

3

International

Relations





Pakistan Telecommunication Authority

has always played a very proactive and dynamic role at the global telecom scene. The activities of the Pakistani regulator in reaching out to various other Regulatory bodies, sharing its regulatory expertise with its counterparts and its active participation in the international efforts towards the development of Telecom and ICT services has always attracted wide acclaim. PTA remained committed throughout the year to handle various important events both domestically as

well as internationally. Major events include the participation of PTA in ITU elections, establishment of ITU-ASP Centre of Excellence Node, arranging seminars/ workshops and local / foreign training for PTA officials. Brief account of these tasks is given in the ensuing paragraphs.

ITU Elections: Pakistan Succeeds

Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-06) is one of the mega events of ITU which was held in Antalya, Republic of Turkey from 6-24



November 2006. The Conference encompassed two main activities i.e. ITU Elections for different positions and resolutions/decisions to be taken on different proposals submitted by various countries related to important matters handled by ITU.

Pakistan's Candidacy in the ITU Elections

Government of Pakistan (GOP) decided to contest elections for two ITU positions i.e. Council Seat and Membership of the Radio Regulation Board (RRB) during PP-06. Major General (Retd.) Shahzada Alam Malik, Chairman PTA was nominated to contest the election for RRB membership while council seat was contested by Pakistan itself as a member country.

The elections were contested with full preparations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Information Technology and Pakistan Telecommunications Authority launched a campaign jointly. In this regard, a comprehensive campaign strategy was prepared and launched to muster support in favor of both the candidatures. Well-coordinated, systematic and concerted efforts were made to approach Member Administrations (192 countries) to seek their support in favor of both the Pakistan's candidatures. A three-pronged approach was followed where first the Diplomatic Channel was activated through Ministry of Foreign Affairs who initiated a letter on 13 March 2006 to all our Missions abroad requesting them to approach the governments of their accreditation to solicit support for both the candidatures. PAREPUN-Geneva was appointed focal point to coordinate the election campaign. Secondly the Ministry of Information Technology (MoIT) played a pivotal role to approach IT ministers in ITU. The Minister for Information Technology wrote letters to his counter parts in ITU member countries for soliciting support of their respective countries. Thirdly, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) was a focal point for election where all election activities were coordinated.



Election Results

Pakistan won the Council seat acquiring 117 votes while Major General (Retd.) Shahzada Alam Malik, Chairman PTA got elected as Member RRB securing 110 votes thus winning with a comfortable margin. The higher number of votes obtained for both the candidatures indicates Pakistan's enhanced stature and image at the prestigious global telecom body.

There were a total of 16 countries in the run for 12 council seats in Asia and Australia region including Pakistan. Pakistan won this seat with 117 votes. Pakistan received the highest votes in the South Asia region. Iran, Vietnam Lebanon and Kuwait could not get a seat in the Council. Results for the seat of RRB were more encouraging where Pakistan's candidate, Maj. General (R) Shahzada Alam Malik, Chairman PTA received the highest votes after the Malaysian candidate while New Zealand and Iran could not win.

Table - 7
Council Elections Results

S.No.	Country	Votes	S.No.	Country	Votes
01	Japan	140	07	Indonesia	118
02	Korea (Rep. of)	133	08	Pakistan	117
03	China	132	09	Philippines	113
04	Thailand	125	10	India	113
05	Malaysia	122	11	Saudi Arabia	110
06	UAE	119	12	Australlia	106

Table - 8
Radio Regulatory Board Results

S. No.	Name of Candidate	Country	Votes
1	Mr. A.R. Ebadi	Malaysia	117
2	Maj. Gen Shahzada Alam Malik	Pakistan	110
3	Mr. P.K. Garg	India	103



SATRC Workshop on “Interconnection in Convergence”

PTA hosted South Asian Telecommunications Regulators' Council (SATRC) Workshop on "Interconnection in Convergence" from 2-4 April 2007 in Islamabad. The workshop was attended by 46 representatives from SATRC Member countries; affiliate members and local telecommunication industry. A total of 18 foreign delegates from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and APT Secretariat participated in this workshop. A number of research paper were presented by distinguished local/International speakers on Technical and Financial issues. The subject was discussed comprehensively and participants shared their views regarding best regional/international practices to tackle the issues of Interconnection in Convergence. Speakers from Telecom Regulatory Authorities of Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Maldives shared their experiences with the participants on different issues related to Interconnection.



Workshop on “3G issues (UMTS/WCDMA)”

PTA arranged a workshop on 25th April 2007 in PTA with the collaboration of “Central Asian CDMA Forum” and “QualComm”. The workshop was attended by 60 participants from MoIT, FAB and PTA. Representatives from renowned companies presented their papers on 3G (UMTS/CDMA) technology overview, 3G (UMTS/ WCDMA) regulatory aspects and 3G (UMTS/WCDMA) licensing aspects.

