

IEEE 802 Efforts to Welcome Chinese Participation

This document summarizes activities of the IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee to ensure that Chinese industry and standardization bodies understand the IEEE 802 process and are welcomed to participate in it:

- In December 2003, IEEE 802 wrote to the Standardization Administration of China (SAC), with a copy to the Ministry of Information Industry (MII) <http://ieee802.org/16/liaison/docs/L80216-03_19.pdf>. The letter provided an introduction to IEEE-SA and IEEE 802, explaining their global participation, scope, and status. It also noted that the IEEE 802.16 Working Group (WG) had accepted an invitation to meet in Shenzhen, China in May 2004. The letter mentioned the Chinese WAPI standard and said “We recognize that 802.11 security is not optimal and have been working to improve it through the 802.11i project. We would like to better understand your concerns and see if they can be met through the current 802.11i draft standard. That draft could be made available through the appointment of a bilateral liaison.” It also said “Perhaps the occasion of [the 802.16] meeting would be an opportunity for high-level discussions with SAC and IEEE-SA, including an exchange of information on how the two bodies operate and formulation of some concrete steps to facilitate increased Chinese participation in IEEE. If this is of interest to you, I would be happy to investigate the availability of the IEEE-SA leadership.”
- In January 2004, the IEEE-SA President Jim Carlo wrote a follow-up letter to SAC, with a copy to MII <http://ieee802.org/16/liaison/docs/L80216-04_04.pdf>. This letter requested a meeting with SAC to exchange information and views regarding the value of cooperative activity. It proposed sending a three-person delegation in conjunction with the May 802.16 session. SAC Administrator Li Zhonghai sent a warm welcome and offered a meeting with IEEE-SA’s proposed three-person delegation. He noted that “According to my knowledge and your explanation, IEEE-SA is a very important organization in developing international standards.” The meeting took place on 17 May 2004 with Li Zhonghai at SAC in Beijing.
- In April 2004, the 802.16 Working Group Chair requested a meeting of the same delegation with China Communications Standards Association (CCSA) <http://ieee802.org/16/liaison/docs/L80216-04_13.pdf>. The meeting was arranged in Shenzhen and included Wen Ku, Director General of MII’s Science and Technology Department, as well as Cao Shumin, Deputy Secretary-General, China Communications Standards Association. Cao Shumin then sent congratulations on the successful 802.16 session <http://ieee802.org/16/liaison/docs/L80216-04_18.pdf> and added “ We were happy to have quite number of delegates from China participate this meeting, which showed the great interest from Chinese industry. We hope there will be more meetings in the future held in China. Led by Mr. Wen Ku, the Direct General of Science and Technology Department of MII, we had a very good meeting with IEEE-SA President Mr. Jim Carlo, Ms. Terry deCourcelle and you in Shenzhen. We believed our meeting and discussion was very productive, we had better understanding about each other and we were pleased that we also identified some areas for possible cooperation between IEEE-SA and CCSA. I reported our meeting to the CCSA General Secretary Mr. Zhou Baoxin, he was very impressive about our meeting and he would like to further explore our cooperation in several areas, including IEEE 802.3, 802.11 and 802.16 and other possible areas. It was really a good start for both sides of us. We hope to extend our relationship in the future.” CCSA’s TC5/WG3 and the IEEE 802.16 Working Group proceeded to develop a constructive liaison relationship.

