



**Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Strengthening  
Regional Collaboration towards Broadband Economy  
12-13 November 2009, Bali, Indonesia**



**WELCOME ADDRESS**

by

Mr. Toshiyuki Yamada

Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity

Your Excellency Mr. Tifatul Sembiring, Minister of Communication and Information Technology of Indonesia

Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré, Secretary General of International Telecommunication Union

Mr. Leroy F. Hollenbeck, Director of CAPSA, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, it is indeed a great pleasure and privilege for me to welcome you all to the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Strengthening Regional Collaboration towards Broadband Economy.

We are deeply honored by your presence at this memorable occasion, and our sincere thanks and gratitude for taking your time to be with us in this auspicious gathering in spite of your other important engagements. Excellencies, your presence here with us today is a demonstration of your continued support and commitment to APT. It has given us great encouragement and strength while we prepare for the next phase of ICT development in the region, "the Broadband Economy". I thank you for your patronage.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank our gracious host, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of the Republic of Indonesia, for choosing this exotic venue for this memorable occasion and making excellent arrangements for the meeting for all of us. Indonesian's hospitality is well known for the kindness and open heart to your friends and those who visited your country. I thank you Minister, and all the officials who have worked tirelessly for the arrangements of this meeting.

This meeting is particularly important for APT who celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Not only is this meeting and topics timely, but this meeting also reinforces the significance for APT and its functions. We will not mention all the achievements of APT, but APT has prepared a memento book for you to read at your leisure. This book highlights some of APT's achievements over the past 30 years and I hope you find this book interesting.

Excellencies,

It has been five years since we last met in Bangkok, to celebrate the Silver Jubilee. There we agreed on the Bangkok Agenda for Broadband and ICT Development. The Bangkok Agenda provided the direction towards enhancing Broadband and ICT Development in the Asia-Pacific region. It also reaffirmed APT's commitment to WSIS Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action.

We are grateful to you for actively implementing the Bangkok Agenda and for the support and cooperation that you have provided to the APT in carrying out its role to achieve the Bangkok Agenda. I am pleased to note the progress we have made in the region since then in promoting the Broadband and ICT and in accelerating the growth of the Information Society.

Today, five years later, we are meeting again to look back our achievements and to inscribe new developments goals and new regional initiatives to push the Asia-Pacific region towards new heights in ICT Development – the Asia-Pacific Broadband Economy.

Excellencies, Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is clearly visible that information and communication technology (ICT) is one of the main driving forces of the process of development of the world economy. As a region we need to make every effort to keep up the competitive advantage of our region.

We are already seeing the importance attached by many governments to broadband infrastructure and services. Some governments have taken active steps by initiating nationwide broadband network in addition to facilitating broadband development to respond to the need of the industry. In addition to the Government's leadership as a user and promoter of broadband, its role in ensuring a competitive market structure is critical for attracting the necessary investment for the development of broadband.

Broadband also has important impact in the modern day's life with more and more bandwidth hungry applications being developed. Broadband has enabled many of the e-services and e-applications that could help improve the well-being of the people. We have seen experiences in E-education, E-health and E-government initiatives in many countries. In a big picture, broadband will help to eliminate poverty and, and improve quality of lives of our citizens.

However, similar to other technologies, there are also other aspects of Broadband that needs to be carefully considered to avoid negative impacts when promoting broadband. Unscrupulous people will try to take advantage from this new media and particularly the social aspect, which need to be properly addressed. Also equally important is the need to consider the environmental aspects.

Looking at the broadband situation in Asia-Pacific, despite the fact that some countries with advanced technology and innovations in the region are enjoying vey high broadband penetration rate, Asia Pacific, on the average, still has quite low broadband penetration rate compared with other regions in the world, thus missing out on the benefits of ICT. Obviously, there is still room for improvement.

The challenge in the Asia Pacific region is more pronounced because of the diversity in the region, the unsolved problem of digital divide and the enormous scale of the task involved. We need a collective effort to improve the situation. We have many resources, capacity and experience in the region that could be shared for the betterment of the region as a whole.

On top of all strength we have in the region, I consider the human resources the most important resource. The APT will continue to develop human resources capacity through training programmes and the sharing of expertise and knowledge for we believe that it is the long-term and sustainable solution for ICT and eventually economic development. In addition, the APT put importance in constructive partnership among various players at national, regional and global levels. We believe that together we can make global impact to fast forward the progress of ICT.

Excellencies,

Your presence here gives us an opportunity to agree to a Joint Statement and a Plan of Action for our common benefit. The Preparatory Meeting comprising of the experts in the region has drawn up a draft of the ***Joint Statement of the Asia Pacific Ministers on Strengthening Regional Collaboration towards a Broadband Economy in the Asia Pacific*** and a ***Plan of Action*** which will be presented to you for your consideration. These will become the guiding documents to the APT and to the region in working towards a broadband economy in the region.

The APT will continue to work very closely with regional and international organization and agencies that would assist us in realizing the goals that you envisaged through the Broadband Economy. Your support, your commitment and your guidance will be the strength for our success in this endeavor.

Thank you very much for sharing this special event with us.

I thank you all.