Introduction to APEC TEL MRA

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George Tannahill
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Engineering and Technology
FCC Lab - Technical Research Branch
George.Tannahill@fcc.gov
MRA Introduction

Purpose of MRA -- To facilitate trade by allowing Conformity Assessment Bodies (CAB) in one economy to test (Phase I) and/or certify (Phase II) products to the Technical Regulations of another economy.

Participation in a MRA is voluntary -- however, if a economy agrees to participate in either Phase I and/or Phase II certain rights and obligations in accordance with the terms of the MRA apply.

Government to Government

Use of harmonized technical standards is not part of an MRA
Benefits of MRAs

- Products May be shipped directly to foreign economies without any further requirements for testing and/or certification thereby reduced costs and time to market
- Facilitates trade by promoting market access and competition
- Reduces and minimizes non-tariff trade barriers
- Shortens time for manufacturers to introduce their products into the importing economies
APEC Economies

- Australia
- Brunei
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Chinese-Taipei
- Hong Kong, China
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Mexico
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea
- Peru
- Philippines
- Russian Federation
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Thailand
- United States
- Vietnam
APEC MRA for Conformity Assessment (MRA-CA)

- Intended to streamline conformity assessment process.
- Provides guidelines to establish confidence in competence of stakeholders and CABs.
- Allows recognition of test results & product approvals by the importing economy.
- Allows importing economy to recognize CABs of exporting economy.
- Products are tested and certified to importing economies regulations.
- Limits scope.
- Preserves regulatory authority.
- Outlines process for recognizing & monitoring CABs.
APEC MRA-CA

- Adopted by APEC Tel Ministers on June 5, 1998
- Multilateral
- Single Sector
- Scope includes:
  - Electromagnetic Compatibility
  - Telecommunications Equipment
  - Electrical Safety
- MRAs are limited to conformity assessment procedures
  - Does not harmonize standards
  - Does not harmonize regulations
Participation in APEC MRA

- Participation is voluntary
- If an economy decides to participate, it
  - notifies APEC Tel Chair
  - agrees to follow the text of the MRA
  - identifies various players (Regulatory Authority, Designating Authority, and Accreditors) and technical regulations
  - U.S. requires an Exchange letter
MRA for Equivalence of Technical Requirements (MRA-ETR)

- Provides a procedure for recognizing that multiple economies technical requirements are equivalent.

- Can be used in conjunction with MRA CA to further reduce cost and time to get products to market in multiple economies.
MRA-ETR Overview

- Voluntary
- Economy to Economy Arrangement
- Regulatory authority (RA) in importing economy determines equivalence
- Equivalence does not mean harmonization
- Minimize burden on RA on analyzing equivalence by requiring entity requesting equivalence to submit analysis and justification of equivalence

Possible outcomes of RA review:
- Full equivalence
- Not equivalent
- Differences which are acceptable
Questions and Answers

Thanks!