1. New Study Group 16 administration

The administrations of Study Groups (SGs) of the International Telecommunication Union - Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) are renewed every four years. The Plenipotentiary Conference (PP)\(^1\) decides the general policy for the whole ITU and World Telecommunication Standards Assembly (WTSA)\(^2\) for ITU-T, including appointments of SG chairmen and vice-chairmen. The recent ITU-T SG16 meeting was held between October 17 and 28, 2022. The new SG16 administration under the chairman (re-appointed) was formed as it was the first meeting after WTSA. The chairman and vice-chairmen of SG16 are listed in Table 1. Mr. Yamamoto (OKI) from Japan was appointed as a vice-chairman.

The rapporteurs and associate rapporteurs who lead Questions (Q) and Working Party (WP) chairmen were also appointed during the SG16 meeting. Table 2 lists the WP chairmen. Mr. Yamamoto and Mr. Imanaka (National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT)) from Japan were appointed as WP2 and WP3 co-chairmen, respectively. The rapporteurs and associate rapporteurs are listed in Table 3. Three rapporteurs (Q8 Mr. Imanaka, Q27 Mr. Yamamoto, Q26 and Q28 Mr. Kawamori (Keio University)) and two associate rapporteurs (Q8 the author, Q27 Mr. Shimizu (Mitsubishi Electric)) from Japan were appointed.

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\(^1\) PP: The highest policy-making body of ITU. It is held every four years. Delegates from about 190 member states gather.

\(^2\) WTSA: WTSA is held every four years and defines the next period of study for ITU-T.
2. SG16 meeting topics

2.1 Immersive live experience
The Q8 of SG16 studies immersive live experience (ILE). NTT has been contributing actively to Q8 since the beginning of the Question. Five Recommendations (From ITU-T H.430.1 to H.430.5) have been published thus far. Study on interactive immersive services (IIS) started recently, and NTT proposed to start the draft Recommendation H.ILE-Haptic. Other topics are described below.

(1) H.430.3 V2 (Service scenario of ILE)
This draft Recommendation explains service scenarios and use cases of ILE. Transport of haptic information and IIS are considered to be added to the document. Descriptions of the relevant service scenarios were revised, and information on the related technologies provided by SG13 was added to the draft Recommendation during the meeting.

(2) H.IIS-Reqts (Requirements of IIS)
This document defines the requirements of IIS. Consent of the draft was proposed, but it was postponed because a relatively large revision was made to the draft including elaboration and change of sections.

(3) H.ILE-Haptic (Media transport protocols, signalling information of haptic transmission for ILE systems)
NTT proposed to start this draft Recommendation to add haptic transmission technology to ILE. The current Recommendations on ILE describe transport of video, audio, location, etc., but the draft aims to add the transmission technology of haptic information to achieve even higher sense of immersiveness. Stiffness and other information have been added to the draft along with the definition of the descriptor of haptic information during the meeting.

(4) H.IIS-FA (Functional architecture of IIS system)
This is a new work item consented to start during the meeting. High-level architecture of IIS and functional architecture are expected to be studied. Details will be discussed in future meetings.

2.2 Metaverse
Correspondence Group (CG) on Metaverse had been held in the previous SG16 meeting (January 2022). Focus Group (FG) on Metaverse was proposed from Japan in this meeting (October 2022).

* FG: A group created by ITU-T to augment the SG work program or when the issue is not covered within an existing SG. Non-ITU member can join FGs.
The CG was also held in this meeting, and issues, such as whether to start the FG, the parent group of the FG, name of the FG, were sent to the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG)*4.

3. Future prospect

   In PP-22 [1] held from 26 September to 14 October 2022, Mr. Onoe from Japan (then NTT chief standardization strategy officer) was elected as the next director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau at ITU-T. He started his post in January 2023. This appointment is expected to stimulate the telecommunication standardization activities in Japan, resulting in more active discussion in SG16. NTT plans to continue contributing to the work items such as H.ILE-Haptic. Not only the standardization communities but also the market is interested in the metaverse. Collaboration between the industry, who implements technologies, and ITU-T, who deploys technology standards worldwide, is expected to create a positive cycle of technology development and dissemination.

Reference


*4 TSAG: The advisory body to SGs in administration and operation of ITU-T. TSAG meets during the years when WTSA is not held.
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He received a Ph.D. in information science from Nagoya University, Aichi, in 2007. He joined NTT the same year. From 2007 to 2011, he was engaged in research and development of image processing and content distribution technology. From 2012 to 2017, he worked for NTT Communications, serving as the technical leader of commercial video streaming services. From 2017 to 2021, he was engaged in research and development of immersive media and presentation technology at NTT Service Evolution Laboratories. Since 2019, he has contributed to the international standardization efforts on ILE of ITU-T SG16. He served as an editor of ITU-T H.430.4 (ex H.ILE-MMT) and H.430.5 (ex H.ILE-PE) from 2019 to 2020. He received the ITU Association of Japan Encouragement Award in 2021. He is currently an associate rapporteur of ITU-T SG16 Q8 (Immersive Live Experience, since 2022) and the leader of ILE Sub Working Group of the Telecommunication Technology Committee (since 2020). He is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers (IEICE), and the Japanese Society of Medical Imaging Technology (JAMIT).