

## IETF 93 WG Chairs Session

### Standards Development Organisation Engagement

Scott Mansfield, Ralph Droms, Suzanne Woolf

Many people in the audience are also involved in other SDOs.

#### Q & A:

Yaakov Stein said that he has been through two liaison processes that went really well and two that didn't go so well. If the same people work in both organisations involved in the liaison, then it works, because it's often a matter of translating between the different languages or documents. If you are trying to do this through the official liaisons, it often goes wrong.

Hannes Tschofenig recommended to think about which SDOs people actually need to be involved. Often it requires a lot of time and energy. He thinks that things will shake out in the market place after all.

Erik Nordmark wondered if the fact that the IETF wasn't on the list on the 5G ecosystem, was because it was an ITU-R related list. The ITU-R deals more with radio spectrum and we are not involved in that.

Dave Crocker thought that we have to be a little careful when saying that the ITU only starts their approval process after the work is done, because we're doing the same in the IETF.

???: Comment about the open source community: We can learn from them and they can learn from us and hopefully benefit from each other's processes.

Toerless Eckert felt that a lot of time in the presentation was spent on the operations of the ITU. Are we not a little obsessive with the ITU? There are many other SDOs.

Scott explained that he tried to use the ITU as an example. Could have also used ETSI or others.

Ralph Droms added some information about the IETF's involvement with other SDOs. There are currently around 20 formal liaisons or informal relations. The IETF liaison program (which Ralph runs) has some ideas on how to make this more transparent.

An audience speaker said she came to learn about technical bits that might overlap with other SDOs. If she would have a list, she could then see if that influences her work and could then go and find the respective liaison manager.

Another audience speaker clarified that were not talking just about SDOs, but about industry forums in general.

Carsten Bormann added that there are new vendor forums set up almost every day

and that it is really hard to keep up to date and interact with them.

Brian Rosen asked if there could be something between the formal liaison process and the informal mechanisms that mostly involve individuals and emails.

Ralph responded that we have formal liaison arrangements, but we also have more informal liaison statements that get sent to the WGs without having that formal relationship. Wonders if Brian is thinking about something else?

Brian suggested more direct connection between a WG in one organisation and the WG in another organisation.

Scott said that sometimes it takes to understand that this direct connection is actually possible.

Dave Black reported that he has done that in the past and that as a WG chair one can probably apply enough impact in the other organisation. However, this only works well when you're trying to engage one WG. For more than one WG, it doesn't work.

Dave Crocker suggested that the IAB could help by defining relevant topics. Scott agreed.

Yaakov Stein said that we could also learn from other SDOs in how to get work done.

Ralph responded that if we would truly do work on the mailing lists, we could make progress much more quickly. But often we rely on the physical meetings and the documents submission deadline.

Yaakov added that we have to understand the entire landscape and the different types of organisations we're dealing with. One has to apply different communications mechanisms depending on their specific rules and requirements.

Brian Carpenter said that it is very hard to deal with secret organisations. Do we need a statement from the IAB that says we won't talk to people that aren't talking to us? That can be a very unfortunate situation.

Ralph agreed and said that we already do that in a way by ignoring those organisations and by not accepting non-open standards.

Hannes said that the challenges are that different organisations work with different rules for different reasons. Some organisations are very concerned with trust. That means you won't get to see the documents until you are a member. Those are the rules and we cannot easily bypass those rules. Especially many of the people on the IAB are working for companies that are members of these other organisations.

