia & Pacific for WTDC-25	20th – 21st Mar 2025	08th Mar 2025	-

Telecom Stories:

In a significant development aimed at strengthening India's telecom infrastructure and accessibility, Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya M. Scindia unveiled a series of initiatives, including the Sanchar Saathi Mobile App, the National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0, and the inauguration of the Intra Circle Roaming (ICR) facility at Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)-funded 4G mobile sites.

The government is considering a proposal to waive 50% of interest and 100% of penalties and interest on penalties that make up a bulk of the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues that were levied on telcos like Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel after the Supreme Court order of 2019. Such a move, if implemented, would much a somewhat of Vodafone's financial concerns as the DPOs. There shall be no restriction on the use of terrestrial communication technologies/systems and the entity may use more than one such systems, as per its business decision," it said.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) on Wednesday released its recommendations on "Regulatory framework for Ground-based Broadcasters (GBB)" to fully leverage technological advancements for the delivery of television channels to distributors. Trai has recommended that the GBBs' scope should be to provide television channels to distribution platform operators (DPOs) using terrestrial communication medium, for onward re-transmission. "A ground-based broadcaster may use any terrestrial communication medium(s), for delivery of channels to the DPOs. There shall be no restriction on the use of terrestrial communication technologies/systems and the entity may use more than one such systems, as per its business decision," it said.