

## Report on the 34th Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Standardization Program Meeting

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### Abstract

The 34th Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Standardization Program meeting (ASTAP-34) was held from 18 to 22 April 2022. This meeting was held in an online format due to the impact of the spread of novel coronavirus infections and was attended by approximately 230 participants (registered) from 19 Member States. This article reports on ASTAP-34 and the Industry Workshop held in conjunction with ASTAP-34.

*Keywords: APT, ASTAP, standardization*

### 1. Introduction

The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) is an international organization promoting development in the field of information and communication technology (ICT) in the Asia-Pacific region and was established in 1979 with 38 Member States in the Asia-Pacific region [1].

The APT Standardization Program (ASTAP) is a conference promoting standardization activities in the APT region and was established in 1998 [2]. The main objectives of ASTAP are 1) to build a cooperative and collaborative system for standardization in the APT region and contribute to international standardization; 2) train standardization practitioners in the APT region and support skill development in the ICT field among members of the region, especially those from developing countries; and 3) make joint proposals to international standardization organizations such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as a regional standardization organization.

The 34th ASTAP meeting (ASTAP-34) was held from 18 to 22 April 2022 with approximately 230 participants from 19 Member States. On the first day of the meeting, the Industry Workshop on “Blockchain” and Standardization Workshop on “Guidelines

on setting up a National ICT Standardization Regime” were held and attended by about 130 participants.

### 2. Structure of ASTAP

The structure of ASTAP and the positions held are listed in **Table 1**. Japan is now able to lead the discussions in each Working Group (WG) and Expert Group (EG) by serving as the Chair or Vice-Chair of each group.

### 3. Review of working methods

A proposal was made by the Steering Committee, consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and others of ASTAP, to review the working methods for changing the title of the Chair during meetings and in documents from “Chairman” to “Chair,” from the perspective of gender equality. The working methods were thus reviewed and changed from “Chairman” to “Chair.” This was implemented from this meeting and reflected in the meeting and document amendments.

There was also a request not to use the designations “He,” “She,” etc. However, it is not always possible to know all the names of the speakers in a meeting, and

Table 1. Structure of ASTAP.

Group	Chairs	Vice-Chairs
ASTAP	Dr. Hyoung Jun Kim (Korea)	Hideyuki Iwata (TTC, Japan) Mr. Xiaoyu You (China)
Working Group Policy and Strategic Co-ordination (WG PSC)	Mrs. Nguyen Thi Khanh Thuan (Vietnam)	Kaoru Kenyoshi (NICT, Japan) Mr. Wu Tong (China)
Expert Group Bridging the Standardization Gap (EG BSG)	Mrs. Nguyen Thi Khanh Thuan (Vietnam)	Mr. Ki-Hun Kim (Korea) Masatoshi Mano (TTC, Japan)
Expert Group Green ICT and EMF Exposure (EG GICT&EMF)	Dr. Sam Young Chung (Korea)	Mr. Min Prasad Aryal (Nepal) Mr. Nur Akbar Said (Indonesia) Mr. Uttachai Mannontri (Thailand)
Expert Group ITU-T Issues (EG ITU-T)	Kaoru Kenyoshi (NICT, Japan)	Mr. Tran Quoc Binh (Vietnam)
Expert Group Policies, Regulatory and Strategies (EG PRS)	[No Chair nominated]	
Working Group Network and System (WG NS)	Dr. Joon-Won Lee (Korea)	Hiroyo Ogawa (NICT, Japan)
Expert Group Future Network and Next Generation Networks (EG FN&NGN)	Dr. Joon-Won Lee (Korea)	Kazunori Tanigawa (NICT, Japan)
Expert Group Seamless Access Communication Systems (EG SACS)	Hiroyo Ogawa (NICT, Japan)	
Expert Group Disaster Risk Management and Relief System (EG DRMRS)	Noriyuki Araki (NTT, Japan)	
Working Group Service and Application (WG SA)	Miho Naganuma (NEC, Japan)	Dr. Jee-In Kim (Korea)
Expert Group Internet of Things Application/Services (EG IOT)	Toru Yamada (NEC, Japan)	Dr. Seung-yun Lee (Korea) Ms. Li Haihua (China)
Expert Group Security (EG IS)	Miho Naganuma (NEC, Japan)	Dr. Heuisu Ryu (Korea)
Expert Group Multimedia Application (EG MA)	Hideki Yamamoto (OKI, Japan)	Dr. Dong il Seo (Korea)
Expert Group Accessibility and Usability (EG AU)	Dr. Jee-In Kim (Korea)	Ms. Wantanee Phantachat (Thailand)

there are sometimes cases in which the designations “He,” “She,” “him” and “her” are used, so we need to be more aware of this.

