



Secretary General

Welcome Address

Ms. Areewan Haorangsi
Secretary General, APT

Honourable Jimmy Miringtoro, Minister for Communication and Information Technology,
Papua New Guinea,

Mr. Charles Punaha, Chief Executive Officer, National Information and Communications
Technology Authority, Papua New Guinea, and Chairman of the APT Policy and
Regulation Forum for Pacific,

Distinguished Guests and Speakers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and very warm greeting to you all.

It is my great pleasure and honour to welcome all of you to the 9th APT Policy and Regulation
Forum for Pacific (PRFP-9) here in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

First of all, let me take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to Honourable Jimmy
Miringtoro, Minister for Communication and Information Technology of Papua New Guinea,
for graciously agreeing to preside over this Opening Ceremony. It is a great honour and
privilege for the APT and all delegates that Your Honourable is here with us today.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the APT and
participants here to the National Information and Communication Technology Authority
(NICTA) for hosting this important forum and for the excellent arrangement made by its able
officials. This is the first PRFP in Port Moresby. In fact, this is the first APT event in Papua
New Guinea. I do hope there will be more APT events in this country.

My grateful thanks also go to the Department of Communications, Australian Government, and
the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan, which have also
provided the support for this forum.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As an important high-level event devoted to the interests of its members in the Pacific, PRFP
brings together policy makers, regulators, industry, and international organization to network,
interact, and coordinates issues that are of common interest to the Pacific region.

The APT is committed to supporting the Pacific through this Forum and through development
projects. I would like to mention that in 2005, TeleHausline pilot project was conducted in

Papua New Guinea. In 2008, 2 projects were implemented in Micronesia and Samoa. There was one project in Marshall Islands in 2010 and another project in Palau in 2011. In 2012, a pilot project for e-disaster communication network in rural island environment was in Tonga. And the most recent one was the pilot project on Disaster Emergency Information Dissemination in Vanuatu in 2014. I am confident there will be more and more development projects in the Pacific.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we are aware, the policy and regulatory issues faced by the Pacific are unique. This region requires its own platform to deal with issues including international connectivity for the Pacific Islands, cybersecurity and internet policy, emergency communications and ICT for disaster risk reduction, and sharing infrastructure in the Pacific, to name a few.

The programme for this year includes a number of interesting presentations from APT Members and sharing of international experts' views on some of unique issues in telecommunications development for the Pacific. The APT is also collaborating with ITU on projects in the Pacific and I appreciate the support for this forum, which we have received from ITU, particularly its regional office in Bangkok. The Closed Regulators Session is scheduled for tomorrow afternoon, and there will be a panel discussion at the end of the forum to discuss the future outlook for the activities of PRFP.

The 39th Session of the Management Committee of the APT last year made some decisions that are relevant to PRFP. Hence the outcomes of MC-39 will be presented for your information and further action.

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope this Forum will provide you further insight on the regulatory issues of the region and hopefully sharing the views and experiences of each other will enable you to positively contribute to the regulatory issues in your home countries.

Before I conclude, let me once again extend my sincere gratitude to Honorable Jimmy Miringtoro, Minister for Communication and Information Technology of Papua New Guinea, for being with us today and to our host, the National Information and Communication Technology Authority (NICTA) for the excellent preparations and for the warm hospitality extended to us.

I wish you all a productive and successful meeting and enjoy your time in Papua New Guinea.

Thank you.