

23rd AFACT Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

Hosting Member Economy : Vietnam

Venue : Horison Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam

May 9, 2005

- **Date: May 9th, 2005**
- **Venue: Hanoi Horison Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam**
- **Chairman: Mr. Tran Thanh Hai (Vietnam)**
- **Attendance**

Steering Committee Members

| Designation | Name | Country | Organization/Address /Tel & Fax | Email |
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Other Participants :

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**AFACT**

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1. OPENING

The Chairman welcomed delegates to the 23rd Steering Committee Mid-Term meeting. Noting that for most of participants, this is the first visit to Vietnam, he wished all a pleasant stay and fruitful discussion during the meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chairman went through the agenda. Mr. T.A. Khan suggested that the three following items be added to the original agenda, under “Issues for discussion”:

- Participation of a third party on behalf of an AFACT member in meeting/programs of UN/CEFACT or AFACT
- 9th UN/CEFACT Forum 2006 to be hosted by India
- Potential role of UNESCAP and AFACT in assisting UN/CEFACT

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE LAST STC MEETING MINUTES

This was approved subject to incorporation of suggested amendments

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE 22ND AFACT PLENARY MEETING MINUTES

This was approved subject to incorporation of suggested amendments

5. ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE 23RD AFACT MEETING AND EDICOM 2005

Mr. Sangwon Lim, UN/CEFACT Rapporteur for Asia, suggested that the 23rd AFACT Plenary Meeting and EDICOM 2005 should be held after the UN/CEFACT Forum – which will take place in Lyon - France this year from 26 to 30 September, so that the outcomes of discussions at this event could be communicated to AFACT participants in a timely manner.

After consulting StC members, the Chairman concluded that the 23rd AFACT meeting and EDICOM 2005 will be held from 24-27 October in Hanoi. Specific venue and agenda will

be announced 2 months before the event.

Tentative schedule:

- 24 October 2005: Steering Committee meeting
- 25 October 2005: Working Group meetings
- 26 October 2005: Plenary Meeting
- 27 October 2005: EDICOM 2005 conference and exhibition

6. AFACT SECRETARIAT REPORT

AFACT Secretariat Secretary General, Mr. Gary Gong, presented three main topics, which were membership update, AFACT Promotional Material – 2005 AFACT Year Book, and AFACT Promotional Activity – AFACT U-Society Forum.

6.1. Membership update:

Mr. Gary Gong updated the membership status of the 17 existing AFACT member and the potential new member. The status is as follows:

- Existing member update: Indonesia HoD resigned, replacement is pending.
- Potential new members:
 1. Brunei – management restructured, future participation pending
 2. Hong Kong- membership process on going.

6.2. AFACT U-Society Forum (WSIS 2nd phase) The AFACT Secretariat proposal regarding the hosting of the U-Society Forum in Tunisia of the second phase of WSIS on 17th November, 2005 and was approved by StC members. The event, which will help promote AFACT internationally, will be hosted by AFACT, and organized by the AFACT Secretariat.

Mr. T.A. Khan, the UN/CEFACT Vice Chair, complimented on the AFACT Secretariat's work to promote AFACT.

Mr. Kenneth Lim suggested that the AFACT Secretariat should rationalize and align the theme of the Forum with the mission of AFACT (Trade Facilitation and E-commerce)

6.3. 2005 AFACT Year Book

- Member economies are requested to submit the country reports by August 30th 2005 so

that the AFACT Secretariat can compile the year book in time for the 23rd Plenary Meeting.

- Mr. Kenneth Lim suggested that the minutes of meeting be removed from the book if the book is to be circulated to public (such as library or the e-Society Forum)

- Two more items should be added to the year book:

+ 2004 eASIA Award success stories

+ Collaborative projects

7. UN/CEFACT MEETING REPORT (presented by Mr. T.A. Khan)

The following topics were covered:

7.1. UN/CEFACT New Structure:

Mr. Kenneth Lim inquired about the role of AFACT in this new structure.

Mr. T.A. Khan explained that Chair of AFACT Working Group can participate in UN/CEFACT permanent working groups and abide by their rules and regulations

7.2. UN/CEFACT Plenary Bureau responsibilities

7.3. Trade Facilitation strategy and eBusiness strategy.

Mr. Kenneth Lim raised the issue that the AFACT Steering Committee should take upon this role to translate these strategies to AFACT action plan.

7.4. Other issues:

IPR issues, UN/CEFACT Chair, UN eDOC.....

