

## **(Draft) Minutes of the 21st AFACT Plenary Meeting**

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2004 (Wednesday)  
Time: 9:30 am – 6:00 pm  
Venue: Darbar Hall, Hotel Sheraton, Karachi, Pakistan  
Participants: See Attachment I.

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### **1. Opening**

- The Chairman welcomed all StC Members, Heads of Delegation (HoD), JWG Chairs, delegates and observers to the 21<sup>st</sup> AFACT Plenary Meeting.
- The Chairman introduced himself and the members seated at the head table: Ferng-Ching Lin (Secretariat), Kenji Itoh (Vice Chairman Of UN/CEFACT), Kamarudin Bin Tambi (Vice Chairman of AFACT), Javed Naushahi (Chairman of AFACT), Raja Malik Mohammad (Vice Chairman of AFACT), Mr. T.A.Khan (UN/CEFACT Rapporteur for Asia).

### **2. Introduction of Heads of Delegation (HoDs)**

The Chairman requested the Heads of Delegations to introduce themselves. The HoDs were:

Chinese Taipei:	Neng – Jong Lin
India:	T.A.Khan
Indonesia:	David A. Lasse
Iran:	Ali Mohammad Ghalebani
Japan:	Rie Sakamoto
Korea:	Sangwon Lim
Pakistan:	Syed Khurshed Shah
Sri Lanka:	A. S. Wickramasinghe
Thailand:	Dr. Somnuk Keretho
Singapore:	Kamarudin Bin Tambi
Malaysia:	Raja Malik

Mr. T.A. Khan, on behalf of AFACT and UN/CEFACT, thanked the Government of Pakistan, Government of Sindh, ECRC and People of Pakistan for hosting the 21<sup>st</sup> AFACT in Karachi.

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

### **3. Introduction Of Joint Working Groups' Chairs**

The Chairman introduced the Joint Working Groups' Chairs as follows:

S.Anbalgan	Malaysia	TWG
Zaid Ismail	Malaysia	AEG
*Eva Yi-Yuan Yueh	Chinese Taipei	BCF
Zahid Jamil	Pakistan	LWG
Chen, Ruey-Ching	Chinese Taipei	EPWG
S.P.Ray	India	ATG
Kim, Yong Jae	Korea	ECWG
Chung-Ping, Liang	Chinese Taipei	XMLWG
Perry Liu	Chinese Taipei	SWG
Siti Aminah Abdullah	Malaysia	IIC
Jamil Qureshi	Pakistan	CWG

(\* ) Since BCF Chair, Mr. Simon Seow (Malaysia) was not able to attend the Plenary, Dr. Eva Yueh (BCF Vice-chair) presented on behalf of the chair.

#### **4. Report of StC Meeting By Chair**

The Chairman reported that the item was missed in the agenda and regretted the error.

Points of his report are as follows:

- Approved Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> AFACT plenary Meeting in Kuala Lumpur.
- Approved Mongolia's membership.
- Approved that ebXML Asia Committee has become an Associate Member.
- Two new Head of Delegation who were recommended in the last meeting are elected as the members of Steering Committee for this year.
- The e-Asia Award was conducted in Chinese Taipei in October 2003.
- The 2004 AFACT will be held as planned in Singapore.
- It is proposed that we get the confirmation from the host of 2005 AFACT i.e. Vietnam. Mr Kenji Itoh briefed the meeting on the contact / email from Vietnam and as yet there has been no confirmation because of change in contact.

(Finally, Mr. Itoh has received the confirmation which Vietnam will be the host the 2005 AFACT Plenary/EDICOM Conference in Vietnam. The new contact is as follows:

Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Huong (e-mail: [thuhuong@mot.gov.vn](mailto:thuhuong@mot.gov.vn))  
Senior specialist in E-Commerce  
Head of Cooperation and Training Division  
Department of E-Commerce and Information and Technology  
Ministry of Trade  
Vietnam

- The Chair invited expression of interest for hosting the 2006 AFACT and asked the HoD's to provide input after lunch.

The Plenary adopted the Minutes of the last StC meeting reported by the Chair.

The Chair then invited presentations on the AFACT restructuring and e-measurements.

