

Secretary General
Asia-Pacific Telecommunity

**Welcome Address
Satellite Connectivity Workshop 2017**

Mr. Charles Punaha, Chairman of the APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific,

Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bula and Good morning to all of you!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the Satellite Connectivity Workshop 2017 here in Nadi, Fiji.

First of all, on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Communication of Fiji for the kind and generous arrangement in hosting this Workshop.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Satellite Operators and Organizations who have tremendously contributed to organize this Satellite Connectivity Workshop.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the 9th APT Policy and Regulation for Pacific (PRFP-9) held last year in Papua New Guinea, there had been a request to have future discussion focusing on issues such as submarine or satellite connectivity, universal access, disaster communication, and spectrum management. It was also suggested to spend one full day to have an in-depth discussion for one issue.

With such background, APT Secretariat has worked with the Affiliate Members of the APT to organize a workshop as side event to the PRFP, a regular APT work programme, with focus on a specific issue. This year, we start with the satellite issue.

Satellite plays an important role for connectivity especially for the Pacific Islands. It can be used to provide essential connectivity such as for international life long communications, backhaul and universal access, for public safety/disaster recovery, and for e-inclusion such as e-health and e-education.

The workshop is aimed at providing information on available opportunities of connectivity via satellite particularly in the Pacific, and bringing to the attention of the participants of the satellite spectrum issues, as well as new innovations in the new satellite technologies and services in the Pacific.

The programme for this Workshop includes a number of interesting topics such as Satellites for providing essential connectivity in the Pacific, new Satellite technology and services in the Pacific, innovations in satellite technology, facilitating better diffusion and broader use of satellite technologies and services, and satellite spectrum issues at the ITU World Radio communication Conference.

I am pleased to learn that this Workshop has brought various satellite operators together. I believe intensive effort and coordination have been put forward to make this happen, so I would like to congratulate the organizers, including SES Sky, for its success.

I do wish all the participants find this Workshop useful so that APT Secretariat could explore more possibility to organize this kind of side event to APT work programme on other topics in the future.

Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Communications of Fiji once again, for kindly hosting this workshop and for the excellent arrangement and warm hospitality extended to all of us.

I would also like to sincerely thank again the satellite industry for bringing many experts to give presentations and take part in the discussions.

I wish you all have a successful Workshop and enjoy your stay in Nadi.

Thank you.