Chairman PTA Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shahzada Alam Malik delivered the concluding speech on the occasion and distributed the certificates to the participants of the workshop. Addressing the workshop participants, Chairman PTA said due to investor friendly policies of the Government of Pakistan and fair regulatory regime, Pakistan's telecom sector has been able to achieve unprecedented growth in recent years. He said that service providers are able to introduce new technologies in the country due to technology neutral licensing regime. He hoped that Pakistan will soon have large infrastructure of WiMAX.



Establishment of ITU Asia Pacific Centre of Excellence PTA Node for Policy & Regulation

During the first stakeholders meeting of the International Telecommunications Union Asian-Pacific Region Center of Excellence (ITU ASP CoE) in Bangkok, Thailand on the 19th to 20th October 2006, Pakistan was selected and given the mandate to establish CoE node on Telecom Policy & Regulations. Accordingly, Ministry of Information Technology assigned the task to PTA for establishing and operating this node.



A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the setting up of ITU Centre of Excellence Node was signed on June, 8, 2007 at ITU Headquarters in Geneva. Chairman PTA, Maj. Gen (R) Shahzada Alam Malik (Pakistan) and Mr Yury Grin of ITU signed the MoU. Acting Secretary General, ITU was also present on the occasion.

The Node, established at PTA, will offer various training courses each year in collaboration with ITU on issues related to Telecom Policy & Regulation. This platform will provide an opportunity to the countries of Asia Pacific Region to share expertise on highly specialized issues related to telecommunication. 49 ITU Member countries from the Asia and the Pacific region will be benefiting from the programs offered from these Nodes. A website for 'ITU-ASP Center of Excellence PTA Node' has been created. All important information concerning the activities of the node is available on <http://www.pta.gov.pk/coe/home.asp>.

Train the Trainers Workshop on “Distance Learning for ITU-ASP Center of Excellence Nodes

The workshop was jointly organized by The Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Pakistan Telecommunication Authority at the ITU-ASP Centre of Excellence PTA Node, Islamabad. The objective of the workshop was to impart training to the potential instructors of the nodes countries regarding methodology to design and conduct on-line courses. Participants from Korea, Iran, Malaysia and Pakistan attended the training. Ms. Tensin Tobgyl (Expert/ Instructor) from ITU Headquarters, Geneva imparted the training. It was a useful course and participants were given sufficient insight to design and conduct on-line courses using ITU platform.



Speaking at the opening session, Chairman PTA Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shahzada Alam Malik said that PTA would continue to cooperate with ITU in its efforts to empower

the member countries for the development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). He appreciated the initiative taken by ITU for arranging this program. He hoped that after this training, the participants of the workshop will be better able to arrange online training courses themselves from the respective nodes.

Workshop on “ Telecom Regulatory Environment Assessment & Teleuse at the Bottom of Pyramid (BOP) ”

PTA arranged a workshop on Telecom Regulatory Environment Assessment and Teleuse at the Bottom of Pyramid” on 14 June 2007 at Islamabad at the request of and in collaboration with LIRNEasia, a Sri Lanka based independent research organization involved in telecom research in the region. The workshop was



well attended by operators, telecom users and government officials. Prof. Rohan Samrajiva and Dr. Joseph Wilson presented their research on telecom regulatory environments in five countries. It was revealed in the research that Pakistan has a better regulatory environment than India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines. Pakistan’s performance was particularly impressive because it is the country with lowest per capita income among the countries under study. Pakistan scored higher than India on four out of the six dimensions in the mobile sector (market entry, management of scarce resources, interconnection and universal service). Study appreciated PTA's role in making business friendly environment through successively introducing prudent regulations including transparent licensing regime and effective usage of the existing networks of the incumbent operator. It was highlighted that actions of PTA resulted in huge influx of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the telecom sector. It was also revealed in the study that PTA's decisions have not been subject to litigation, appeal and reversal by the government unlike other countries in the group. Another presenter Mr. Harsha presented his paper on Teleuse at the bottom of pyramid based on the survey in 5 countries. It was revealed that mobile ownership at the BOP in Pakistan



was found to be as high as 23% while this was only 22% and 9% in Sri Lanka and India respectively.

Chairman PTA at this occasion, welcomed the LIRNEAsia research and said that independent researchers like GSMA & LIRNEAsia are names that motivate the telecom regulators to perform even better every time. PTA has provided a level playing field to all operators during the course of liberalization. The survey conducted by LIRNEAsia will give us insight on our performance reflected in different areas of teleuse in the country.

