

**20th AFACT
MINUTES OF PLENARY MEETING**

Date : 30 October 2002 (Wednesday)
Time : 9.30am – 6.30pm
Venue : Tun Hussein Onn Hall
Putra World Trade Centre
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Participants: (Attachment I)

1. Opening

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed all StC Members, Heads of Delegation (HOD), JWG Chairs, delegates and observers to the 20th AFACT Plenary Meeting.
- 1.2 The Chairman introduced himself and introduced members seated at the head table: Mr Ray Walker (Chair of UN/CEFACT Steering Committee), Dr. Richard Mengko (Previous Chairman), incoming Chairman Mr. Javed Akhtar Naushahi, Mr. Kenji Itoh (UN/CEFACT Vice-Chair), Mr Gary Gong (AFACT Secretariat) and Mr. T.A. Khan (UN/CEFACT Rapporteur for Asia).
- 1.3 The Chairman also welcomed Mr Ray Walker, the Chair of UN/CEFACT Steering Group to the Plenary. Mr. Walker expressed his pleasure to be here and has been very impressed with the progress made and reaffirm UN/CEFACT support for activities of AFACT in the Asia Pacific region.
- 1.4 Mr T. A. Khan, on behalf of UN/CEFACT and AFACT, thanked Malaysia for hosting the AFACT meeting in Kuala Lumpur and making this year's meeting a successful one. He expressed the need for coordination among member countries to pursue cross member countries initiatives. He suggested HODs from each country to create parallel working groups. The reorganization of the UN/CEFACT structure will require participation from member countries.

2. Adoption of Plenary Agenda

- 2.1 The Chairman opened the floor for questions on the agenda. One change was proposed ie. to remove item 7.1 and change item 7.2 to become 7.1.
- 2.2 The tentative agenda was tabled and adopted as per Attachment 1.

3. Introduction of Heads of Delegation (HODs)

- 3.1 The Chairman introduced the Head of Delegation as follows:

Chinese Taipei	:	Ms. Chuang, Suh-Chyin
India	:	Mr. T. A. Khan
Indonesia	:	Drs. Erlangga Mantik
Iran	:	Mr. Dejpasand Farhad
Japan	:	Mr. Shumpei Nakagaki
Korea	:	Mr. Deuk Jin Jung
Malaysia	:	Mdm. Siti Aminah Abdullah
Pakistan	:	Mr. Javed Akhtar Naushahi
Singapore	:	Mr. Kamarudin Tambi
Sri Lanka	:	G.A Dharmadasa
Thailand	:	Dr. Somnuk Keretho
Vietnam	:	Mr. Anh Nguyen Huu

The Plenary was informed that there are no delegation from Australia, Mongolia, People's Republic of China, and Philippines.

4. Introduction of Joint Working Group Chairs

The Chairman introduced the Joint Working Group Chairs as follows:

Inter-Networking Implementation Committee	:	Mdm Siti Aminah Abdullah (Malaysia)
XMLWG	:	Mr. Chung Ping Liang (Chinese Taipei)
Awareness and Education WG	:	Mr. Zaid Ismail (Malaysia)
Customs WG	:	Drs. Erlangga Mantik (Indonesia)
E-Commerce WG	:	Mr. Yong Jae Kim (Korea)
Financial WG	:	Mr. Chau-Hsiung Chou (Chinese Taipei)
Technical Assessment WG	:	Mr. Frank Lin (Chinese Taipei)
Transport WG	:	Mr. S. Anbalagan (Malaysia)
Security WG	:	Mr. Greg Wu (Chinese Taipei)

Purchasing WG : Mr. Cheraghi Seyed Alireza (Iran)
Air Transport WG : Mr. Dinesh Kumar (India)
Legal Working Group : Mr Siamak Ghajar(Iran)

The Plenary was informed that the Environmental Protection WG did not convene a meeting.

