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# Global Cooperation with New Overtones

본 기사는 ERICSSON의 기술잡지인 'TELE'('90.NO.1)에서 인용한 것으로 ERICSSON 기자와 ITU 사무총장 Pekka Tarjanne씨와의 인터뷰 내용이다.

ITU와 지역표준화 기구간의 관계 및 앞으로의 상호협력 방향에 대한 내용은 우리에게 시사해 주는 바가 크기에 본지에 게재하였다. 표준화 영역에서 종사하고 있는 분들에게 많은 참고가 되기를 바란다.

다음호에는 CCITT 및 CCIR 의장과의 인터뷰 기사를 게재할 예정이다.

**Pekka Tarjanne :**

Doyen of the UN bodies(125 years old), the International Telecommunication Union(ITU) is now undergoing rejuvenation. The competition from regional organisations, such as ETSI, has increased the demands on effective and up-to-date working methods. Since last November, Pekka Tarjanne, former Director General of the Finnish telecom administration, is the General Secretary of ITU and he is optimistic about the future. This is evident from the following interview, in which the new General Secretary also indicates some important development trends, in the field of information technology, as the year 2000 approaches.

Pekka Tarjanne has an imposing list of merits—he is, for instance, a professor of theoretical physics and was formerly Director General of the Finnish telecom administration. The fact that he follows Richard Butler, the former General Secretary, is considered to depend to a great extent on his constructive efforts, at the CCITT plenary meeting, in Melbourne, November, 1988, which have come to be synonymous with "the spirit of Melbourne".

## Steps towards reforms

It could be considered a miracle that ITU has progressed so far along the path of renewal, on which the CCITT plenary meeting, the World Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference(WATTC88) and the ITU plenipotentiary conference of last summer, comprise the most notable steps so far—especially considering that, among the 166 countries of the union, opinions must differ on the purpose of ITU. One or two cracks showed last summer, at the plenipotentiary conference, where the British delegates intimated their dissatisfaction with ITU attainments. Many worthwhile changes have, however, occurred, such as the fact that new recommendations can be drafted much faster now and that the documents that form the legal foundations of the organisation have been revised, to reflect better the realities of the world of 1990. Additional efforts are also being made, to modernise the form of ITU activities—a job that has just started and which is expected to be completed in about eighteen months time.

## Standards summit meeting

The drafting of international standards, especially within the framework of CCITT, can be said to be ITU's most vital task. This is another field of increasing demands, from the world at large and, not least, from regional organisations, such as ETSI(European Telecommunications Standards Institute), T1(USA) and TTC(Japan).

One auspicious sign of the times was the initiative to call the ITU and the above—mentioned regional organisations, to a global summit meeting, in the USA. The summit meeting can be significant, to the maintenance of telecommunications standardisation, against the pressure exerted by these three powerful spheres of interest(the summit meeting later turned out to be a complete success). It is apparent that, for all of the different players in the field(such as network operators, multinational computer telecom companies, consultants, etc., that are all struggling for a share of the appetising and growing infotech cake), global standards are urgently needed. Similarly, the existence, for instance, of companies with international telecommunications, will be considerably more comfortable with global standards, than without.

From the standpoint of CCIR, major changes are also in progress, in which hotly—debated questions include, e.g. HDTV standardisation and frequency utilisation and allocation(not least, as a result of the expected rapid growth of mobile telecom traffic).

## Developmental trends

This is one of the questions discussed in the following interview(in Jan, 1990), with the new ITU General Director who, at the editor's request, initially discusses certain vital trends, as the year 2000 approaches.

**Pekka Tarjanne** : If the 1980s can be considered to have been the decade of digitalisation, the

1990s will continue this trend. We can pinpoint several trends and interesting phenomena, which we have been able to for low, during the most recent weeks, in Geneva.

Obviously, ISDN belongs here. Previous forecasts on ISDN developments assumed that the development of "classical" ISDN would take off around 1995 whereas, in these forecasts, broadband ISDN(B-ISDN) was a vague concept on the horizon and hardly relevant before the year 2000. It appears, today, that developments will follow another path. B-ISDN will arrive far sooner than expected-probably around 1995. From the standpoints of the corporate and household sectors, the picture has become clearer. It shows that there is a certain demand for B-ISDN, which is now advancing with considerable force. It is less clear, whether or not the demand for classical ISDN is as large as was previously anticipated. At the same time, certain break-throughs have occurred, in the broadband field, which is apparent, from the fact that CCITT study group XVII has produced no less than 14 recommendations, for new ATM (asychronous transfer mode) at its meeting, in January, 1990.

Another trend, which will have considerable impact on society and which has its origins in the ranks of the users, comprises the intelligent networks, now designated "intelligent network baseline"(INB). Progress has been made in this area, in the last few weeks, and I am convinced that INB will provide the framework, within which we will find some form of order, in the chaotic situation in which we find ourselves today. A trend, that will be increasingly difficult to master, has just been discerned, in the fields of value-added networks and value-added services, in which developments in the areas of personal computers, mobile communications and X.400/X.500, etc., have created a sufficiently chaotic situation, without any possibility of proper structuring. But it appears that this new concept, INB, offers potential for the structuring that is so desparately needed here.