Workshop on Implementing Mobile Number Portability (MNP)

A workshop on Implementing Mobile Number Portability (MNP) was held under ITU-ASP Center of Excellence Network PTA Node from 22-24 August 2007 at Margalla Hotel Islamabad, Pakistan. This was the first training program offered from this node which was circulated by Director BDT, ITU vide HCB/DM-265 dated 27-6-2007. All important aspects of MNP implementation process were discussed in the workshop. Eminent experts having hands on experience on MNP implementation process delivered lectures and shared their experiences with the participants. Practical cases were also discussed during different sessions of the work-shop for understanding and better comprehension.



This three days workshop was attended by 47 participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, Egypt, India, Indon-esia, Malaysia, Oman, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda and Pakistan. Chairman PTA, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shahzada Alam Malik opened the workshop and welcomed the participants and said that it was an honor for Pakistan to be selected by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to provide training to other countries of the region on Policy and Regulation. He apprised the participants that the MNP regime has successfully been introduced in Pakistan and PTA is willing to share this experience with other countries of the region. He said that MNP regime in Pakistan has helped strengthening healthy competition in the market and improving quality of service/customer care of the country's rapidly growing cellular mobile sector. Mr. Noor-ud-Din Baqai, Member Telecom (Ministry of IT) delivered inaugural address and said that the establishment of ITU's Centre of Excellence Node in Pakistan is a recognition of the country's successful liberalization and deregulation policy and the unprecedented growth that has been witnessed in the country's telecom sector. The address of Head ITU Regional Office for Asia Pacific, Dr. Eun-Ju

Kim was read by Mr. Ashish Narayan, Project Manager, ITU ASP Regional Office, and Bangkok. In her message she said that the Workshop on “Implementing MNP” is an excellent example of PTA's contribution to share the experiences gathered and lessons learnt while implementing it in Pakistan. The resources available and the wide experience of PTA in this area is an asset to the program.



Minister of State for Information Technology, Mr. Ishaq Khan Khakwani was the chief guest at the closing ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Pakistan has extended help to many countries in the past in their efforts to develop regulatory regime and will offer such assistance to other countries in future as well. He hoped that ITU- ASP CoE Network PTA Node on Telecom Policy and Regulation would prove to be an excellent platform for regional cooperation and sharing of experiences among member countries. “ITU has appreciated PTA’s efforts for the success of this workshop.

Consultancy and Assistance Provided to other Countries/ Regulatory Bodies

Study Visit by Delegation from the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK)

PTA hosted a study visit of Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) delegation from 14-19 January 2007. The CCK delegation was comprised of four senior members headed by Perminus J. Karungu. A series of briefings and presentations



were arranged for the visiting delegation. The delegation also visited MoIT, FAB, Mobilink, PMD, Instaphone, Telecard and Nayatel. The topics covered during their tour included regulatory areas like Interconnection, USF, Number-ing, Tariff, and Spectrum Manag-ement etc.

Study Visit by Delegation from the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC)

PTA hosted a study visit of a delegation of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regula-tory Commission (BTRC) from 15-19 June 2007. Comprising of five senior members, the BTRC delegation was headed by its Chairman Maj. Gen. (Retd) Manzurul Alam. A detailed presentation/briefing was giv-en to Bangladeshi delegation regarding the regulatory regime, PTA's structure/functioning, market liberalization/ deregulation process and its impact on the telecom industry and other key technical and regulatory issues. During the briefing, Chairman

PTA Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shahzada Alam Malik said that as a result of market liberalizations and deregulation, competition has been generated which has resulted in the reduction of tariffs, unprecedented growth and improvement in quality of telecom service. He assured the visiting delegation that PTA



will provide all possible help to Bangladeshi Regulator. The delegation also visited MoIT, Mobilink, PMD, PTCL, Telenor and Nayatel. The delegation found the study visit valuable and BTRC conveyed its thanks and gratitude to PTA for offering assistance in this regard.



Participation in Foreign and Local Trainings

PTA employees participate in different events organized by ITU, APT, SAFIR, LIRNEAsia, SAMENA and other inter-governmental bodies. The participation in such events helps enhancing technical know-how and professional skills of PTA employees. More than 43 events were attended during this year by different PTA officials. Besides the foreign training, local training on Operator's Systems was also arranged. This year, the engineers from ID and Enforcement Divisions attended on the job training on Nayatel, NTC and Warid's systems. Apart from above, PTA arranged about 50 in-house presentations on various telecom/other issues where PTA officers got opportunities to improve their knowledge.

E-Library

To make maximum information available to its employees for capacity building purposes PTA has created a hot link on the Intranet namely "Telecom Library" where most recent and relevant material/documents on Policy, Regulatory and Technical matters from e-libraries, regulatory bodies, various websites including ITU, APT etc are selected and uploaded. PTA officers are regularly utilizing this facility to perform their functions professionally.