

## **16<sup>th</sup> APT ASTAP Forum**

**Opening Address by Mr. Toshiyuki YAMADA  
Secretary General  
Asia-Pacific Telecommunity**

**Dr. Seyed Mostafa Safavi Hemami, Chairman of ASTAP and Study Groups**

**Mr. Lau Si Io, Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Macao, China**

**Mr. Tou Veng Keong, Director of Bureau of Telecommunications Regulation**

**Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

**Good Morning and welcome to the sixteenth APT Standardization Program Forum here in the dynamic city of Macao.**

**Firstly I would like to thank DSRT, Bureau of Telecommunication Regulation of Macau, for excellent preparations for hosting ASTAP and Study Group meetings in the vibrant city of Macau. I am extremely grateful for the wonderful facilities and the professional works they have done for the smooth running of the meeting. I would also like to thank the sponsors, namely CTM, Smartone Mobile Communications, Hutchison Telephone Macau and China Telecom Macau for their generous support.**

**My thanks also go to the office bearers including Vice Chairmen and rapporteurs of ASTAP and Study Groups as well as speakers in the Workshop for their contributions to the meetings.**

**ASTAP meeting is normally held every 9 months so this year, we have two ASTAP meetings. The first was held in Bangkok in March of this year.**

**Since its early beginnings, APT has been a key player in telecommunication and ICT development in the Asia Pacific region. APT works closely with its members towards maximizing the benefits of telecommunications and information technology and services for the social and economic welfare of its members and the people of the region.**

**As you may already know, the 1<sup>st</sup> of July this year marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of APT. APT was established by the visionary people in 1979 with five key objectives. One of these objectives was “To foster co-ordination within the region of technical standards and routing plans”. So even back in 1979, standardization was an important issue.**

**From this early beginning, the current ASTAP forum was established in 1999 – ten years ago. The past ten years have seen tremendous progress and the process has**

**not stopped. Now ASTAP is taking another step for the development. The 15<sup>th</sup> ASTAP meeting established an Ad-hoc group to harmonize ASTAP and the Study Groups programs and they are working on a possible new structure for the integration of ASTAP and the Study Group programs. The intention of this integration is to seek greater efficiency and a more effective use of resources within the APT family of its members.**

**After review by this forum, the Ad-hoc group report and its subsequent recommendations will be sent to the forthcoming APT Management Committee, which will be held in Iran during December 2009, for its consideration.**

**Another initiative to widen the participation at ASTAP forums was the Industry Workshop that was held yesterday. The private sector has always been considered to be very important for the development of the infrastructure for telecommunications and ICT and therefore the Industry Workshop sought ideas from members to promote greater involvement of the APT Affiliate members in ASTAP activities. The report from this Workshop will be reviewed by this forum and recommendations considered.**

**I request that you all participate actively in the meeting and work together for a productive outcome.**

**Thank you**