



OPENING REMARKS

By

Mr. Toshiyuki Yamada
Secretary General, Asia Pacific Telecommunity

H.E. Mr. Reza Taghipour, Minister of Information and Communication Technologies, Islamic Republic of Iran

H.E. Mr. Mahammad Karampour, President, Communication Regulatory Authority, Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Director Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, International Telecommunication Union

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 12th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators Council, held in this historical city of Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

We are extremely honored to have H.E. Mr. Reza Taghipour, Minister of Information and Communication Technologies of the Islamic Republic of Iran to grace this ceremony. On behalf of APT and all the participants, I would like to convey our deep appreciation and thanks to you.

I am also delighted to have Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Director TSB of the ITU to be present in this ceremony supporting our meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our host, the Ministry of the Information and Communication Technologies and the Communication Regulatory Authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran have made tremendous efforts in organizing this meeting. I would like to express my deep appreciation and sincerest gratitude to our host, for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting

Dear delegates,

SATRC has been a platform for regulators in the South Asia to discuss, network and cooperate on important telecommunication and ICT related issues. It is important to acknowledge the fact that the ministries and the regulators have a prime responsibility to facilitate and direct the telecommunication and ICT sector. Their decisions and their actions would decide the fate of the industry. Every policy decision or regulatory intervention has many repercussions to the telecom industry, ultimately to the end users. Therefore, it is necessary to learn from each other of the experiences and the best practices of regulating the industry. SATRC has been the platform for this effort.

This is the 12th Meeting of the SATRC. Since its inception in 1997, the SATRC has been active in discussing the regulatory issues of the South Asian Region. During this period, many changes have been made to the working methods and structure of the SATRC activities in order to strengthen the SATRC. I believe we have made reasonable progress in realizing the significance of SATRC to the South Asian region.

You will recall in the last SATRC Meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the council adopted SATRC Action Plan Phase III for the duration from 2010 to 2011. Three working groups were established to discuss on issues of Policy and Regulation, Spectrum, and Network & services. The capacity building was to continue through the workshops.

I am pleased to note that the three working groups met in 2010 and decided on their schedule of work. In addition a workshop on spectrum was held in 2010. I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the host countries that have facilitated those events in 2010. For 2011 we will be continuing the activities with the plan to have three working group meetings and two workshops.

Whilst I am pleased to note good progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan, there are many areas that need to be improved. The successful implementation of the action plan depends greatly on the interest, commitment and support that the members give to the SATRC.

Ladies and gentlemen,

There have been global initiatives to push the broadband communications to the next level of development where the broadband network infrastructure and services to be made available to the wider population including the rural areas. Emphasis is made on the enabling environment for investment and the convergence of technologies and services. Regulatory environment that is transparent, predictable and moving towards technology neutral – converged licensing schemes seems to be a prerequisite in this regard.

For the industry in our region, there are some pressing issues, as it was expressed in the Industry Dialogue in the previous SATRC meetings. Some of these include; unpredictability of the license renewal, the limited access to the scarce resources and the high taxation in some economies. I believe every country has its own unique requirements, and are definitely working their best to help the industry. I am sure during this meeting we will hear many good initiatives that have been taken by the governments and the regulators to improve these situations and the telecom environment in the region.

Looking at the Asia-Pacific region, you will recall the Ministerial Meeting in Bali 2009, emphasized the importance for the Asia-Pacific to embrace the benefits of the broadband

technology and services and made specific action plan for the regional collaboration towards a broadband economy.

I realize many of the actions and items for consideration by the working groups and also the discussions during this SATRC meeting includes topics that are within the scope of the Bali Plan of Action. However, what is important is to achieve good progress towards realizing those objectives. I am sure your good efforts will make SATRC more productive with tangible outputs for the best interest of the region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before I conclude, may I once again thank the Minister for taking time to be with us in this opening ceremony of the 12th SATRC meeting, and also to our host for the excellent preparations.

I wish you all a successful meeting.

Thank you.
