

The Eighth APEC Ministerial Meeting on the Telecommunications and Information Industry (TELMIN 8)

30-31 October 2010,
Okinawa, Japan

APNIC Statement to APEC TELMIN 8

Honourable Ministers, ladies and gentlemen: Good Morning.

On behalf of APNIC, the organisation that distributes IP addresses in the Asia-Pacific region, I'd like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan, also to the leadership and members of the TEL working group, and the APEC Secretariat, for welcoming us as a guest here at this important meeting.

Over recent years, APNIC has worked with APECTEL on a series of successful workshops on IP addressing, throwing some light on the impending exhaustion of IPv4 addresses, and the importance of IPv6 to the sustained future growth of the Internet.

During these workshops, representatives of APECTEL, along with leaders from the Internet technical world and different international organizations, shared their knowledge and expertise on these topics. Most recently during TEL 42 in Brunei, there was agreement on a set of specific Guidelines that support IPv6 deployment in the APEC region.

These efforts culminated in what I are sure is a very important achievement: the statement on IPv6 deployment in paragraph 9 the TELMIN 8 Okinawa Declaration, which says: "We recognize that the free pool of IPv4 addresses is expected to be exhausted around 2012, and the transition to IPv6 will facilitate the achievement of universal broadband access in the APEC region. We support the IPv6 Guidelines developed by TEL".

The TELMIN 8 declaration comes just in time, only months from the exhaustion of the global pool of IPv4 addresses, and within the final year of IPv4 availability in this region. As I'm sure you know, this does not mean that the Internet has reached the "end", or that any part of the network will cease to function; but it means that the Internet has reached a limit on its capacity for growth, as the single seamless global network that we see today.

Fortunately, IPv6 will vastly expand the Internet's capacity for growth, and allow us to maintain the Internet as we know it today, into the far future. Therefore widespread adoption of IPv6 is going to be critical from now, over the next 12 to 24 months.

Again I would like to sincerely thank, and congratulate, the Ministers of this region, the one with the fastest Internet growth rates in the world, for recognizing the significant challenge of IPv6 deployment. Your statement provides certainty and leadership, and will certainly help our industry as well as the broader Internet-using community to move forward with IPv6. Because there is still much work to be done.

The development of the Internet, including this challenge of IPv6 deployment, has been, and needs to be, undertaken in a multi-stakeholder environment. The APEC TEL forum has been exemplary in developing special expertise on technical issues, and has proven to be a receptive forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue. APNIC appreciates the welcome we have received here, and the opportunity to contribute in an open and cooperative matter.

We hope to continue to contribute as needed to this dialogue, and support the collective accumulation of the knowledge which is required to face the future of the Internet together. But for now, if we can jointly press the acceleration button for IPv6, it will be a very good start.

Thank you very much.

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Director General
APNIC (Asia Pacific Network Information Centre)
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