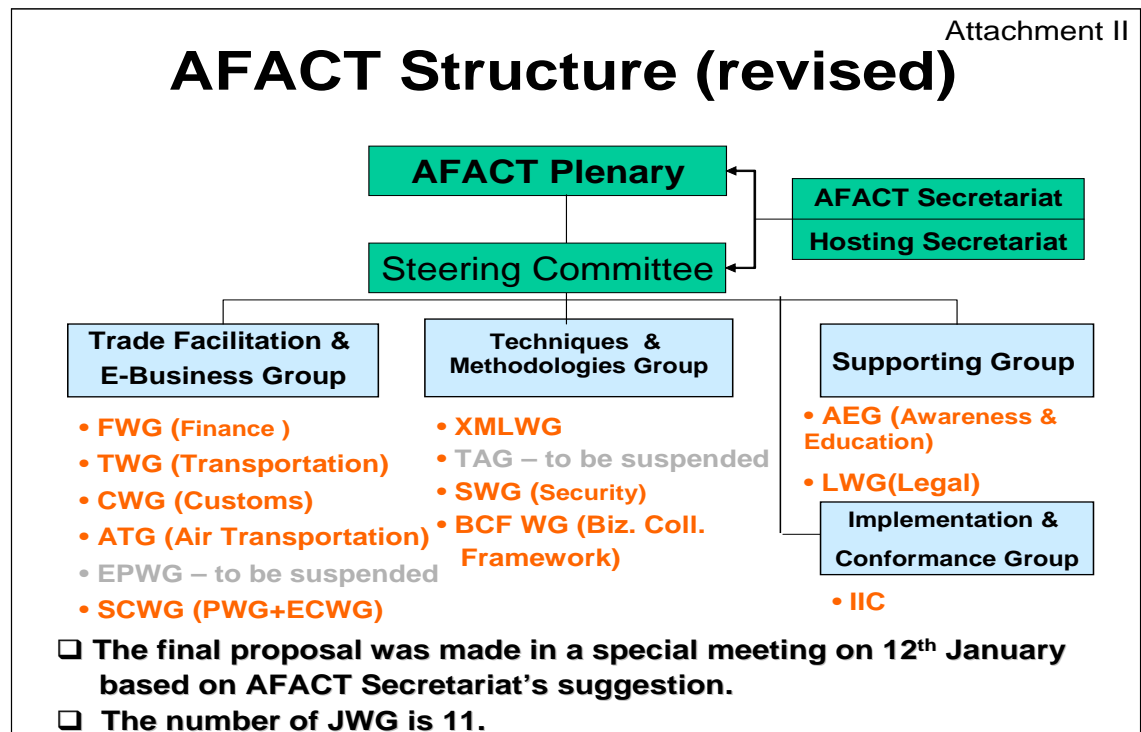
## 5. Restructuring Of AFACT

Chairman invited Dr.Yueh of AFACT Secretariat to present the restructuring of AFACT.

The revised structure for trade facilitation and e-business is as follows:

- Trade Facilitation and E-Business:
  - ❖ While the other JWG will be same, New SCWG Group has been formed which is an integration of two separate groups namely PWG and ECWG.
  - ❖ Suspension of EPWG

There was discussion on the issue of restructuring by the members and two thoughts of opinion were presented. One group suggested that all the present JWG should stay. While the other group wanted further reduction in the JWG.



Mr. Khurshid Shah of Pakistan stressed that the developed country members should use this JWG platform to pass information on Trade Facilitation and e- Business to developing members who are in the process of adopting new technologies.

Mr Kenji Itoh expressed his opinion that there was no need for all this discussion as this issue has already been discussed in the various StC meetings where the HoD's and Working Group heads approved the issue.

T.A.Khan, proposed to the Chair that the new structure be adopted. This was adopted.

### **Measurement of E-Business and Trade Facilitation**

Chairman invited Dr. Somnuk to present E-Measurement. He stressed on the need to agree on definitions, minimum indicators and methodologies for E-Measurement in developing countries.

Mr. T.A. Khan stressed the importance of integration of Trade facilitation and E-Business indicators into this methodology and would like ask the AFACT secretariat to develop a paper / format for measurements based on the inputs from all members in consultation with Dr. Somnuk. This format may then be discussed in the coming StC meeting at Singapore.

## **6. Progress Report By Member Countries**

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 website [www.afact.org](http://www.afact.org).

The reports were presented as follows:

- a. Pakistan by Mr. Salman Ansari.
- b. Chinese Taipei by Mr. Neng-Jong LIN.
- c. India by Mr. T.A.Khan. On behalf of the Government of India he thanked the Government of Pakistan, Sindh administration, People of Pakistan and especially ECRC for the invitation extended to them and appreciated the cordial environment in which the AFACT meeting was held in Karachi. He also suggested that every country report format be uniform. An upgraded format may be worked out by AFACT Secretariat in consultation with all the members.
- d. Indonesia by Mr. David. A. Lasse.
- e. Iran by Mr. Ali Baeedi Mofradnia presented the Iran Customs report in the absence of HoD.
- f. Japan by Ms. Rie Sakamoto
- g. Korea by Mr. Sangwon Lim
- h. Malaysia by Siti Aminah Abdullah
- i. Singapore by Mr. Kamarudin Bin Tambi
- j. Sri Lanka by Mr. A.S. Wickramasinghe
- k. The Chair invited Mr. Ali Mohammad Ghalebani HoD of Iran, who had just arrived from Tehran due to visa delay to present his country report in 10 minutes
- l. Thailand by Dr Somnuk Keretho.
- m. [ebXML Asia Committee \(Associate member\) by Mr. Sangwon Lim](#)

Mr. T.A.Khan and the Chairman again stressed the importance of following a standard format for the country reports and of finalizing the JWG Minutes day before the plenary.

