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# **AFACT Roadmap for 2006 – 2010 (DRAFT 0.1)**

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## 9 **Executive Summary**

10 The intent of this paper is to provide some discussion points for reviewing the  
11 relevance of AFACT in this information economy and how AFACT can be further  
12 refined and evolved to value add and improve trade facilitation and e-business  
13 activities in the members' economies.

14 The paper will first review the importance of delivering AFACT roadmap for the next  
15 5 years as part of the continuous process of reviewing AFACT relevance. External  
16 and Internal forces influencing AFACT are listed to provide intelligence to the review  
17 process so that any decisions made are not in isolation but in conjunction with the  
18 activities happening inside/outside AFACT.

19 Lastly, some suggested deliverables and timeline are put forth in this paper as a  
20 basis for discussions during the AFACT steering committee meetings.

## 21 **Motivation to deliver AFACT Roadmap**

22 The motivation for AFACT roadmap is one driven by the belief that AFACT is crucial  
23 and critical to many members' economies in the area of standards adoption in trade  
24 facilitation and e-business spaces. The roadmap of AFACT would bring forth all  
25 members' desire and views on how AFACT will affect the areas described (trade  
26 facilitation and e-business) and further guide the steering committee in delivering  
27 and executing strategies to achieve the desired outcome.

28 The benefit of such a roadmap can be briefly summarized as follow:-

- 29 • Members are clear on the directions of AFACT
- 30 • AFACT could continue to stay on course with rotation basis Chairman  
31 leadership
- 32 • Joint Working groups could align their activities and tasks according to the  
33 roadmap so as to achieve greater synergy
- 34 • UN/CEFACT could keep track of AFACT effort and make collaboration  
35 between UN/CEFACT and AFACT more visible

36 As part of the continuous review of AFCT relevance by the steering committee and  
37 JWG chairs, the roadmap would serve as a good platform to unify the understanding  
38 of AFACT vision and mission to all involved. Such a roadmap would also assist  
39 AFACT members to make the common public statements about AFACT activities  
40 and effort in the trade facilitation and e-business areas.

## 41 **External Forces Influencing AFACT Roadmap**

42 While we consider the definition of AFACT roadmap, we need to be aware of 2



43 external forces that we might want to leverage on to further AFACT relevance.

44 The first external force is one of the AFACT members' economies focus and priority.  
45 As standards adoption in trade facilitation and e-business is AFACT core focus, we  
46 need to align our roadmap to meet the needs of AFACT members' economies.  
47 Though we could not assist to execute the projects in each economies, AFACT  
48 roadmap, which is a product of many intelligence and effort of AFACT members will  
49 assist the government of AFACT members' economies to recognize the trend that  
50 the world is going, and thus encourage the alignment of some of the economy's  
51 focus and priority, especially in the trade facilitation and e-business areas. Therefore,  
52 while we plan out the roadmap of AFACT for the next 5 years, members' opinion and  
53 views of their economies' priority should be considered, together with global trends  
54 in trade facilitation and e-business.

55 The other external force that will influence AFACT Roadmap is the other standard  
56 forums or governmental forums that have been created regionally. Some of these  
57 forums are:-

- 58 • Asia PKI Forum
- 59 • Asia ebXML
- 60 • APEC
- 61 • Pan Asia e-commerce alliance

62 The relevance of AFACT to these forums will definitely be crucial as these forums  
63 (listed above) have specialized contributions. Most of these forums are being  
64 supported by government ministries, and some are driven by businesses in the  
65 region. The need to have a roadmap so that these forums could identify  
66 collaboration opportunities is thus justified. Some of our AFACT members are also in  
67 these forums, and hence could also try to bridge the collaboration between AFACT  
68 and these forums.

### 69 **Internal Forces Influencing AFACT Roadmap**

70 While the external forces have an impact on the way we plan out AFACT roadmap,  
71 there are internal forces within AFACT that will also influence the roadmap.

72 For one, the current system of rotating chairmanship in AFACT would mean that  
73 there needs to be a sustained will power and commitment from the AFACT steering  
74 committee and the chairmen (each year) to abide with the roadmap once it has been  
75 confirmed. This requires a formal process in which the roadmap should be finalized,



76 and thereafter, a formal process to make changes to the roadmap, subjected to the  
77 AFACT bylaws on how it can be changed.

