



Secretary General

**WELCOME ADDRESS**

Your Excellency Dr. Phan Tam, Vice Minister of Information and Communications, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam,

Ms. Nur Sulyna Abdullah, Chairman of the APT Preparatory Group for ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (APT PP-18),

Dr. Chaesub Lee, Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, International Telecommunication Union (ITU),

Mr. Guolei Cai, and Mr. Hisazumi Shirae, Vice-Chairmen of APT PP-18,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning to you all !

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (APT PP18-2) here in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and all delegates, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to Your Excellency Dr. Phan Tam, Vice Minister of Information and Communications for accepting to deliver an inaugural address at this meeting. It is a great honour for us all.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Information and Communications, Viet Nam for the excellent arrangements in hosting this meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to us all.

I would also like to thank Dr Chaesub Lee, TSB Director who came all the way from Geneva and present here at this important meeting.

Distinguished delegates,

The 14th Session of the General Assembly of the APT (GA-14) held in Bangkok last year adopted the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 which serves as the guideline for APT's activities for this 3-year period. One of the Strategic Pillars is "Partnership" where one of its objectives is to take the lead role in shaping the development agenda and consolidating regional views on ICT issues.

With this objective, APT continues to provide members with opportunities to develop agenda of interest to members and to consolidate regional view in preparation for ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings. APT also explores the possibility of consolidating regional views on

topical issues as they arise through various APT Preparatory Groups, including this APT Preparatory Group for PP-18.

Ladies and gentlemen,

APT's preparation process for PP-18 in the form of regional preparatory meetings started last June in Thailand.

The 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for PP-18 established the structure of the Group and selected the office bearers of the Group. This year, there are three (3) more meetings of the APT Preparatory Group for PP-18 including this meeting.

Apart from this Second Meeting in Viet Nam, the Third and the Fourth Meetings of the APT Preparatory Group for PP-18 are scheduled to be held in Melbourne, Australia and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in June and August, respectively. Besides these three meetings, additional meeting of this Group has been planned to be held in Dubai three days prior to the commencement of the PP-18.

Distinguished delegates,

The importance and the role of regional organizations are increasing for the preparation of major ITU Conferences. APT has been trying to contribute to the success of ITU Conferences by submitting a number of common proposals. I recall that at PP-14 in Busan, APT submitted 31 Common Proposals reflecting the regional interest. APT's role in the WTDC-2017 last year was also well recognized.

I would like to emphasize that the APT preparatory process is driven by the contributions of the Members. The objective of the APT preparatory meetings is to coordinate and consolidate the issues of the region before proposals are submitted to World Conference. However, it is not the necessary to have as many proposals as we can. It is more important to concentrate on important issues for the region and to prepare well-coordinated and consolidated proposals with as many signatory countries as possible. I am very glad to see a number of contributions from APT Members to this meeting. I hope the same level of cooperation, active participation and high spirit for consolidation will continue in this preparatory cycle to lead us towards another achievement of our region at PP-18.

This meeting in Hanoi is also encouraged to identify the issues of regional concern and suggestion to be submitted to 2018 Session of the Council which will be held from 18 to 27 April this year in Geneva, Switzerland. I sincerely hope all delegates will give your support and cooperation to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Chairmen of the Working Groups for a very fruitful discussion and positive conclusions of this meeting.

I am glad to note the support of the ITU to our work in preparing for the conferences. I am also glad to see the representatives of ATU, CITELE and RCC in this meeting. It is important to learn from each other on the preparations of other regions. I thank to ITU, Arab Group, ATU, CITELE and RCC for sharing information on their preparation for PP-18 to the meeting.

This year, we had organized a Workshop on Preparation for ITU PP-18, which was held yesterday. It was expected to help create common understanding among all participants for the smooth running of the Preparatory Meetings. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank again to Dr Chaesub Lee, TSB Director, ITU and Mrs. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Chief, Strategic

Planning and Membership, ITU, for sharing issues from previous ITU Conferences, Assemblies, and others including issues at the ITU Council and its Working Groups; and to Ms. Caroline Greenway, a consultant of APT for being an excellent facilitator and sharing her insights to the meeting. I would also like to thank the Chairman of APT PP-18, Ms. Nur Sulyna Abdullah for facilitating the last session of the Workshop. My grateful thanks also go to the Department of Communications and the Arts, Australian Government, for sponsoring the Workshop and to Ministry of Information and Communication, Viet Nam for hosting the Workshop.

Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, may I once again extend my sincere gratitude to Your Excellency Dr. Phan Tam, Vice Minister of Information and Communications for being with us today. My special thanks go to the officials and staff of the Ministry of Information and Communications, Viet Nam for the excellent facilities and preparation.

Last but not least, I sincerely thank you all, the distinguished delegates, office bearers of APT PP-18 and all participants from Asia-Pacific region, other international and regional organizations for attending this important meeting. Please also be assured that APT Secretariat will provide full assistance and support for your work.

I wish you all very successful deliberations.

Thank you.