Digital Broadcasting Migration Implementation

Introduction

Digital broadcasting uses frequency more efficiently and produces better quality video and audio than analogue broadcasting. The transition from analog to digital terrestrial broadcasting was agreed at the international levels with switchover date of 17th June 2015.

Benefits

The transition from Analog to digital broadcasting brings a number of benefits including:

- Increased choice and quality for viewers (as there will be more channels and the opportunity to provide a better image, including wide-screen aspect ratio, high definition and sound quality);
- Better efficiency in spectrum use (as more data can be transmitted within the same bandwidth). Spectrum will be released to allow the development of more television and other services for consumers.

Goals and Objectives of Digital Migration

The main goals of the digital migration are to enhance choice, interactivity and quality of broadcasting for the benefits of citizens and to reap the social and economic benefits of spectrum efficiency (digital dividend).

The specific objectives of the migration are to:

- Develop harmonized policies and regulations regarding digital broadcasting migration,
- Identify technical standards for digital broadcasting for the region,
- Develop regional and national frequency band plans for the provision of the digital broadcasting services,
- Develop licensing framework for awarding the digital dividend,
- Implement an agreed schedule for digital migration covering Digital Switch On, Dual Illumination and Analogue Switch off,
- Ensure equal participation of all stakeholders including consumer participation to the migration process,
- Ensure effective and adequate human capacity development in digital broadcasting.

Topics to be covered

- Roles of Stakeholders

- Steps to be taken to smoothly migrate to Digital Broadcasting
- Creation of an Enabling Environment
- Digital Migration Policy and Strategy
- Licensing and Competition
- Spectrum Planning and Allocation
- Technical Standards
- Transmission Standards
- Set Top Box Specifications
- Content Development and Regulation
- Consumer Awareness and Participation
- Climate Change Issues
- Capacity Building
- Implementation Schedule

References

Guidelines for the transition from Analogue to Digital Broadcasting (2012)
http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/tech/digital_broadcasting/project-dbasiapacific/Digital-Migration-Guidelines_EV7.pdf

Roadmap for Digital Broadcasting Migration Implementation (2011)
http://digmig.events.apc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2013/12/COMESA-Digital-Migration-Roadmap-final.pdf