



Ms Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity

WELCOME REMARKS

Dr Chae-Sub Lee, Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, International Telecommunication Union

Dr Seyed Mostafa Safavi, Chairman of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-12

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to welcome you all again to the 1st APT Preparatory Group Meeting for WTSA-16. Those who have just arrived in Bangkok for this meeting I am glad to invite you in this beautiful city of Bangkok.

For the new comer I would like to introduce myself first. I am Areewan Haorangsi, the Secretary General of APT elected at the 13th Session of the General Assembly of APT November last year in Myanmar. I have taken the office from 09 February 2015.

We are fortunate to have Dr Chae-sub Lee, Director of the TSB, ITU for this 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-16. We also have a number of office bearers from different groups ITU-T. It really showed the interest to the preparatory activities of APT for coming WTSA-16.

Dear Delegates,

The year 2014 was a special year for the APT. Two high level events took place to set the guidance and direction for APT as an inter-governmental organization.

The first event was the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting on “Building Smart Digital Economy through ICT” which was held from 10 to 11 September 2014 in Brunei Darussalam. Total 27 Ministers, Vice Ministers and Deputy Ministers from APT Members gathered together to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the APT and set a high level guidelines and commitments for the APT. The Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting adopted the Brunei Darussalam Statement to emphasize to work collectively with all stakeholders within the ICT sector including cross-sector engagement to implement six key priority areas in order to build a smart digital economy in the Asia-Pacific region.

The second important event of 2014 was the 13th Session of the General Assembly of the APT. The General Assembly adopted the Strategic Plan of the APT for the Period 2015-2017. The Strategic Plan followed the six key priority areas of the Brunei Darussalam Statement and identified eight main work items for the APT Work Programme for the year 2015-2017.

Through the APT Work Programs for the year 2015-2017, the APT will provide necessary assistance, arrange discussions at forums on specific issues identified in the Brunei Darussalam Statement, promote dialogue between industry, regulators and policy makers, facilitate investment in broadband infrastructure, build capacity of human resources and strengthen regional cooperation and coordination.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Regional Cooperation for ICT Development is one of the priority areas identified in the Brunei Darussalam Statement and elaborated in the Strategic Plan of APT for 2015 – 2017. *‘Enhance closer cooperation in the region to consolidate regional views on ICT issues including the preparation for mainly ITU conferences and assemblies’* has been considered as one of the strategic actions in the Strategic Plan.

APT has given a lot of importance for the preparatory works of the major ITU Conferences. APT Management Committee has established Work Programs for the preparation of PP, WRC, WTSA and WTDC.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2016 (WTSA-16) will be held at the 4th quarter of 2016. This meeting is the initiation of the preparatory works of APT for the preparation of WTSA-16. In this meeting we’ll form the structure of the preparatory group, nominate office bearers of the preparatory group and adopt the working method and develop work plan for the preparation of WTSA-16.

Distinguished Delegates,

The work of the APT Preparatory Groups is driven by the input contributions by APT Members. Without contributions it is extremely difficult to identify important issues and preparing draft proposals that would correctly reflect the view of the region. The role of office bearers is also very important to facilitate and assist the work of the preparatory group. Hence, it is important to have office bearers who are real expert in the work of WTSA. We’ll have about four preparatory meetings before WTSA-16. It is important that for successful preparation the participation of all APT Members and office bearers participate actively in those preparatory meetings. Apt Secretariat will provide all facilities to accelerate the work of the preparation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Most of you attended the ASTAP-25 meeting during last 5 days. ASTAP-25 meeting was indeed successful to develop good outcomes. It was the first ASTAP meeting after the restructure of ASTAP. I hope it had work efficiently than before. I thank ASTAP office bearers to work efficiently. In future ASTAP can provide inputs to the WTSA-16 preparatory groups.

Dear Delegates

The preparation of WTSA-12 was very much successful. I would like to thank the office bearers of the preparatory group for WTSA-12 for their good efforts and hard works. I hope the new leadership that will be elected at this meeting will lead the preparatory group to have a good preparation for WTSA-16 and uphold the regional interest at WTSA-16 and other related activities related to WTSA.

Finally, I hope for a very good outcome at this meeting.

Have a good stay in Bangkok.
