



Secretary General

WELCOME ADDRESS

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you once again to this 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (APT PP18-1). I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Kingdom of Thailand for hosting this meeting.

The official opening of this meeting had been done at the same time with the 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17 (APT WTDC17-3) on Monday, 5 June by His Excellency Dr Pichet Durongkaveroj, Minister of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand.

Many of you are continuing from the APT WTDC17-3. But some have just joined for attending today's meeting.

Distinguished Delegates,

ITU Plenipotentiary Conference or PP is the top policy-making body of ITU which meets every four years. The Conference, among other tasks:

- sets the Union's general policies,
- adopts four-year strategic and financial plans, and
- elects the senior management team of the organization, the members of ITU Council and the members of the Radio Regulations Board.

As you know, PP-18 will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 29 October to 16 November 2018. Considering the timeframe, it is important for our region to initiate the purposes of the preparation for PP-18 right now.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

APT preparatory process is a member-driven activity. The preparatory meetings will be propelled by the contributions from the members. The meetings provide the necessary coordination platform for the APT members to discuss and align their views and thoughts so that coordinated outputs are generated from the meetings. The APT Common Proposals so developed are the results of excellent spirit of cooperation and fruitful negotiations that go along within the preparatory meetings.

Looking back to the previous cycle, I am very pleased to note that APT preparations for PP-14 were well received with good results on the proposals made by the Asia-Pacific countries. APT submitted a total of 23 APT Common Proposals to PP-14 on behalf of its Members.

Today, we are starting the new cycle for the preparation for PP-18. One of the main tasks of this first meeting is to establish the structure of the Preparatory Group, elect the leadership of the Group and develop a workplan of the preparation for PP-18. I am very glad to see the good interest of APT members in this meeting.

Distinguished Delegates,

The process of preparation for PP-18 is very much important. As I mentioned earlier, Plenipotentiary Conference is the top policy making body of ITU which guides the overall policy, finance and operation of ITU. Hence, it is important for all ITU Member States.

Asia-Pacific region constitutes a major part of ITU. Asia-Pacific is a part of ITU Region E which is composed of 50 Member States, of which 37 are APT Members. Asia-Pacific region comprises the most advanced ICT nations in the world as well as many least developed countries and small island developing countries. Therefore, the needs for ICT development in this region are very much diverse.

This divergence gives opportunity for APT to coordinate the views of its Members on the issues concerning international ICT and telecommunication development. While it comes to the issues of the overall policy, operation and finance of ITU, it is utmost important that the Asia-Pacific regional interests and stakes are well balanced in the operation of ITU. This is why the preparation for PP-18 is very important.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last but not least, I am very hopeful that APT Members will continue to be active and provide necessary inputs to the APT preparatory work. APT Secretariat will continue to improve its preparatory processes to ITU conferences in order to provide more value to its members. We will need to work closely with ITU getting support and expertise as required for the APT members to prepare and provide valuable contributions to the conferences.

I would like to ensure full support from the APT Secretariat throughout the whole preparatory period. I hope this meeting will be a successful kick-start of the preparation for PP-18.

Thank You.