#### 4. Main results

At ASTAP-34, 19 output documents were approved, including reports of each WG. The plenary of this meeting approved two revised Terms of Reference (EG Future Network and Next Generation Networks (FN & NGN), EG Internet of Things Application/Services (IOT)), two new report documents, four liai-

son documents to other standardization bodies (ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) Study Group 16, ITU-T Focus Group on Autonomous Networks (FG-AN) [3], ITU-T Focus Group on AI for Natural Disaster Management (FG-AI4NDM) [4], APT Wireless Group (AWG) [5]), and one questionnaire; the two new report documents are as follows:

- Final draft of the 2nd Version of APT Report on Asia-Pacific Regional Activities of Human Exposure to EMF (electromagnetic fields)
- APT Report on Airport Runway Foreign Object Debris Detection System using Radio over Fiber

Table 2. Program of the Industry Workshop in ASTAP-34.

<b>Program of ASTAP Industry and Standardization Workshop</b> <b>Industry Workshop: Blockchain technology and standardization</b>
<p>10:30 – 12:30 <b>Introductory Remarks</b> by Dr. Hideyuki Iwata, TTC, Japan, Industry Workshop Corresponding Member</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Xiaoyu You, CAICT, China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Standardization of ISO TC 307 (Blockchain and DLT)</b> by Mr. Jae Hoon NAH, Principle Engineer, ETRI, Rep. of Korea.</li> <li>• <b>Experience and Thinking on International Standardization of DLT Enhanced Future Network for Supporting Web3.0</b> by Ms. Xiaooou Liu, China Telecom Research Institute, People's Republic of China.</li> <li>• <b>Technical and Copyright Issue with NFT and Blockchain</b> by Mr. YongJoon Joe and Mr. DongMyung Shin, Principal Research Engineer, LSware Inc., Rep. of Korea.</li> </ul>
<p>12:30 – 14:00 <b>Industry Workshop: Blockchain industry and application</b></p> <p>Chair: Dr. Seungyun Lee, Director, ETRI, Rep. of Korea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maximize the Benefits of Blockchain in Many Applications of Many Industries</b> by Dr. Manodha Gamage, Founder/Managing Director, Intelligent Solutions and Consultancy (Pvt.) Ltd., Sri Lanka.</li> <li>• <b>Digital Federation on Trade Facilitation by Blockchain</b> by Ms. Chaemee Kim, VP (CDO Chief Digital Officer), KNET, Rep. of Korea.</li> <li>• <b>Chinese Blockchain Industry Overview &amp; Xinghuo Blockchain and Infrastructure Facility</b> by Mr. Xiantang SUN, Director of International department of IIIIoT, CAICT, People's Republic of China.</li> <li>• <b>Auditing B2C communication Utilizing Blockchain</b> by Shigeya Suzuki, Specially Appointed Professor, Keio University, Japan.</li> </ul>
<p>14:10 – 15:40 <b>Standardization Workshop: Guidelines on setting up National ICT Standardization Regime</b></p> <p>Chair: Mrs. Nguyen Khanh Thuan, Ministry of Information and Communications, Vietnam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TTC Activity Report</b> by Dr. Hideyuki Iwata, CEO&amp;S.V.P., TTC, Japan.</li> <li>• <b>The Introduction of ICT Standardization Regime in Korea</b> by Dr. Kyoungcheol Koo, Vice President, Telecommunications Technology Association, Rep. of Korea.</li> <li>• <b>The Operations of MTSFB as the Malaysian ICT Standardization Organization</b> by Ms. Zaleha Abu Bakar, General Manager, MTSFB, Malaysia.</li> <li>• <b>Guidelines on Setting up National ICT Standardization Regime</b> by Dr. Kamol Uahchinkul, Researcher, National Electronic and Computer Technology Center, Thailand.</li> <li>• <b>Introduction on Standardization System in China</b> by Mr. Shizhuo Zhao, Director, International Standardization Department, CCSA, People's Republic of China.</li> <li>• <b>Guidelines on Setting up National ICT Standardization Regime</b> by Mr Satish Jamadagni Vice Chair TSDSI (Reliance Jio).</li> </ul>
<p>15:40 – 16:00 <b>Conclusion of Industry Workshop</b> Dr. Hideyuki Iwata, CEO&amp;S.V.P., TTC, Japan</p>