## Mobile frequencies

The third trend is the mobile services, which will affect not only our telecom family and telecom industry. In the Nordic countries, we have been pioneers and we can say, without being overmodest, that we have led the world. But this development has not yet come to an end. Without unnecessary exaggeration, we can look towards the year 2000 and forecast that it will be the rule, rather than the exception, that telecom terminals(regardless of the service involved) are mobile units-portable units-and that plugging such equipment into wall sockets will, with few exceptions, be outmoded. What interests us, at ITU, is how standardisation will develop and how the difficulties associated with frequency allocation will be handled. In the case of the mobile services, it is clear that the old system of frequency bands must be changed. We are now working flat out, towards the major administrative radio conference for this purpose, to be held in Spain, in 1992. We perceive it to be our responsibility, to ensure that the preparations in progress around the world are such, that the necessary results are attained, by 1992. This could lead to a world-wide standard and, thus, to the possibility of global mobile telephony. This is a rather op-

timistic attitude and I cannot promise that it is more than an objective, towards which we are working, in the hope that we succeed.

TELE : *What is your general view of terminal developments, from conventional telephones, to more advanced equipment?*

PT : It is hardly likely that developments will progress solely in the direction of more compact multiterminals. We will probably live in a pluralistic world, in which most terminals are dedicated to one or a few specific purposes. Obviously, there will also be all-in-one terminals. The pressure of the market will, quite simply, be decisive.

TELE : *How do you assess developments in HDTV, with the three standards that have now emerged?*

PT : ITU has worked hard on HDTV, in recent months. This will sembly, in Duesseldorf, during May. Although I am optimistic, by nature, it would be excessively optimistic to expect a unanimous decision, in favour of a single standard, from Duesseldorf. I consider that to prove rather unlikely. I assume that, in May, we will take "time out", to study the matter in greater depth and to seek an approach, that satisfies all three parties, i.e. Japan, the USA and West-Europe and, primarily, the world's TV viewers.

TELE : *Will HDTV not be the first broadband application to reach house-holds?*

PT : I expect so, although, of course, there is a certain degree of reservation, from some quarters. It has been said that HDTV is really not so very revolutionary so, unless the price is right, it may take some time. But it is clear that HDTV will prevail, sooner or later. For our part, we are striving for a recommendation for a global standard, which would also benefit the industry.

## Hope for global standards

TELE : *This brings us to a fundamental topic, which is often raised in connection with ITU-the question of standards.*

*ITU's role has been criticised and it has been noted that powerful forces are at work, individually. The activities of the EC committee and the birth of ETSI can be considered against this background. At the same time, when considering global networks, many industrial representatives want to see global standards established, by the 21st century. How will ITU balance this and maintain its standardisation efforts, in such a manner that the leaders do not become dissatisfied with the pace? Common standards clearly offer lower costs, to the suppliers and consumers of information technology.*

PT : We are working very hard and I am optimistic about this area. The fact that the industry sees the entire world as its market supports our projects and interests. Internationalisation has progressed, to the extent that it is quite apparent to the industry, that global standards are in its own interest. They are, of course, also in the interest of the end customers. But it is also true it is easier for limited regions, such as North America, Europe and the Far East, to cooperate regionally. When time is short, it isalways easier for the regional organisations to reach a quick decision, than when working with ITU, with its 166 member countries. Our greatest problem is that we have been too slow. But we have tried, and keep on trying, to improve matters, first and fore

most by changing our own working methods, to make them as effective as possible. A classic example is CCITT which, at its latest plenary meeting(Melbourne, 1988), reached the momentous decision that it can make standardisation decisions, not only at its plenary meetings(every four years), but continuously, if necessary. It is to be hoped that something similar occurs on the radio side, in Duesseldorf, in may. We have tried to modernise our working methods, so that we can, on the one hand, cope with the rapid pace of technological developments and, on the other, with the challenge of the regional organisations. We struggle on, although the pace just keeps increasing, and we must win through. It can be done. But this is not the whole story. It is also clear that we must cooperate with the regional standardisation bodies—we need each other. There is no question of a struggle, between the regional and global organisations, as the industry needs global standards. Obviously, the regional standardisation bodies have an interest in seeing their work comprise a limb of the global cooperation. In concrete terms, this means that, in February, we will hold the first "standards summit meeting", i.e. a meeting between our standardisation body and ETSI(Europe), T1(USA) and TCC(Japan), in Fredricksurg, USA. I expect it to be possible to arrange a cooperation, between ITU and the regional organisations, so that global and regional standardisation can continue, in an atmosphere of effective cooperation. Thus, we can more or less forget such ideas, as the idea that these bodies comprise a threat to ITU.

TELE : *The reason that you are so pressed for time today is that the High Level Committee starts its meeting, in ten minutes. What are you doing there? What would you, yourself, like to see emerge, from this overhaul?*

PT : The background is that ITU is an old organisation(125 this year) we are the oldest in the UN family—perhaps not the largest, but certainly the most beautiful, and our importance will grow, with the passage of time. But our structure, our working methods, our organisation and our bureaucracy have their roots—if not in the 19th century, well before our time, at least. There has been no in—depth study of this for many years and, thus, it is only natural that there should be many anachronisms, within the organisation. This was the subject of much discussion, at the plenipotentiary conference, last year. It was decided to start a major investigation of these difficulties and to appoint a high—level committee, of 21 members, with its first meeting in January. The Committee has been given 18 months, and it shall present its final report to the Administrative Council, in June, 1991. This concerns the structure of the entire organisation and, perhaps more important, its working methods, financing, possibilities of applying new technologynot merely at Head Office, Geneva, but also to the difficult task of coordinating 166 member countries. Nowadays, this is not simply a question of the national administrations but, to an increasing extent, it includes private industry and other organisations, which are interested in our work and are our companions in cooperation. Earlier, I mentioned the matter of our slow working methods. Obviously, this is an area that we must modernise or, as we say, "rejuvenate and streamline our organisations and working methods". This has got off to an excellent start and we will also utilise external consultants, which have experience of modern management methods. For these reasons, I look forward to the emergence of a much smoother and more effective ITU, within a few years. ■