

**UNITED STATES AND INDIA
REGULATOR CONSULTATIONS
ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

WORK PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 2000 THROUGH AUGUST 2001

Introduction

The United States of America Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), recognizing the significant efforts that are required of TRAI in fulfilling its mandate, have discussed mutual cooperative activities. To this end, the two organisations have developed the following Work Program which is designed to provide the TRAI with necessary inputs from FCC who have a wealth of experience & expertise in the area of Telecom Regulation.

Work Program

i) Rulemaking Procedures and the Public Process

The FCC will assist TRAI on selected aspects of the administrative process throughout this period including internal agency structure, the rulemaking process, its role as an independent regulator, issues relating to the processing of applications, delegations of authority issues and conflict of interest management. The Work Plan envisions continuous contact throughout the year between FCC and TRAI staff. These contacts will include continuous consultations on these and other related issues.

ii) Competition and Interconnection

Throughout the year the FCC will be available to provide advice to TRAI, as requested, on methods of promoting competition and choice for the public through interconnection regulatory policy, numbering plans and other regulatory structures and processes.

iii) Universal Access

Throughout the year, the FCC will be available to provide TRAI with procedural and technical advice, as requested, regarding the expansion of universal access to telecommunications. Focus will be on inputs relating to funding mechanisms for providing universal access as applicable to developing countries, as well as on strategies to attract investment, fostering competition and choice for the public, ensuring open access to the network and providing appropriate and flexible regulation.

iv) **Telecommunications Training**

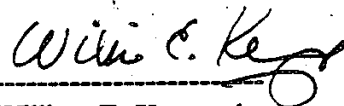
The FCC has certain staff training capabilities from which TRAI can benefit. Therefore, during the period for the Work Program, TRAI and the FCC will cooperate on training in telecommunications topics.

v) **Other Exchanges**

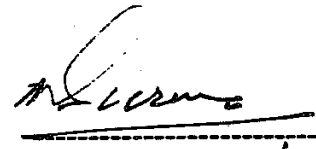
Throughout the year, the FCC and TRAI plan to exchange information on other regulatory issues relating to telecommunications, trends in technology, particularly relating to the building up of a converged multi-media, multi-operator network, employing broadband switching & transmission techniques and other operational aspects of communications services, including experimental authorisations and new services. TRAI on its part will supply to FCC, on request, inputs on problems encountered by developing countries in which it has gained experience.

This work program is subject to the resource constraints of both organisations and may be modified as necessary by mutual agreements.

Roxanne McElvane, FCC Senior Counselor, International Development, is the FCC representative responsible for overall implementation of this work program. Rakesh Kumar Bhatnagar, Joint Secretary (Commercial) is the TRAI representative responsible for such implementation.



William E. Kennard,
Chairman, FCC
Dated
21st September 2000



M. S. Verma
Chairman, TRAI
Dated
21st September 2000