



Secretary General

WELCOME ADDRESS

Mr. Shivnesh Prasad, Representative of Ministry of Communication of Fiji,
Mr. Charles Punaha, Chairman of PRFP,
Mr. Shivnesh Prasad and Ms. Unutoa Fonoti, Vice-Chairmen of PRFP,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bula Vinaka and a very warm greeting to you all from the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity!

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 10th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-10) here in Nadi, Fiji. I am pleased to be back here again in Nadi after our Management Committee meeting that was also held in Nadi last year.

On behalf of all delegates and the APT Secretariat, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our host, Ministry of Communications of Fiji, for the kind offer to host this important Forum and for the excellent arrangement and warm hospitality extended to all of us.

My grateful thanks also go to the Department of Communications and the Arts, Australian Government, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan, for providing fellowship support for this Forum.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since its first meeting as the Telecommunication ICT Policy and Regulation Meeting for Pacific in Auckland, New Zealand in 2007, the APT Policy and Regulation Forum for the Pacific (PRFP) continues to grow every year. PRFP is now in its 10th year and has become a premium event for policy makers and regulators in the Pacific. This indicates its value to APT Members and APT is committed to support the Pacific through this Forum.

Last year, the 40th Session of the Management Committee of the APT (MC-40) held in Fiji last year made some decisions that are relevant to PRFP. Hence the outcomes of MC-40 will be presented for your information and further action.

MC-40 also established a Correspondence Group on the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 (CGSP) to develop a draft new Strategic Plan after considering inputs from all stakeholders of APT. CGSP had its first meeting in February this year and identified five Strategic Pillars. The APT Secretariat is currently preparing the draft Strategic Plan which will be submitted for consideration and adoption by the 14th Session of the General Assembly of the APT (GA-14) to be held in the fourth quarter this year. In this connection, I would suggest PRFP to provide inputs for the Strategic Plan.

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to note that we have more than 80 registered participants at this PRFP. No doubt that PRFP is a significant platform to deal with unique issues faced by the Pacific. We will have full 3-day meeting with a number of eminent speakers and experts contributing to the rich content of the programme.

Last year, PRFP had a fruitful discussion on Over-the-Top (OTT) issues and we will continue to explore more about it this year. Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity are also important issues. This year we had a special event for Satellite Workshop which was held yesterday. Spectrum, as an invisible infrastructure, is a scarce resource and Spectrum Management is also an important issue so we will discuss the challenges for the Pacific.

I would like to thank those speakers from various international and regional organizations as well as from industry sector. APT is also collaborating with ITU on projects in the Pacific and I take this opportunity to extend my appreciation for their support toward PRFP-10.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the APT Frequency Information System or AFIS is now ready for use. APT will introduce AFIS at this Forum. The AFIS system will be of particular help to the members whose telecommunications development has not yet been at an advanced stage. It offers a fast track to a computerized national spectrum management system. It could provide a solid basis for a complimentary system designed to provide more details as national spectrum management needs have increased. A number of APT Members already expressed their interest to the APT Secretariat to implement AFIS. APT will assist our Members by providing training for using AFIS.

Another point I would like to mention is that International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated on the 4th Thursday of April every year. This year, it will be on 27 April. PRFP-10 therefore will have a special session on 27 April to celebrate International Girls in ICT Day.

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my sincere thanks once again to Ministry of Communication of Fiji for hosting this PRFP-10.

I take this opportunity to thank Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of PRFP for their kind support and coordination for this forum.

I hope that this Forum will provide you with further insight into the policy and regulatory issues of the Pacific and that sharing views and experiences of each other will enable you to positively contribute to the regulatory regime in your home country. APT Secretariat will do our best to ensure the smooth running of the Forum and to assist your participation.

I wish you all a successful Forum and enjoy your stay in Nadi.

Thank you.