- On August 26, the IEEE 802.16 Chair visited Cao Shumin and a number of CCSA officials in Beijing. Topics included efforts to enhance interactions between IEEE 802 and CCSA and the possibility of more 802 meetings in China.
- In December 2004, IEEE 802 wrote to Wen Ku, with a copy to CCSA, that 802 has appointed Roger Marks, the IEEE 802.16 WG Chair, as China Liaison Official and offered an update on relevant activities in IEEE 802 <http://iee802.org/16/liaison/docs/802China04_01r5.pdf>. It noted that the IEEE WG 802.16 would meet in Sanya, China in January 2005 and requested another meeting with him. It noted that it had become aware of visa problems that had affected standards meetings in the U.S. and would try to learn more about the problem. It mentioned that several IEEE 802 WGs, including the 802.11 WG, hoped to hold their May 2005 meetings in Beijing. It said that the IEEE 802.11 WG had received, from JTC1/SC6, the Chinese National Body contribution 6N12687, noting that “the Working Group is very interested in working with the contributors and welcoming them to pursue their work within the Working Group... It welcomes the JTC1/SC6/WG1 meeting in Frankfurt, Germany on 21-25 February, which was arranged for technical experts from China and IEEE 802 to discuss 802.11i and 6N12687.” Wen Ku replied <http://iee802.org/16/liaison/docs/802China04_02.pdf>, “We hope IEEE work together to further enhance exchange, deepen mutual understanding, and strengthen the connections and cooperation between CCSA and IEEE, and assist Chinese enterprise to participate in the IEEE projects.” He offered to meet in Sanya. The meeting took place and included Wen Ku, Cao Shumin, Roger Marks, and Jim Carlo. CCSA Secretary Baoxin wrote that “CCSA would like to establish friendly relations with IEEE and further explore our cooperation in several areas, including IEEE 802.3, 802.11, and 802.16 and other possible areas” <http://iee802.org/16/liaison/docs/802China05_02.pdf>.
- In December 2004, IEEE 802 representatives worked with officials in Beijing to try to arrange the May 2005 session in Beijing. However, it was not possible to complete the arrangements on such short notice.
- In a letter of 21 January 2005 to SC6 and to the Chinese SC6 delegation <http://iee802.org/16/liaison/docs/802China05_01r1.pdf>, personally delivered by the IEEE 802 China Liaison to officials of the China Electronics Standardization Institute (CESI) in Beijing on 28 January, the Chairs of IEEE 802 and the IEEE 802.11 WG responded to China’s submission 6N12687, as forwarded to IEEE 802 by SC6. It noted IEEE 802’s global participation, scope, and status. It stated that “IEEE Project 802 LMSC and the IEEE 802.11 Working Group fully support China’s desire to improve WLAN security.” It invited and encouraged Chinese participation, including working with committees within 802 to “identify ways to incorporate submission N12687 into IEEE Std. 802.11 via LMSC’s well-defined standards development process.” It said “Incorporation of essential technical components from submission N12687 in IEEE Std 802.11 will require experts from China to participate in committees within IEEE Project 802 LMSC so that the result meets China’s needs, is backward compatible with the existing IEEE 802.11 and ISO/IEC 8802-11 standards, and forward compatible with other amendments already under way... We suggest that the next step be to convene joint meetings in China, to discuss both the process and technical aspects of moving forward.” This letter was also presented at the Frankfurt meeting in February 2005.

- At the Frankfurt meeting, IEEE liaison representatives presented three additional documents:
 - [IEEE 802.11-04/1555r3](#), a presentation to accompany the letter to SC6. It proposed a specific process to cooperatively develop a new amendment that, on completion, could be forward by the Chinese National Body to JTC1 for Fast Track balloting as a proposed new amendment to 8802-11. The presentation also offered to initiate an activity that would include experts from WAPI and 802.11, hold meeting in China, and include one or more Chinese citizens among the leaders. It suggested a meeting at the May 2005 802.11 session in Australia.
 - [IEEE 802.11-05/0122r2](#), a technical presentation noting that “the Chinese proposal contains useful technology” and that, while many issues need to be resolved before incorporating it into 802.11 and 8802-11, “We believe that cooperation between China’s experts and the 802.11 Membership can successfully address all of these issues.”
 - [IEEE 802.11-05/0123r1](#), a technical presentation on IEEE 802.11i.

The Chinese National Body had departed the Frankfurt meeting prior to the presentation of the last two documents.