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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

REPORT OF THE TECHNIQUES AND METHODOLOGIES GROUP (TMG)

Report by the Chairman of the UN/CEFACT TMG

This document is for **endorsement**

Introduction

This report outlines key activities and decisions by UN/CEFACT's Techniques and Methodology Group as they relate to the key priorities of its work programme, as well as their liaison with the work of other UN/CEFACT Groups and some additional newsworthy information for the UN/CEFACT Plenary.

I. GENERAL

1. The TMG has resumed all projects halted at the beginning of 2004 due to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy issues. This means that the TMG is continuing UN/CEFACT's efforts toward consistent and high-quality methodologies for modelling collaborative business processes and business information. The following projects are continuing under UN/CEFACT's Open Development Process (ODP):

- Core Components Technical Specification V2.01 - Part 8 of the ebXML Framework
- N091 – UMM (UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology) Meta Model
- N092 – UMM Reference Guide
- N093 – UMM User Guide
- N094 – BCSS (Business Collaboration Schema Specification)
- UBAC (Unified Business Agreements and Contracts)
- ebXML BPSS (Business Process Specification Schema)

2. TMG had two meetings before filing this report, and will have an additional meeting before the UN/CEFACT plenary in June. The detailed meeting reports of the Detroit meeting in December 2004 and the Kuala Lumpur meeting in March 2005 are available at the TMG Web Site (www.untmg.org).

3. A successful methodologies and technologies workshop was conducted in Stockholm, Sweden in March 2005. The goal of this workshop was to increase awareness, knowledge of, and research topics related to methodologies and technologies used for international standardization, primarily the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology (UMM). This workshop was organized by three universities, assisted by the Techniques and Methodology Group (TMG).

4. ICG, ATG, and TMG resolved to jointly define a profile for the generation of XMI interchange documents for UMM-compliant class models. Achieving this objective is an important first step toward model interoperability among vendor tools, and more effective standards-development activities throughout UN/CEFACT.

5. The TMG delivered two training sessions at the Kuala Lumpur Forum: one on core components, and the other on the UMM. Both sessions were well attended and well received.

II. PATH FORWARD OF ebXML BPSS

6. The TMG has processed ebXML BPSS v1.10 comments received from Canada, Sweden, and the United States. The TMG prepared the ebXML BPSS 1.11 considering all comments. The TMG assumes that OASIS shares UN/CEFACT's goal of a mutually supported ebXML BPSS version becoming an ISO 15000-series standard. Therefore, the TMG has reached out to the OASIS ebXML Business Process (ebBP) Technical Committee's leadership for the purpose of developing a single ebXML BPSS specification which is aligned with the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology (UMM). Both parties agree that formal discussions would best take place once an MoU between UN/CEFACT and OASIS is signed. In the meantime, the TMG has begun to consider what options may be most effective in achieving these objectives.

III. LIAISON

7. The International Trade and Business Processes Group (TBG) and TMG resolved to institute a joint ad-hoc group to be known as the Modellers Reference Initiative (MRI). The main idea of MRI is to address issues which appear to be constraining effective business modeller practices and processes, by initiating cross-working-group actions that stimulate, facilitate, and motivate the uptake of the UN/CEFACT modelling approach within industry and government sectors. For this the MRI created an environment promoting the two-way exchange of knowledge, ideas, and learnings between the TBG, TMG, and other groups as appropriate.

8. In the period prior to the 3rd-quarter 2005 UN/CEFACT forum, the MRI will initiate actions aimed at exposing and articulating the value proposition of the UN/CEFACT modelling approach to industry and government.

IV. TMG WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES

a. Architecture Working Group (AWG)

9. The TMG reaffirmed the value that a clearly articulated architecture brings by providing context to all UN/CEFACT work. Therefore the TMG resolved, at the Kuala Lumpur meeting, to reconstitute the working group and begin work immediately. The TMG selected Anders W. Tell (Sweden) as chairperson.

10. UN/CEFACT glossary is maintained by the TMG. No significant updates have been made recently. The AWG is considering options to best maintain and express glossary contents.

b. Business Process Working Group (BPWG)

11. The Business Process Working Group (BPWG) met the full week during the UN/CEFACT Forum meeting in Kuala Lumpur. The meeting enjoyed wide participation involving contributions from delegates coming from Taiwan, Austria, Australia, Sweden, USA, Belgium, Singapore, Malaysia, Canada, and Germany.

12. The BPWG focussed its work during the UN/CEFACT Forum meeting on the revision of the N091 UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology (UMM) Meta-Model Specification and on finishing the requirements document for the Business Collaboration Schema Specification (BCSS) project.