5. Report of StC Meeting by Chair.

- 5.1 The Chairman reported that two StC Meetings convened in Malaysia this year. They were held in Langkawi (18-19 April) and Kuala Lumpur (27 Oct 2002). Among items discussed were as follows:
- i. Approved Minutes of the 19th AFACT Plenary in Jakarta.
 - ii. Approved Mongolia's application to become a member country.
 - iii. Approved ebXML Asia Committee to become an Associate Member.
 - iv. Recommended election of two new Head of Delegation to be Steering Committee member because the existing two-year term for the current elected Heads of Delegation have completed.
 - v. Proposal from the AFACT Secretariat for e-ASIA Award Event.
 - vi. The future direction of AFACT – its proposed reorganization based on the new UN/CEFACT structure.
 - vii. It is proposed that the host of 21st AFACT is Pakistan for 2003. For 2004, it is proposed that Singapore host the meeting and for 2005 it should be Vietnam.
- 5.2 The Chairman invited the Chair of ebXML Asia Committee, Mr. Hisanao Sugamata to give a brief presentation. He informed that the ebXML Asia Committee was jointly established by ECOM of Japan, KIEC of Korea, TCA of Chinese Taipei. The committee was created to focus on ebXML standard for eBusiness. Its goal is to implement ebXML in 10 countries in Asia by 2005. The next ebXML Asia committee meeting will be held on 28-29 November, 2002 in Hong Kong.
- 5.3 The Chair tabled items (ii) and (iii) to the Plenary for ratification. Mr T.A Khan proposed the acceptance of Mongolia as a member country and seconded by Mr Kenji Itoh. Mr T.A.Khan proposed to the meeting to ratify and endorse ebXML Asia Committee's application to become an Associate member of AFACT and seconded by Mr Javed Akhtar Naushahi.

- 5.4 The Chair invited Mr Richard Mengko to report on the findings and recommendations of the adhoc group appointed by the AFACT Steering Committee to deliberate on the proposal for AFACT restructuring based on the new UN/CEFACT structure. The report is attached.

The Plenary agreed that the proposal be opened for comments from member countries and the AFACT Secretariat to compile comments and views from member countries. The dateline for comments and views is 31 March, 2003. The AFACT Secretariat will table the findings in the next StC Meeting in Pakistan in April 2003.

- 5.5 The Chair tabled item on election of new Elected Member to the StC. The Plenary was informed that the StC has proposed Korea and Singapore to become the new elected member of StC. Mdm Siti Aminah supported the motion and seconded by Mr. Kenji Itoh. The Plenary records its appreciation for the support and contributions of the previous Elected Member.

6. Progress Report by Member Countries/Economies:

- 6.1 The HODs presented their country progress reports on trade facilitation and electronic business in their respective countries and economies. These documents will be made available on the AFACT web site www.afact.org.

The reports were presented as follows:

- a. Chinese Taipei by Ms. Chuang, Suh-Chyin
- b. The meeting noted a paper entitled “EB/EC Standardisation Development” presented by Wu Zhigang from China EDIFACT Committee in Geneva on 26 March 2001, distributed for information of the Plenary.
- c. India by Mr. T. A. Khan. He also expressed his appreciation to the Hosting Secretariat and the Government of Malaysia for all the arrangements made.
- d. Indonesia by Mr. David A. Lasse
- e. Iran by Mr. Cheraghi Seyed Alireza
- f. Japan by Mr. Shumpei Nakagaki
- g. Korea by Mr. Deuk Jin Jung
- h. Malaysia by Mdm. Siti Aminah Abdullah
- i. Pakistan by Mr. Javed Akhtar Naushahi
- j. Singapore by Mr. Kamarudin Tambi
- k. Sri Lanka by Mr.G.A Dharmadasa
- l. Thailand by Dr. Somnuk Keretho
- m. Vietnam by Mr. Anh Nguyen Huu

7. Report by JWG Chairs

7.1 The JWG Chairs presented their progress reports as follows: The documents will be made available on the AFACT web site www.afact.org.

