



Telecom industry reaffirms focus on Standards in the context of emerging and futuristic tech, commemorates World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

New Delhi, 17th May, 2019: COAI, the apex industry association representing leading Telecom, Internet, Technology and Digital Services companies, celebrates the 50th anniversary of World Telecom and Information Society Day 2019 (WTD 2019) with a vision to participate in the standards-making process and implement internationally established standards in India.

Aligned with the theme of 2019, *“Bridging the standardization gap”*, COAI is committed to perform and promote, directly or indirectly, regional and international standardization in the field of communication technology, with the aim to establish a global information infrastructure. The apex body is focussed on promoting the use of standards-based information and communication technologies.

Commemorating WTISD 2019, COAI is appreciative to the Ministry of Telecommunications for extending unflinching support to the telecom sector and ensuring last mile connectivity to each and every citizen. In alignment with the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s Digital India vision, COAI proposed several significant reforms, which have been included in the NDCP 2018 (National Digital Communication Policy). The Policy, apart from addressing the issue of rationalisation of multiple taxes and levies will also redefine the way technologies are deployed in India, making the country a major player in the global knowledge revolution.

Telecom operators, till date, have invested over INR 10.4 lakh crores in building a world class telecom infrastructure which in turn facilitated efficient connectivity and improved usability of telecom services even in the rural and remote areas. The industry is now undertaking adequate measures in laying down the necessary infrastructural blue-print for next-gen technologies such as 5G, IoT, AI, M2M etc. These emerging technologies will not only open up new revenue channels for telecom service providers, but will also make India a true digitally empowered nation. To proliferate broadband services through Public Wi-Fi Networks, COAI is coordinating the implementation of Public W-Fi networks (Bharat Wi-Fi) along with other industry players.

The industry has more than 5,43,000 towers with over 21,54,000 BTSs out of which 12,41,838 are 4G BTSs providing seamless connectivity to the consumers.

Further, the industry is poised to use Block-Chain solutions to implement the Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC) regulation of TRAI.

COAI appreciates the initiatives taken by the DoT and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) in formulating early guidelines and standards for M2M. This will help India stay at the forefront of this important development. A forward looking global approach is required with inputs from the private sector to create a conducive regulatory environment for both IoT and M2M to fully achieve their potential as the internet is united, universal, interoperable and global. The country is also deploying 14 smart grids and 130 million smart meters, which will fuel M2M’s application in the utility domain.

To make India 5G ready by early 2020, a High Level Forum was constituted by the Department of Telecommunications in September 2017, with an aim to position India as a globally synchronised participant in the Design, Development and Manufacturing of 5G based technology, products and applications. COAI prepared the report on Regulatory and Licensing Support for Efficient 5G Deployment, with the DG, COAI serving as the Chairperson of the Regulatory Task Force. The Report on Regulatory and Licensing Support was produced with



the aim to offer help to policy makers, so that they can focus on the key policy challenges that need to be addressed to get early deployment of 5G. COAI represented Industry point of view at various Committee Meetings under the forum.

Similarly, the National Frequency Allocation Plan – 2018, was formulated in order to cater to newly emerging technologies as well as to ensure equitable and optimum utilization of the scarce and limited natural resource of radio frequency spectrum. COAI was actively involved in all the deliberations and was able to get more bands earmarked for IMT services in the NFAP. COAI believes that identification of new bands for IMT and 5G that are globally harmonised will be beneficial to the delivery of 'mobile broadband for all'. COAI also submitted its recommendations to the Draft National Policy on Electronics 2018, with the aim to make India a global hub for "Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM)" and create an enabling ecosystem for a globally competitive Industry, including R&D. COAI requested immediate policy support in the form of tax holidays for electronics manufacturing, to streamline M-SIPs processes, to promote ease of doing business, exempt import duties on components and sub-assemblies for production capacity. COAI also emphasized need for the incentives and benefits for global companies setting-up and expanding R&D facilities in India.

Mr. Rajan S. Mathews, Director General, COAI, said, "We are thankful to the Government and the DoT for their unstinted support towards alleviating the telecom sector from the acute financial distress it is reeling under. Year 2018, has truly been a year of milestones for the telecom sector with notable strides made with regards to setting the stage ready for the commercial roll-out of 5G and other emerging technologies such as M2M, IoT, AI, AR, VR etc, the implementation of the much awaited National Digital Communications Policy, the Supreme Court's verdict with respect to Aadhar based KYC, EMF testing of Telecom Towers Mergers & Acquisitions, amongst a myriad other progressive moves."

"In alignment with this year's theme, we recently signed a MoU with ETSI, a leading standardization organization for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) standards fulfilling European and global market needs, to come together once again to work and collaborate on areas of mutual interest. We are keen to collaborate with EU to strengthen the telecom standardisation efforts in India, through various workshops, conferences and meetings. The idea of this partnership was to foster a closer co-operation on Telecom Standardization, he added.

About COAI:

Constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-governmental society. COAI's vision is to establish India as the global leader of innovative mobile communications infrastructure, products and services and achieving a national tele-density of 100%, including broadband. The association is also dedicated to the advancement of modern communication and towards delivering the benefits of innovative and affordable mobile communication services to the people of India. www.coai.in

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