

REPORT OF THE WG ON THE REVIEW OF ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE APPU-EC (MALAYSIA)

1. The WG on the review of roles and functions of the APPU-EC (hereinafter referred to as “WG”), was formed during the APPU-EC 2014 Plenary session held in Sri Lanka, Colombo. The WG was set up to address the issues and feedback from APPU members in response to the APPU survey on the review of the roles and functions of the APPU Bureau and APPU-EC.
2. The WG composed of Malaysia (Chair), Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, India, Indonesia, Maldives, New Zealand, Singapore and Vanuatu met on 17 Sept 2014 to discuss and identify the key points raised by delegates pertaining to the findings of the APPU 2014 Questionnaire conducted by the APPU Bureau.
3. The objectives of the WG pertaining to the tasks assigned by the APPU Plenary are as follows :-
 - a) To analyse the feedback from APPU members to the APPU 2014 Questionnaire.
 - b) To identify key issues raised by APPU members pertaining to the roles and functions of the APPU Bureau, in particular the roles of the Director.
 - c) To prioritise the list of functions and/or tasks of the APPU-EC.
 - d) To recommend new/additional roles/functions to be undertaken by the Bureau or Director.
4. Malaysia (Chair) chaired a teleconference of the WG on 6 January 2015 with participation from Brunei Darussalam, China, India, New Zealand and Singapore (apologies from Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Maldives and Vanuatu.) Comments were also subsequently received in writing from Australia and endorsed by the WG.
5. The WG referred to two main documents for the discussion namely the Results of the APPU 2014 Questionnaire (Annex 1) and Draft Work Agenda and Method of Working (Annex 2).
6. The WG, after reviewing the two documents mentioned in para 5 above, made the following recommendations pertaining to the roles and functions of the APPU:
 - a) The current scope of the APPU need not be widened but the scope needs to be enhanced and the role of the APPU Bureau should be strengthened.
 - b) APPU to be the platform for consultation on key global matters for the Asia Pacific region.

- c) APPU Bureau to advise on key UPU issues and to provide updates on UPU matters. This requires that the main roles to be undertaken by the APPU evolve around the POC and CA. Regional positions should be taken for crucial matters that impact on the region.
 - d) Active involvement in development/shaping of Regulations.
 - e) There is a need to harmonise the working of various bodies that work under the APPU.
7. Recommendations on the roles to be undertaken by the Director of the APPU Bureau in consideration of the functions of the APPU identified in para 6 above, are as follows :-
- a) The Director to be ‘the voice for the region’. In order to be effective in the role, the Director needs to participate in POC and CA meetings. The Director should be more visible and more actively involved in discussions on UPU matters that affect the APPU members. The Director should seek to actively prosecute the agreed positions of APPU members following consultations with and input from APPU members.
 - b) Newsletters on developments in POC and CA should be sent to APPU members. Regular updates on UPU matters is essential for the APPU.
8. On the conduct of the APPU-EC meetings, the following recommendations were made by the WG :-
- a) Duration of the EC meeting to be extended to cater for more time to discuss important matters. Regional issues such as Customs and AEI (Advance Electronic Information) require a dedicated workshop to be held.
 - b) Plenary session should be dedicated to matters affecting the region, hence non-postal presentations should not be allowed. APPU members should be encouraged to make presentations on developments in their countries, best practices and success stories.
 - c) Presentations by non-postal organisations, observers and postal organisations which are not APPU members are deemed to be information-sharing or promotions sessions and should be made separately. One option is to hold a 1-day sharing session in parallel to the APPU Plenary, for these organisations. Presentations by observers should be reduced.
 - d) Guidelines should be drawn up to ensure a structured way to process requests by non-postal organisations, observers or postal organisations which are not APPU members, to attend as well as make presentations at the APPU Plenary sessions.
9. On the effectiveness of the various Working Groups established under the EC, the WG made the following recommendations :-

- a) The Working Groups should be more proactive. It is proposed that Working Group Leaders leverage on UPU questionnaires to address regional issues. This could be coordinated with the APPU Bureau to request members who respond to UPU questionnaires, to copy to the APPU Bureau.
- b) Workshops to be held during EC meetings. This would provide opportunities for Regulators to be involved in postal operations issues as well.
- c) Working Group Leaders to present their respective Work Plans with timelines to the EC meetings. Once approved by the EC Plenary, the APPU Bureau will monitor and track the progress of the Work Plans as well as support (administratively and substantively) the achievement of deliverables.

10. The above recommendations from para 6 – para 9 above are hereby presented for discussion and decision by the EC.

Chum Choy Han
Chair

Working Group on the Review of the Roles and Functions of the APPU-EC

MALAYSIA'S PROPOSAL FOR CONTINUING THE WORK OF THE REVIEW OF APPU-EC AND ITS VARIOUS BODIES

1. On the basis of wide ranging consultations since the Executive Council (EC) meeting last year, Malaysia proposes that in the run-up to the APPU Congress 2017, this particular Working Group continues its work.
2. In order to make suitable changes to the APPU so as to meet the changing requirements of the member countries, we may be required to make constitutional amendments. These amendments can only be made by the APPU Congress with the support of the member countries. We feel that we should not rush into any major change without considering all the pros and cons.
3. During consultations, some of the major points that have emerged are as follows:
 - a) Create a structure that ensures more synergies within the various bodies in the APPU family.
 - b) Work out ways and means to ensure adequate financing / resources for the APPU Bureau so that it meets the requirements of the member countries.
 - c) Clearly lay down the roles and responsibilities of various APPU functionaries.
4. In order to achieve the above-mentioned broad goals, it is proposed that members of this Working Group meet at regular intervals including on side-lines of the forthcoming POC session and in the context of a proposed regional roundtable to be held in August 2015 on the same matters.
5. Malaysia also proposes that the Director of APPU Bureau should present his inputs on strengthening of the APPU during the proposed regional roundtable.
6. The above-mentioned proposal is hereby presented for the decision by the EC.

Adawiyah Jafar
Chair

Working Group on the Review of the Roles and Functions of the APPU-EC
Friday 27 March 2015