



## **OPENING ADDRESS**

by

**Toshiyuki Yamada**  
Secretary General, Asia Pacific Telecommunity

**Honorable Varian Longamei, Minister of Communications and Civil Aviation**  
**Mr. Ivan Fong, President of PITA**  
**Ms Gisa Fuatai Purcell of ITU**  
**Mr. Trevor Jenner from DBCDG, the Government of Australia,**  
**Dr. Jimmy Rogers, Director General of SPC**

**Distinguished Delegates,**  
**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**Good morning to you all and welcome to the Policy and Regulation Forum for the Pacific in Honiara, Solomon Islands. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your participation at this meeting and hope you also have time to enjoy the Solomon Islands.**

**First I would like to thank Honorable Minister of Communication and Civil Aviation for his great leadership and hospitality to host the PITA AGM and the APT Policy and Regulation Forum for the Pacific here in Honiara, Solomon Islands. We are comfortable and happy since we came here in Honiara and grateful for the excellent preparations which have been made by the host, Our Solomon Telecom. I note the importance that the Solomon Islands Government is giving to telecommunication and ICT development with the Minister officially opening this meeting.**

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**This is my first visit to the Solomon Islands and I must say that I was pleasantly surprised to see the level of development in the Solomon Islands are and I am very impressed with the commitment to further develop the telecommunication and ICT sector.**

**I would like to extend my sincere thanks to PITA for working with APT to facilitate this meeting**

**Importantly, I would also like to thank the ITU for partnering with APT for this meeting which mean that more delegates have been able to attend this meeting and thank Ms Gisa for her strong cooperation with APT.**

**I must also mention and thank Dr. Jimmy Rogers of SPC for bringing such a large delegation to this meeting. I understand that SPC is now taking over the role in telecommunications that was previously done by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and you are certainly showing us that you are serious about this role.**

**Last but not the least, I would like to thank Australia for giving support to the meeting through the Extra-budgetary contribution to APT without which it would not be possible to organize this meeting.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Policy and regulation issues are a major focus for the APT and it has been recognized that the Pacific is a unique region. This sub regional meeting recognizes that uniqueness and allows the Pacific Islands to discuss issues of importance to them The issues that are to be discussed here at this meeting have all been identified as important issues by the Pacific Islands themselves.**

**This meeting has been also organized to provide the maximum benefit for the Pacific Islands telecommunication authorities and to provide a high level of interaction between all stakeholders in the telecommunications industry in the Pacific. At the PITA AGM we have a wide range of operators and suppliers. At the APT Forum we see government officials and regulators along with key international and regional organizations. It is my earnest hope that everyone will benefit from this arrangement.**

**The recent APT Ministerial Meeting in Bali last year was very successful and a number of Ministers from the Pacific Islands attended this Ministerial**

**meeting. It is my great pleasure to let you know that the Meeting concluded successfully with the adoption of the Bali Statement of the Asia Pacific Ministers. The Ministers of the APT Member countries agreed to put joint efforts into strengthening regional collaboration for the development of ICT infrastructures and services in the Asia-Pacific and to work towards a broadband economy that would truly contribute to the benefit of the people of the region and improve the quality of life.**

**This was a significant APT meeting, not only for the high-level engagement in the issue, but also for the “Plan of Action” that was developed to guide the region’s future actions to bring to fruition the benefits of broadband to the Asia Pacific region.**

**There has been a lot of interest from APT Members on the Bali Action Plan and a number of items in the Bali Action Plan are particularly relevant to this meeting, the Policy and Regulation Forum for the Pacific. A significant outcome of this meeting would be to begin to implement the relevant parts of the Plan of Action and to decide the way forward to ensure the momentum is not lost.**

**I also note that with the rapidly changing face of telecommunications and the speedy introduction of new services and new applications, it is essential that Government Policy makers and Regulators keep up to date with these new developments. It is my hope that this Forum builds your knowledge base and helps you to be better equipped to deal with these new services and applications that seem to be flooding the marketplace. This will be possible with your assistance and genuine effort and commitment.**

**Lastly, I hope this meeting can produce fruitful outcomes and you all enjoy the interesting Solomon Islands. I wish all the success of the meeting.**

**Thank you.**

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