

# **WELCOME ADDRESS**

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## **Distinguished Speakers and Participants**

**Good morning and welcome to the APT Meeting on e-applications/e-government here in Bangkok that is being organized by APT with support from MICT, Thailand. It is indeed a pleasure to see so you here this morning for this important workshop. I would like to thank those who volunteered to be a speaker at this meeting which will certainly contribute to the success of the meeting. I would also like to thank those who accepted to chair the various sessions. My special thanks go to MICT of Thailand who provided a number of qualified speakers for this meeting and also organizes an interesting Study Visit relating to the e-government projects of Thailand. I am sure it will be of great use for the participants to gain additional knowledge on the subject matter.**

**This workshop was approved by the APT Management Committee Meeting that was held in Tehran last year. The Management Committee, in approving this meeting, recognized the importance that e-applications and e-government play in realizing the benefits of ICT in our respective countries. While infrastructure is essential, applications are required so that people can make use of the infrastructure.**

**Dear Participants,**

**I am very optimistic that this meeting will give you all the opportunity to benefit from the exchange of information and views with other administrations to further enhance the delivery of applications and e-government in your own countries. Various countries experiences**

**and practices will be presented for your information along with e-government strategies, initiatives and success stories. The meeting will also touch upon e-commerce, e-health, e-education and applications for cellular mobile services. It is important that you share your experiences and take the opportunity to learn from others.**

**Please listen and learn from the many presenters here at this meeting and participate actively to gain the greatest benefit from this meeting. Note the hurdles that others have had to overcome and see what works and also, see what does not work.**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**One of the Instructions from the APT Management Committee for this meeting is to follow-up on the implementation of the “Plan of Action” that was agreed at the APT Ministerial Meeting that was held in Bali, Indonesia last year.**

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

**A number of actions in the Bali Plan of Action are particularly relevant to this meeting. A significant outcome of this meeting would therefore be to decide on how to implement the relevant parts of the Plan of Action and to decide the way forward to ensure the momentum is not lost. This will be covered in detail on the last day of the meeting.**

**The success obtained from this meeting depends on your willingness to participate and your active participation over the next three days. Please make sure you do your part and work together to make this meeting a success.**

**Lastly please enjoy your stay in Bangkok.**

**Thank you all for your kind attention**