78 Secondly, the Joint Working Group (JWG) priorities and tasks would have an impact  
79 on the AFACT roadmap. As such, we should invite the JWG chairs to submit their  
80 work plans through a bottom-up approach in gathering the current states of our  
81 working groups. At the same time, after a high-level agreement has been reached on  
82 AFACT goals for the next 5 years, a top-down approach in encouraging the working  
83 group chairs to re-align the activities and priorities of each working group is required.

84 Last but not least, a strong leadership by AFACT chairman and AFACT secretariat is  
85 required to bring us through the tasks of setting AFACT roadmap. As mentioned  
86 before, since AFACT currently adopts a rotation-basis chairmanship, AFACT  
87 secretariat plays an vital role in ensuring that the effort to create and maintain the  
88 roadmap is sustained throughout the different chairman terms by different host  
89 countries.

#### 90 **Proposed End-State Deliverables**

91 Having explained the external and internal forces that could influence AFACT  
92 roadmap, this section focus on the AFACT goals and end-state deliverables in which  
93 the AFACT roadmap should be based on. Only with a clear AFACT vision articulated  
94 and understood by all AFACT members, the creation of AFACT roadmap will be futile  
95 and irrelevant.

96 AFACT would need a clear and concise vision for the next 5 years. This vision  
97 statement would drive the way AFACT organize the activities, prioritize tasks and  
98 programmes, and more importantly, create a relevant roadmap that will incorporate  
99 not only AFACT own internal competencies, but also other forums expertise that are  
100 relevant to the works that AFACT is pioneering.

101 This vision should not be done in isolation but should be a manifestation and  
102 extension of the good works that UN/CEFACT has laid down. For example,  
103 UN/CEFACT focus on single electronic window is a good candidate in which many  
104 members economies are attempting to achieve. Many of the regional forums are  
105 also focusing on this theme in organizing their activities and tasks. AFACT, being a  
106 sister organization of UN/CEFACT, should thus be naturally be championing the  
107 single electronic initiative and further expand on this to its members. The JWG  
108 activities and tasks should also be aligned to such a goal and vision.

109 Assuming that the AFACT vision for the next 5 years has been agreed and finalized,  
110 other end-state deliverables could include:-



- 111           • Identify regional forums and concrete projects that AFACT should establish  
112           collaboration with
- 113           • Identify concrete projects that UN/CEFACT and AFACT should work on
- 114           • Identify the standards AFACT will champion
- 115           • Identify successful implementations and champion them (eAsia awards is a  
116           good example)

117           The above are just some examples of the end-state deliverables and should be  
118           further discussed and expanded with the AFACT steering committee.

### 119    **Proposed Follow-ups and Timeline**

120           In this last section, a proposed timeline and follow-up activities are listed below to  
121           kick-start the brainstorming activities for AFACT roadmap:-

- 122           • Brainstorm on AFACT vision for next 5 years
- 123           • SWOT Analysis of AFACT
- 124           • SWOT Analysis of AFACT
- 125           • Review of AFACT JWG Scope and Deliverables
- 126           • Review of AFACT JWG Scope and Deliverables
- 127           • Identification of what AFACT would champion
- 128           • Adoption Strategies for AFACT members
- 129           • Review of the relevance of regional forums to AFACT vision
- 130           • Review of UN/CEFACT initiatives that are relevant to AFACT vision
- 131           • Marketing strategies for AFACT activities

132           The timeline for the above activities should be discussed in the steering committee  
133           meetings. The AFACT secretariat should be encouraged to ensure that this momentum  
134           should not be slowed down till a clear deliverables of the above activities are obtained.

### 135    **Conclusion**

136           This paper serves to kick-start the discussion on AFACT roadmap and is by no  
137           means complete. The objective of this paper is thus to point out some areas of  
138           consideration, namely the motivation for creating a AFACT roadmap that will serve  
139           all well till the end of the decade (2010), the forces (both internal and external) that



140 might be influencing the way we create the roadmap, and the need for a clear and  
141 concise AFACT vision and end-state deliverables to achieve a top-down approach of  
142 direction setting and yet a bottom-up approach on alignments of tasks and work  
143 groups. Finally, some proposed activities and follow-ups are listed to kick-start the  
144 discussion on AFACT roadmap, and the need for strong support from the AFACT  
145 secretariat is also raised.