

**Fifteenth Meeting of the Regional Interagency Working Group  
on  
Information and Communication Technologies  
UNCC Bangkok**

**Mr. Xuan Zengpei, Director, IDD, ESCAP**

**Ms. Eun-Ju Kim, Head, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

**Distinguished Delegates**

**Good morning to you all. I am very pleased to be representing APT at this meeting and would like to welcome you all to Fifteenth Meeting of the Regional Interagency Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies on behalf of APT. I would also like to thank UNESCAP for hosting this meeting and providing the excellent meeting facilities.**

**Disasters are a common experience in the Asia Pacific region and the effects are felt by everyone from the large businesses and the private sector to the general public. The effects can also be long lasting as especially the people from Bangkok are able to attest as they are trying to cope with the worst flooding in 50 years. There is nothing like practical experience and hardship to make you really appreciate the need for appropriate disaster management.**

**As with any disaster management activity, communications plays a vital role and APT fully supports joint efforts and cooperation between interagency partners to reduce the effects of natural and manmade disasters.**

**APT held a Disaster Management/Communications workshop in 2010 and held another workshop during September this year in Tokyo Japan. The workshop in Japan was particularly informative with**

presentations on the lessons learnt from the recent Great East Earthquake and Tsunami. APT plans to organise another Disaster Management Workshop *next* this year and that is tentatively planned for July. Everyone is welcome to attend and contributions appreciated.

APT will also organise its 9<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Telecommunication and ICT Development Forum in June 2012 and contribution to this Forum are also welcome.

Thank you for your attention.