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Agenda Item: 7

Regulatory Update

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Korea



**38th APEC Telecommunications and Working
Group Meeting – Plenary Session
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Regulatory Update

1. Establishment of the Korea Communications Commission in responding proactively to convergence process of broadcasting and telecommunications

- On February 29, 2008, the Korea Communications Commission (KCC) has been newly embarked after consolidating the former Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC) and the Korean Broadcasting Commission (KBC) to proactively respond to the challenges in a converging environment.
- The newly established KCC aims to promote and create a competitive market environment and to foster user benefits by stimulating digital convergence between broadcasting and telecommunications. The actions to minimize the adverse effects that may rise in the course of such efforts undertaken by the KCC is to create a sound communications market environment and take a thoughtful consideration particularly for people and regions with the most limited economic means.

2. Successful launching and commercialization of IPTV services

- A regulatory framework has been set up the enactment ordinance of the 「Internet Multimedia Broadcasting Business Act」 and related licensing procedures in August 2008 in order to facilitate commercial IPTV services and its use in the market. Furthermore, KT, SK Broadband, and LG Dacom were selected as IPTV service providers in September 2008.

- The real-time IPTV pilot services is also being measured and tested as a commercial use of IPTV services from September 2008(100~200 households per service provider)

3. Upgrading Networks

- The selected four consortia, Gwangeto, UbiNet, Octave, and Cable BcN, are currently promoting the adoption and spread of various convergence services to enhance the development of large capacity contents from May 2008. (BcN service subscribers as of July 2008 : 21.63M)
- 'The Giga Internet pilot service' is under preparation for launching by December 2008. It is 10 times faster than the BcN and enables large capacity services such as three-dimensional remote video conferences.

4. Lower entrance barriers in the communications industry and relax regulation of fees

- Based on the principle of 'Light Touch Regulation', licensing procedures are being streamlined, providing a one-stop licensing service, so as to encourage competition in the communications market. The KCC has also been working on improving the fee regulation system for the telecoms to develop and set up a flexible and inexpensive new rate packages for the consumers.

5. Strengthen the Internet confidence and security

- A 'Comprehensive Plan for Information Protection on the Internet'(July '08) and a revision to the 'Act on Promotion of Information & Communication Network Utilization and Information Protection' that reflects the plan have been laid out to enhance the overall level of information protection throughout society. The revision is expected to strengthen the Internet confidence by raising the level of punishment in the violation of privacy obligations.

6. Promote consumer protection rights in the broadcasting and telecommunications market

- The KCC has publicly announced the results of the broadband Internet quality evaluation (June '08) in creating a guideline for 'terms of use agreement', and has also introduced the 'civil petition three-way calling system'(September '08) to promote and protect the rights and interest of consumers in the broadcasting and telecommunications sector.
- Related laws will be revised to make all the National Basic Livelihood Security(NBLS) recipients(1.55M) and the near poor(2.7M) eligible for the discount on the communication fees designed for supporting those in the low-income brackets.(October '08)