



Bundesnetzagentur



Bridging the Standardization Gap

A View from Germany

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The Standardization Gap Problem

- Definition: disparities in the ability of developing countries, relative to developed ones, to access, implement, contribute and influence international ICT standards, specifically ITU Recommendations
- Both a cause and a manifestation of the wider digital divide
- It contributes to the persistence of the wider digital divide
- Recognized as issue by PP-06 Resolution 123 and WTSA-04 Resolution 44
- Digital Divide and Standardization Gap is especially a problem in sub-Saharan Africa and least developed countries
 - providing mobile and broadband access to rural/low-density populations in the Global South is a challenge



Benefits of Open Standardization

- Open Standards are defined (among other things) by:
 - Achieved by means of accepted pre-defined procedure
 - All interested parties can contribute
 - Transparent, collaborative/cooperative and due process
 - Based on consensus (but not unanimity)
 - IPRs meet FRND or similar requirements
 - All details of the standards are public and available for nominal fee/free of charge
- They enable economies of scale for interoperable technologies (infrastructure, equipment, software etc.) and thus lower costs for users
- Examples: GSM and DVB standards are used on all continents
- ITU-T right place to develop globally interoperable open standards. Easier access than to many industry fora for developing countries



Current Standardization issues in ITU-T (i.e. for NGN)

- Access Technologies (XDSL, Fiber, FMC)
- Services such as IPTV
- Security/Data Protection
- Numbering, naming, addressing
- Network aspects of identification systems (including RFID)
- Quality of service, network management
 - The needs/requirements of governments and civil society in developing and least developed countries regarding these issues can become part of ITU-T standards that are globally interoperable



E-Services

Needs of users in Government and Society

- E-Government
- E-Health
- E-Learning/E-Education
- E-Banking
- E-Agriculture
- ICT and the Environment (Use of sensors etc.)
 - Specifications based on the needs of governments and civil society in developing and least developed countries can become part of ICT standards that are globally interoperable



First steps in Bridging the Standardization Gap

- Publishing ITU-T standards for free on the Internet (since 2007): both ITU-T recommendations and draft recs undergoing approval procedures
- Tools for remote participation
- In 2008 five regional BSG fora in the Americas, Africa, CIS/Central Asia, Asia-Pacific and Arab States (following some fora in 2007)
- BSG fund established (in collaboration with industry and ITU-D)
- BSG Group established in TSAG
- Increased role of developing countries in ITU-T structures (chairmanships/vice-chairmanships, hosting of meetings)



Role of Regional Groups in ITU-T

- WTSA-04 Resolution 54 on Regional Groups
- Examples:
 - Arab regional group in Study Group 2
 - Americas regional group in Study Group 6
- Can be held annually as part of larger regional ITU, ITU-T, and ITU-D meetings in the regions to enable input of regional needs/specifications into ITU-T standardization process (parent SG groups)
 - Lower travel costs within regions
- Important to keep the goal of global interoperability intact



Further steps in Bridging the Standardization Gap

- Work along the “Standardization Development Ladder” identified by TSB
 - Ongoing process
- Continuing five regional BSG fora in the Americas Africa, CIS/Central Asia, Asia-Pacific and Arab States in the coming years
- BSG funds increased
- ITU-R also publishes recommendations and documents on the Internet for free
- Results of May 2008 TSB questionnaire to developing countries on BSG
- Development of new services/applications that meet the needs of the different regions within the ITU-T, while ensuring global interoperability



Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!

Thank you for your attention!