



Strategic Telecoms Summit

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Regulator Panel Discussion: Views on Regulations in the sector

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Introduction

1. Regulatory challenges imposed by convergence and Next Generation Networks (NGN)
2. New market realities that need attention: voice & IP networks?
3. How are regulators in the region addressing the challenges of convergence?
4. What will the future landscape look like?

1. Regulatory challenges imposed by convergence & NGN

- Licensing - Technology neutrality, Unified licensing
- Investment incentives – new developments
 - Regulatory holidays?
 - Exclusivity?
- Migration from Legacy to NGN networks
 - Service migration plans to be agreed with regulator in advance
 - Development of wholesale product:
 - IP interconnection vs TDM interconnection
 - Complimentary to retail products
 - Determination of wholesale charges
 - Service descriptions – technology neutral
- Competition issues - Bundled and tied retail products
- Moving Broadcast spectrum and Telecommunications spectrum under the same Licensing regime
- Limited territorial jurisdiction of regulators v. regional/global services and networks e.g dealing with roaming

2. New market realities that need attention: voice & IP networks

- Position on VoIP - take pragmatic position to jurisdiction
- Transformation of Voice
 - Voice over IP;
 - Voice over Broadband (Fixed, Fixed wireless, Wireless)
- Quality of service issues:
 - How to guarantee maintenance of quality of service e.g CLI
 - Price vs quality trade-offs
- Licensing issues:
 - Cross boarder services (using domestic numbers and follow-me type services)
 - Bi- pass issues

3. How are regulators in the region addressing the challenges of convergence?

- Political dimension
- Telecommunications Regulator moving to an ICT Regulator
- Lifting barriers to market entry and innovative business models
- Unified Licences
- Revised costing methodologies

4. Future Regulatory Landscape

Realisation of tangible consumer benefits

- Growing competitive market place across the broad range of converged ICT services
- Competition enhanced by strong wholesale regulation
- Faster regulatory time-to-market” – regulatory strategies should enable faster implementation of various new innovative business models. Detailed regulation might be unsustainable
- Move from ex-anti to ex-post regulations
- Development of Competition Law:
 - Establishment of “Competent Bodies” – local or potentially regional
 - Development of Competition Regulations
- Establishment of consumer protection and rights:
 - Consumer protection guidelines
 - Advertising standards