

Dear Miki-san and all Japanese Friends of 3GPP,

Thank you for the confirmatory invitation and the supplementary information regarding the local environment and related health issues/travel advice. As you will be aware, the affected working group chairmen have been monitoring the situation closely and have been seeking hard objective evidence as to the level of meeting participation, as of today, in the event that the meetings go ahead as planned in Kobe.

In so doing we have taken into account the following factors:

1. Whether the facility (ICC in Kobe) and local infrastructure/transport etc. will be functional or is likely to be functional at the time of the meeting.
2. Whether there will be sufficient key personnel (i.e. those required to run the meetings) available and willing to attend.
3. An assessment of the likelihood of conditions in central Japan deteriorating as a result of an controlled/uncontrolled radiation release from Fukushima or follow on earthquake and/or Tsunami activity
4. An assessment of:
 - a. the impact of travel bans imposed by companies, preventing delegates from travelling to Japan
 - b. the impact of travel restrictions imposed by countries refusing to issue visas to enable delegates to travel to Japan
 - c. the impact of those delegates who are unwilling to travel to Kobe, if they were not restricted by the above
5. The possibility of alternative venues outside Japan, taking into account visa issuing constraints and the time available to re-arrange meeting venues.

In respect to the above points:

1. Based on the information provided, we acknowledge that the facilities and supporting infrastructure are available.
2. It is also very likely that there would be sufficient key WG management available to run the meetings.
3. It is acknowledged that the impact of the catastrophe has had no immediate lasting damage in the Kobe area although this in itself is not a safeguard against follow-on problems caused by nature.
4. We have received a significant number of reports from companies that are stating, as of now, company policy, often based on the latest national advice, will prevent delegates from travelling or that due to visa issuance problems, a significant

number of delegates, will not be able to enter Japan. Finally there have been some indications that even where travel restrictions have not been imposed, individual delegates will not be willing to travel.

5. We are confident that alternative venues can be found in Europe in the event that Kobe is not used, although organisation time is very short so a decision must be made within the next day or so.

We have taken into account the above and concluded that in the event that the meetings are held in Kobe, there would be significant under-attendance. Sadly, it would seem that adverse, and at times unfair, publicity regarding the safety of travel to Japan, as a whole, has dominated the attitude of governments, companies and individuals, despite the issuance of such reports that you have provided (from WHO among others). The result would be that this would significantly damage the rate of progress of 3GPP work at a time when all of the working groups are under considerable time pressure to deliver within the existing constraints of limited meeting time.

Furthermore, we feel that continued planning to meet in Kobe may create unwarranted pressure/anxiousness for individuals who would have the choice whether to travel or not.

It is, therefore, with extreme regret shared by all of the affected working group chairs, that we must now decline the very kind invitation from the Japanese Friends of 3GPP in the interests of maintaining the high tempo progress demanded by the 3GPP programme. We are all very sorry to have to take this course of action at a time when Japan is already hit by many negative things. We plan to issue the decision to the wider RAN/SA community at 1000 hrs CEST on Tuesday 29th March 2011, in order that all the affected working groups will find out simultaneously and so that we can start 'ramping up' the contingency plan to find suitable venues across Europe.

Kind Regards,

Matthew Baker

Gert-Jan van Lieshout

Dino Flore

Takaharu Nakamura

Phil Brown

Christian Toche