

**The Future of Indian Mobile**  
**February 7-11, 2008**  
**Kovalam and New Delhi, India**



In February 2008, industry executives from the US, India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka met with government officials, researchers and other policy-makers in the third annual Joint Conference on Communications Policy between Aspen India and Aspen Institute USA's Communications and Society Program.

At a three-day meeting in Kovalam, India, participants hammered out recommendations for improving the Indian mobile industry infrastructure and spectrum use, roles for government (which included both a strong use of the new mobile media for m-governance as well as light touch regulation), and non-governmental recommendations for a new m-currency which could be used as a way of transferring money, goods and services, particularly in rural areas. Among the participants was Nripendra Misra, chairman of the Indian telecom regulatory agency, TRAI.

Subsequently, the group met in Delhi to present their recommendations to Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Indian Planning Commission (which is chaired by the Prime Minister), Madhavan Nambiar, the Special Secretary of Communications and Information Technology on e-government, and Nikhil Kumar, the Chairman and seven members of the Parliamentary Committee on Information Technology. The senior sponsors of this meeting were ATT, Cisco, Credit Suisse and Qualcomm; sponsors were Intel, Google, Motorola, Vodafone-Essar, and Bharti Airtel.

**Participants**

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