



Secretary General

WELCOME ADDRESS

Your Excellency Dr. Pichet Durongkaveroj, Minister of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand

Mr. Charles Punaha, Chairman of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17,

Mr. Kishore Babu and Mr. Mutsuharu Nakajima, Vice-Chairmen of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17) and the 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (PP-18) in Bangkok, Thailand.

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and all delegates here, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to our host, the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand for the excellent arrangements for the meetings and the warm hospitality extended to us all.

Let me also express my heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency Dr. Pichet Durongkaveroj, Minister of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand for taking time from the busy schedule to preside over the opening ceremony of these events. It is a great honour for us all.

Distinguished Delegates,

In preparing for the WTDC-17 to be taken place in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October this year, APT had established this Preparatory Group to discuss issues of regional concerns that needed to be addressed in the World Conference and to develop regional common proposals for submission to the World Conference. We planned to have 4 meetings for the preparation process.

I would like to refer what this Group had accomplished in the last two meetings. The 1st Meeting of the Group started last year in Singapore to establish the structure of the Group and select its office bearers. The 2nd Meeting of this Group was held in February this year in Papua New Guinea. The meeting discussed a number of contributions from APT Members and agreed to

develop APT View on Draft Regional Initiatives for the Asia and the Pacific Region to be submitted to the ITU Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17 for Asia and the Pacific (RPM-ASP) held in Bali, Indonesia in March. It was our intention to have our 2nd meeting before the RPM-ASP so that we could prepare our position and contribute to the RPM.

I am very pleased to report here that in the RPM, the “APT view on Draft Regional Initiatives for the Asia and the Pacific region” was introduced by Mr. Joseph McCarroll from Australia on behalf of the APT. There were also other contributions. Therefore, the Ad-Hoc Group on the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives was convened to work on a consolidated contribution on the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives to the RPM-ASP.

The Ad-Hoc Group chaired by Dr. Ahmad Reza Sharafat, Vice-Chairman, RPM-ASP discussed the contributions made to the RPM-ASP on regional initiatives and developed further details on the Expected Results of the five Regional Initiatives proposed by APT and decided to continue its work through the APT preparatory process for submission to WTDC-17. The report of the Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Group was presented to the Plenary of the RPM, which approved the report and agreed to use it as the basis for continuing work towards developing a consolidated contribution from the region.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of you and in particular the office bearers of the Group for the hard work in our preparatory meeting, in the drafting sessions, and in the RPM. Congratulations!

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

For this third meeting, I am very pleased to note that there are quite a number of contributions from APT Members. I hope that this meeting will be able to agree on certain number of candidates for Preliminary APT Common Proposals.

The APT Preparatory Meetings are platforms for APT Members to prepare for the ITU Conferences. It is driven by the Members and the issues and proposals discussed are based on the contributions from the Members. It is essential that the output of this preparatory process reflects the needs and interests of the region. No doubt there will be different opinions, different needs and different priorities as the Asia-Pacific region is so diverse. However, what is important is to be able to discuss the proposals fairly and frankly and try to consolidate as well as to compromise if needed our positions for the requirement of the region as a whole.

In addition, at this meeting, we will also discuss and provide regional coordination for the nomination of chairmen and vice-chairmen of ITU Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and ITU-D Study Groups. This emphasizes the value of APT as a regional platform for collaboration and coordination among APT members.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to mention that, following this meeting, APT will organize the 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for PP-18 on Thursday, 8 June. This will be a starting point of the preparation for one of the most important ITU conferences in the year to come, ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (PP-18). I will address it more on Thursday.

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, may I once again extend my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Dr Pichet Durongkaveroj, Minister of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand for being with us today. My special thanks go to the officials and staff of the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, for the excellent facilities and preparation.

Lastly, I sincerely thank you all, the distinguished delegates, office bearers of the APT WTDC-17 and all participants from Asia-Pacific region, other international and regional organizations for attending this important meeting.

I wish you all very successful deliberations.

Thank you.