

ACMA seminar series

Emerging technologies and the traditional use of spectrum

SOUTH KOREAN INTERNET CONTENT AND SAFETY AUTHORITY VISITORS

In December 2005, ACMA's Content Assessment Section hosted a delegation led by Kyu-Hee Lee, CEO of Korea's Information Communication Ethics Committee (ICEC).

A statutory authority with 72 staff and an annual budget of \$5.5 million, the ICEC is the primary body responsible for internet content regulation and internet safety in South Korea. Its activities include investigating internet content complaints and providing online safety advice to the community.

The visit sought to strengthen ties between ACMA and ICEC. Like ACMA, ICEC is a member of the Internet Hotline Providers' Association (INHOPE) and both agencies meet regularly through INHOPE to discuss online safety at the international level.

Because of its similar regulatory functions and responsibilities, ICEC's activities are highly relevant to ACMA's online safety work. For example, South Koreans are early adopters of new technologies: there are 38 million mobile phone users, the vast majority of whose phones are internet-enabled. ICEC's current work in this area is of particular interest to ACMA.

The delegation also took the opportunity to discuss current regional online safety initiatives with NetAlert Director, Kaaren Koomen.

The visit by ICEC followed ACMA's participation at the International Conference on Internet Safety in Asia-Pacific held in Seoul in November 2005. Hosted by the ICEC and attended by internet safety representatives from Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia and Australia, the conference provided a forum for government and industry bodies in the Asia-Pacific to discuss current internet safety concerns and responses. ACMA's Hotline Manager, Mike Barnard, presented an Australian perspective on internet safety at the conference, noting the advantages of a multifaceted approach involving close government, industry and community cooperation at both regional and international levels.



CEO OF THE INFORMATION COMMUNICATION ETHICS COMMITTEE, KYU-HEE LEE (LEFT), WITH THE CONTENT ASSESSMENT SECTION'S MIKE BARNARD, SHARON TROTTER, LIBBY OWENS AND NADA ROGIC, AND ICEC EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TEAM MEMBERS, YONG-GUK KIM AND FRANCIS KIM.

ACMA is planning a series of technical seminars which will explore the future of emerging technologies and the traditional use of spectrum in Australia. The seminars will be aimed at the wide potential use of spectrum for all types of technologies, in line with ACMA's role for spectrum.

The first of these seminars is aimed at the future use of spectrum for wireless technologies, and will focus on broadband wireless and mobile television.

The seminar will be held in Sydney, at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, on 6 and 7 of March 2006. There will be a cocktail reception after the first day of discussions, also at the Museum.

For more information, contact Michelle Richardson, michelle.richardson@acma.gov.au, or go to www.acma.gov.au

People's Republic of China telecoms regulators visit

A delegation from the Ministry of Information Industry, People's Republic of China, recently visited ACMA's Sydney and Melbourne offices.

The Ministry is the official regulator of telecommunications and IT-related markets in that country. Apart from developing the national telecommunications policy framework, the Ministry regulates the telecommunications manufacturing, services and software sectors. It is also responsible for planning public networks including the internet, regulating private networks, and for technical specifications and performance criteria. It allocates frequencies, approves new frequency spectrums and services and develops postal and telecommunications service charging policies.

The Ministry estimates the number of mobile phone users at more than 440 million by the end of 2006, with fixed line subscriptions expected to rise to more than 380 million. (The population is more than 1.23 billion.)

The visiting officials were from the Ministry's China Academy of Telecommunication Research and its Telecommunications Administration Bureau. The Bureau is responsible for a wide range of telecommunications and information services planning, policies, licensing,

regulation, competition policy and network management. This includes supervising aspects of the state telecom network, controlling internet security, urgent telecommunications in disasters, and researching solutions to information security problems.

Wang Nan, Vice-Director, China Academy of Telecommunication Research, led the delegation. Members from the Telecommunications Administration Bureau were Wang Jian Wen, Deputy Director General, and Gao Ju, Director, Henan Province, and Wang Peng, a Bureau Director. Consultant to the Ministry's General Office, Fu Yunru, also attended.

The purpose of the meetings was to find out more about the Australian approach to telecommunications regulation and the range of the regulation administered by ACMA. The meetings also covered the wider roles of ACMA in broadcasting and the internet, the regulation of next generation networks, 3G, carrier licensing, security issues and relationships between government and major carriers.

There were also more technical discussions of the Australian regulations, standards, compliance and labelling processes for telecommunications equipment.