13. The goal of the N091 revision is to simplify the UMM Meta-Model according to the principals set out at the TMG Interim Meeting in Detroit 2004. The simplification will be achieved by separating the existing UMM Meta-Model into a foundation UMM functionality (UMM Foundation Module) which covers the most basic concepts to model collaborative business processes and optional Specialization Modules to extend the UMM Foundation Module with advanced modelling concepts to address additional viewpoints and requirements. The revision of the UMM Meta-Model includes the specification of a Specialization Module to allow the modelling of Core Component Technical Specification (CCTS) conformant information models based on Unified Modelling Language (UML) and a solution of how to integrate this functionality with the UMM Foundation Module. The work on the UMM Foundation Module and CCTS Specialization Module is approximately 80% finished but is not yet fully documented. The remaining time until the next TMG Interim Meeting in Walldorf in June 2005 will be used to finalize and document the mentioned modules and to release an initial working draft by the end of the Walldorf

meeting. The revision of the UMM Methodology (N093) will align the guidance of how to use the UMM with the revised UMM Meta-Model – a first version of this work will be discussed within TMG at the Interim Meeting in Walldorf.

14. The BCSS project has finished the requirements document during the Forum meeting and worked on the conceptual solution. The goal is to provide a solution enabling the exchange of (UMM Foundation and CCTS Specialization Module conformant) UML-models between different UML modelling tools. This includes the definition of an XML Metadata Interchange (XMI) based interchange format and a solution to validate interchanged models regarding their UMM Foundation and CCTS Specialization Module conformance. During the Forum meeting a strong link between the BCSS project and the N091 project has been established since the BCSS work is based on the specification of the UMM Foundation- and CCTS Specialization modules. An initial working draft of the BCSS Technical Specification will be finished by the next UN/CEFACT Forum meeting in Lyon.

15. The work on UBAC requirements, use case, and introduction documents has been completed. These artifacts are pending review by the Legal Group (LG) and subsequent approval.

c. Core Components Working Group (CCWG)

16. The CCWG met during the UN/CEFACT Forum in Kuala Lumpur.

17. Work on Core Components Technical Specifications (CCTS)

- The CCWG received 293 comments on CCTS 2.01.
- The CCWG categorized the comments and reviewed 146 of them in detail.
- The CCWG decided that the UMM and the CCTS should be aligned, that the details of such an alignment should be explained in a document separate from the CCTS, and that the TMG is most qualified to develop the document. Furthermore, the CCWG decided that the UMM metamodel and CCTS should be aligned.
- The CCWG decided that the UMM is not required for CCTS since some implementers are outside UN/CEFACT and/or don't use UML at all.
- The CCWG decided that the CCTS should support the UML constructs/concepts used in the UMM.
- The CCWG decided that the CCTS should align with ISO 11179 at the meta level, wherever possible. (*Alignment* in this case does not mean *conformance*.)

18. Work on Message Assembly

- Project proposal to be submitted on 13 April 2005.
- This project will start with UMM Message Assembly.
- Fifteen people have volunteered to participate.
- One possibility is that this work can be known as CCTS-Part 2.

V. SUMMARY

19. The TMG has enjoyed three consecutive highly productive face-to-face meetings and looks forward to continuing this trend at the next face-to-face meeting in Walldorf, Germany in June 2005. Completing the next versions of the CCTS and the UMM suite of specifications and supporting material is the foundation to all other UN/CEFACT work and therefore represents the TMG's primary focus. The Modeler's Reference Initiative illustrates the TMG's commitment to deliver techniques, methodologies, and related training that provide value to business domain experts. The TMG is committed to continually sharpening our focus and producing high-quality work products.

ANNEX: PROJECT LIST

Project	Group	Responsible	Status	Priority	Est. Date
Electronic Business Architecture Specification	EBAWG	Tell	ODP=2	middle	End Q4/05
Glossary	EBAWG	Wilson	ongoing	low	N/A
UMM N090 – Introduction	BPWG	Huemer	ongoing	middle	End Q4/05
UMM N091 – Metamodel and Specification	BPWG	Huemer	ODP=3	very high	End Q3/05
UMM N092 – Methodology and Specification	BPWG	Dietrich	ODP=3	high	End Q3/05
UMM N093 – User Guide	BPWG	McCarthy	First draft	high	End Q4/05
CCTS Part 1 – Metamodel + Methodology	CCWG	Blantz	ODP=2	high	End Q3/05
CCTS Part 2 – Message Assembly (working title)	CCWG	Blantz	ODP=1	high	End Q2/05
CCTS Part 3 – User Guide	CCWG	Blantz	Maint.	low	End Q4/05
UBAC – Metamodel and Specification	UBAC	Tell	ODP=2	middle	End Q4/05
BCSS – Specification	BCSS	Capell	ODP=3	very high	End Q3/05
BPSS V1.1 – Specification	BPSS	Hsia	ODP=6	high	End Q2/05

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