8. REPORT OF THE UN/CEFACT RAPPORTEUR FOR ASIA (presented by Mr. Sangwon Lim)

Mr. Sangwon Lim, UN/CEFACT Rapporteur for Asia, made a report on UN/CEFACT meetings, ebXML Asia Committee, APEC, ASEAN and ASEM based on his participation. For UN/CEFACT meetings, he covered 6th UN/CEFACT Forum, meeting schedule and other activities such trade facilitation workshop. For ebXML Asia Committee, he reported on 12th ebXML Asia Committee Meeting, which was held in Seoul, Korea in Oct. 25 – 29, 2004. For APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation), he report on 11th ECSG (Electronic Commerce Steering Group) meeting held in Seoul Korea in Feb. 22 - 25, 2005. Additionally, he covered the activities of eAWG of ASEAN and ASEM TFAP meeting and seminar of ASEM (Asia Europe Meeting)

9. ECO Project Update (by Mr. Kamarudin Tambi)

Mr. Kamarudin updated the meeting that the ECO project team had completed phase 1 and phase 2 of the project. The team had developed the ECO Business Collaboration Schema, ECO XML Schema and the ECO Interoperability Specification.

He updated that phase 3 schedule is from June 2005 to December 2005. Chinese Taipei and Singapore have expressed interest in doing the ECO IOT. He urged other members economies to participate in the ECO IOT.

Mr. T.A. Khan mentioned that India was working at developing the ECO system. The timeline is similar to phase 3 schedule.

Mr. Kamarudin mentioned that phase 3 schedule can be extended if necessary.

10. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

10.1 Hosting member Economy

Mr. Gary Gong presented the Steering Committee Members the tentative nomination of upcoming AFACT hosting members

- 2007: Thailand
- 2008: Korea
- 2009: Singapore
- 2010: Chinese Taipei
- 2011: India
- 2012: Japan

The Chairman remarked that Singapore has already hosted the event in 2004, and suggested that Japan be the hosting member in 2009. Japanese representative - Mr. Nose - explained that the country's economic situation may not allow Japan to host the event at such early date. After some discussions, the schedule was revised as follows:

- 2007: Thailand
- 2008: Korea
- 2009: India
- 2010: Chinese Taipei
- 2011: Japan

Mr. T.A. Khan suggested that the representatives of the prospective hosting members discuss the matter further with their organizations and confirm their interest in the next Steering Committee meeting.

10.2. eASIA Award

Mr. Gary Gong proposed that the eASIA Award be organized every two years by the AFACT Secretariat. The Steering Committee Members seconded his proposal. The next eASIA Award will take place in Pakistan in 2006 and the AFACT Secretariat will consider financially supporting the event.

10.3. Membership updates

The AFACT Secretariat has been continuously and actively contacting all the members, except for Indonesia, since the HoD has resigned and the new focal point is yet to be designated.

10.4. Strengthen cooperation with other international and regional bodies (presentation by Mr. Kenneth Lim)

Mr. Kenneth Lim updated the meeting that the rationale of raising this issue is to seek relevance of AFACT in this part of the world and how AFACT can collaborate with other regional bodies.

- PAA updates

Opportunities:

- alignment of PAA efforts to UN/CEFACT?

- Co-marketing of AFACT and PAA: alignment on the “B” part (PAA leverages on AFACT for open standard and other technical issues, AFACT leverage on PAA for publicity)

- APEC updates:

Electronic Commerce Steering Group: relevant to AFACT and Pathfinder projects (SPS & ECO)

Opportunities: possible partnership between AFACT and APEC (alignment on the “G” part).

- Influence on standards adoption
- Customs working group
- Purview UN/CEFACT Rapporteur for Asia

- Asia PKI Forum Updates

Opportunities:

- PKI Working Group
- Co-marketing of PKI standards

- Conclusion:

Synergy between AFACT and PAA, APEC, APKIF

- PAA – Business Application
- APEC – Governmental Support
- APKIF – PKI Adoption

Work on the relationship with PAA, APEC, and APKIF

Mr. Sangwon Lim initiated that he would find opportunity to introduce AFACT into APEC. Mr. Sangwon Lim also commented that possible cooperation between AFACT and eASEAN Working Group (EAWG) may be considered. Mr. Tran Thanh Hai said that he would update EAWG members on the progress of AFACT activities later on.

10.5. Participation of a third party

The Steering Committee approved participation of DagangNet representative on behalf of AFACT in the UNEDOC's projects in the Customs area. It was suggested that the Customs Working Group of AFACT be updated by DagangNet representative regularly.

10.6. Hosting of 9th UN/CEFACT Forum 2006 by India

The Steering Committee approved hosting of the 9th UN/CEFACT Forum 2006 in India.

10.7. Potential role of UNESCAP and AFACT in UN/CEFACT

Mr. T.A. Khan apprised the Steering Committee about potential role of UNESCAP and AFACT in assisting UN/CEFACT to promote and implement standards. Mr. Khan also apprised the Steering Committee about his invitation to Director, Trade Division of UNESCAP to participate in AFACT work programs and also his proposed meeting with Director, Trade Division of UNESCAP on 12 May 2005. The Steering Committee authorized Mr. T.A. Khan to work out cooperation arrangements.