DLT: distributed ledger technology

NFT: non-fungible token

Technologies

## 5. Industry Workshop

In the ad hoc discussion on strengthening ASTAP activities held at ASTAP-33, it was agreed that the workshop at this ASTAP-34 would be an Industry Workshop in combination with a Standardization Workshop with standards developing organizations

(SDOs) invited to attend. The topic of the Industry Workshop was “Blockchain,” which was carried over from the Correspondence Group planning the program of the previous ASTAP-33 workshop. The topic of the Standardization Workshop was “Guidelines on setting up a National ICT Standardization Regime,” a Work Item of the EG Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG).

**Table 2** shows the program of the workshop. The

Industry Workshop consisted of two sessions: Session 1: Blockchain technology and standardization and Session 2: Blockchain industry and application. Seven experts from Japan, Korea, China, and Sri Lanka gave presentations. Keio University gave a presentation from Japan. The Standardization Workshop in Session 3 was attended by SDOs from six countries: The Telecommunication Technology Committee (TTC) from Japan, the Telecommunications Technology Association (TTA) from Korea, the China Communications Standards Association (CCSA), the Malaysian Technical Standards Forum Bhd (MTSFB), Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI), and the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC) from Thailand. During the workshop, information was shared in response to the following questions raised by emerging countries that do not have a national SDO.

- National ICT standardization processes
- National legislation relating to ICT standardization
- Role of governments, SDOs, fora, and standardization bodies
- Industry initiatives
- Recommendations to APT Member States on the establishment of national standardization systems

tems

- Proposals to ASTAP and APT

The schedule was tight because the workshop was held online, taking into account time differences and other time constraints, and the aim was to have as many speakers as possible share information.

## 6. Future plans

The APT Secretary General reported that the next meeting (ASTAP-35) would be held on site from April to June 2023, that Bangkok was currently being considered as a possible venue, and that invitations were being sought from other countries and regions. An Industry Workshop will be held independently in conjunction with the next meeting, while the Standardization Workshop will be organized by the EG BSG, with mini-workshops inviting emerging countries.

## References

- [1] APT, <https://www.apr.int/>
- [2] ASTAP, <https://www.apr.int/APTASTAP>
- [3] ITU-T FG-AN, <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/an/Pages/default.aspx>
- [4] ITU-T FG-AI4NDM, <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/ai4ndm/Pages/default.aspx>
- [5] AWG, <https://www.apr.int/APTAWG>



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He received a B.E. and M.E. in electrical and electronic engineering from Sophia University, Tokyo, in 1993 and 1995. He joined NTT Access Network Service Systems Laboratories in 1995, where he researched and developed operation and maintenance systems for optical fiber cable networks. He has been contributing to standardization efforts in ITU-T Study Group (SG)6 since 2006. He was the rapporteur of Question 6 of ITU-T SG6 from 2006 to 2008 and the rapporteur of Question 17 of ITU-T SG15 from 2008 to 2012. He also served as the chairman of the ITU-T Focus Group on Disaster Relief Systems and Network Resilience and Recovery. He was the vice-chairman of ITU-T SG15 from 2013 to 2022. He also contributes to the activities of International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Technical Committee 86 (fiber optic systems). He received the ITU-AJ award from the ITU Association of Japan in 2017. He is a member of the Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers (IEICE).