- a. Inter-Networking Implementation Committee by Mdm Siti Aminah Abdullah (Malaysia)
- b. XMLWG by Mr. Chung Ping Liang (Chinese Taipei)
- c. Awareness and Education WG by Mr. Zaid Ismail (Malaysia)
- d. Customs WG by Drs. Erlangga Mantik (Indonesia)
- e. E-Commerce WG by Mr. Yong Jae Kim (Korea)
- f. Financial WG by Mr. Chau-Hsiung Chou (Chinese Taipei)
- g. Technical Assessment WG: Mr. Frank Lin (Chinese Taipei)
- h. Transport WG by Mr. S. Anbalagan (Malaysia)
- i. Security WG by Mr. Greg Wu (Chinese Taipei)
- j. Purchasing WG by Mr. Cheraghi Seyed Alireza (Iran)
- k. Air Transport WG by Mr. Dinesh Kumar (India)
- l. Legal Working Group by Mr. Siamak Ghajar (Iran)

7.2 It was proposed that the AFACT TAG, XMLWG and SWG to jointly hold working group meetings at the future annual meetings.

8. Rapporteur's Report:

Mr. T.A. Khan presented the UN/CEFACT related activities since the last AFACT meeting in September 2001 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The full report and slide presentation will be made available on the AFACT website.

9. Report by Observers

9.1 The Plenary was informed that the Hosting Secretariat invited ADPIP, e-ASEAN Secretariat, New Zealand, HKANA, UNESCAP as observers to the 20th AFACT Meeting. However, only UNESCAP is present.

9.2 The Chairman invited Mr Keenan from UNESCAP to present his comments. Mr Keenan expressed concern regarding little progress has been achieved in terms of collaboration between UNESCAP and AFACT. The full report is available on the AFACT Website. Chairman suggested Mr.Khan to explore areas of collaboration between UNESCAP and UN/CEFACT. This would open up better avenues for future collaboration between UNESCAP and AFACT.

9.3 Mr Keenan also echoed the invitation by Dr.Somnuk Keretho (Thailand)for AFACT and member countries to participate in the joint UNCTAD-UNESCAP Asia Pacific Regional Conference on

10. AFACT Outlook

- 10.1 Chairman invited Mr Gary Gong and he invited Dr.Eva from the AFACT Secretariat to table the proposal for the eASIA Award and Expo. Detail information on the proposal is available on the AFACT website.
- 10.2 The AFACT Secretariat requested StC and member countries to nominate an entity for each of the categories proposed. AFACT Secretariat will collect all nominees. There will only be one special honorary award and this winner will be elected by the StC. The award will be presented every two years.
- 10.3 The Plenary was informed that the StC recommends to accept the proposal. The Chair opened the floor for deliberation on the proposal. Since there were no objections, Mr. Dinesh Kumar proposed the proposal to be ratified and seconded by Mr. Javed Akhtar Naushahi of Pakistan.
- 10.4 Mr.Itoh proposed current Chair of AFACT, ie Malaysia to be the Chairman of the evaluation committee. Malaysia requested one week to revert on the proposition.

11. Future Meeting Venue

- 11.1 The Chair tabled for ratification the host of the 21st AFACT in Pakistan in 2003. The proposal was unanimously approved.
- 11.2 Subsequently it is proposed that the meeting be held in Singapore in 2004 and Vietnam in 2005. The proposal was unanimously accepted by the Plenary.

12. Closing

- 12.1 Chairman passed the chair over to Mr. Javed Akhtar Naushahi of Pakistan, who will host the 21st AFACT meeting and EDICOM 2003 in Karachi, Pakistan.
- 12.2 Mr Javed Akhtar Naushahi announced the venue and dates for the 21st AFACT meeting and EDICOM 2003 in October 2003.
- 12.3 The StC will be held in Islamabad on 25 April 2003.

12.4 The 21st AFACT will be held on 12-17 October 2003 in Karachi, Pakistan.

13. Vote of Thanks

The Chairman thanked all member countries for their support and contributions while being the host for the 20th AFACT.

END.