## **7. Report By JWG Chairs**

Before the start of this session, Mr. T.A. Khan suggested that in future AFACT meeting a 30-45 minutes familiarization session be organized for all delegates before the start of the JWG, so that a proper format can be followed for the meetings and minutes. He also suggested that proper election procedure of JWG chairs may be adopted.

The JWG Chairs presented their meeting reports as follows:

Perry Liu	Chinese Taipei	SWG
Chung-Ping, Liang	Chinese Taipei	XMLWG
Kim, Yong <u>Jae</u>	Korea	ECWG
S.P.Ray	India	ATG

It was suggested by S.P. Ray that AFACT Secretariat should provide assistance to maintain JWG. (Kenji Itoh commented that an individual joint working group should have their own secretariat from their group members to provide assistance.)

Chen, Ruey-Ching	Chinese Taipei	EPWG
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Because of lack of participation this group worked with ATWG and PWG. This group has been suspended as per the new structure of AFACT.

S.Anbalgan	Malaysia	TWG
Khurshid Shah	Pakistan	PWG

Mr. Khurshid Shah was elected the new chair of the PWG. This group is being merged with the ECWG to form the SCWG.

Zahid Jamil	Pakistan	LWG
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Mr T.A. Khan thanked Mr Jamil for a comprehensive work program for LWG. It was added because of the last paragraph of page no.6 of the minutes be dropped.

Eva Yi-Yuan Yueh	Chinese Taipei	BCF
Mr A.S. Sastry	India	CWG

The CWG minutes were presented by Mr.Sastry Vice chair of CWG in absence of Chairperson Mr. Naseer Qureshi.

Zaid Ismail  
Siti Aminah Abdullah

Malaysia  
Malaysia

AEG  
IIC

The documents will be made available on the AFACT website [www.afact.org](http://www.afact.org). Also these JWG documents are annexed in A.

Mr. T.A.Khan stressed that before the submission of the JWG minutes to the plenary. The JWG chair should obtain a consensus on the minutes amongst the JWG members.

### **8. Venue for 2005**

The Chair requested Mr.K.Itoh to read the message from Vietnam. Due to reorganization Vietnam's new focal point did not have prior information of hosting. Vietnam suggested that they would like to host AFACT 2006 and not in 2005. The Chairman sought expression of interest from members for hosting the event in 2005 and beyond.

### **8. Rapporteur's Report:**

A comprehensive report covering the following was made by Rapporteur:

1. AFACT StC meeting
2. eAsia 2003
3. UN/CEFACT declaration
4. ebXML development in Asia

Some of the salient points of the report are:

- Mongolia was confirmed as new member.
- New cross border initiatives.
- AFACT Steering Committee meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 2003 stressed close relationship between ESCAP and AFACT.
- E-Asia Week 13<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2003.
- Mr. Kenji Itoh was awarded special Honorary Award in recognition for long term contribution to AFACT.
- UN/CEFACT Revised Recommendation No. 23 released.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> International Forum on Trade facilitation 14th-15<sup>th</sup> May 2003.
- UN/CEFACT BCF team visited Asian e-Business community.

### **9. Other Issues**

Chair requested latest contacts for HoD's country focal point and Chairperson of JWG, as great difficulty was faced in communicating for the 21<sup>st</sup> AFACT in Karachi.

Any other business JWGs have been requested to submit Terms of Reference if not available, before the midterm StC meeting in May at Singapore to AFACT Secretariat.

## **22<sup>nd</sup> AFACT**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> AFACT Meeting to be held in Singapore from 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2004 as per the following program:

Mr.Kamarudin Tambi thanked the Steering Committee and the Plenary for giving Singapore the opportunity to host the AFACT 2004 Meeting. The program will be as follow: -

- A. 19<sup>th</sup> September Steering Committee Meeting
- B. 20<sup>th</sup> September 2004 Joint Working Group Meeting
- C. 21<sup>st</sup> September 2004 Plenary Meeting
- D. 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2004 Conference

He invited all delegates to AFACT 2004 in Singapore.

The next mid term Steering Committee Meeting would be held in Singapore on 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2004

### **Observer's Report**

There was no observer to be reported.

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