



ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY
15th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-15)
3-5 August 2015, Singapore

WELCOME ADDRESS

By Ms Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT

Ms. Jacqueline Poh, Managing Director, the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore,

Ms. Nur Sulyna Abdullah, Vice-Chairman of PRF,

**Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, Regional Director, International Telecommunication Union,
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 15th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-15) in this vibrant city of Singapore.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Ms. Jacqueline Poh, Managing Director of the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore for accepting to give her inaugural address despite her engagement and busy schedule. I am very much appreciative for her presence this morning.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) for hosting this meeting and for the excellent coordination from the IDA officials.

And I would like to extend my special thank to Mrs. Nur Sulyna Abdullah, Vice-Chairman of PRF for her being here to act as current Chairman of the PRF.

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this same meeting held last year in Thailand, I was honoured to be appointed the Chairman of the PRF. However, following that meeting, I was subsequently bestowed with the very great privilege of being elected Secretary General of APT. So it is indeed my great honour to deliver this Welcome Address as the APT Secretary General this morning.

Over the last 15 years, the APT's PRF has built itself up to become the premiere intergovernmental event for the discussion of policy and regulatory issues in telecommunications for the Asia-Pacific region. It is one of the most important events in the

APT work programmes and regularly attracts high-level participants from policy-making and regulatory agencies across the region. It is also a Forum that provides industry with an opportunity to contribute to the discussion on policy and regulatory issues that are shaping the future of telecommunications.

This year PRF is of particular important because it is the first PRF that follows the APT Ministerial Meeting held in Brunei Darussalam last year at which a new 5-year vision for the APT was agreed to. The theme of the Brunei Darussalam Statement that emerged from the Ministerial Meeting was “Building Smart Digital Economy through ICT.”

This PRF is also the first to follow the new APT Strategic Plan for 2015 to 2017 adopted at the General Assembly meeting held in Myanmar last November. The Strategic Plan sets out a course of action for the APT and its Members to develop the smart digital economies of the Asia-Pacific region through ICT.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year PRF coincides with another important milestone in the international telecommunications community: the 150th anniversary of ITU. I am very pleased that Mr. Houlin Zhao, the Secretary-General of ITU, has sent a video message to the delegates at this Forum to commemorate this special occasion.

And what an extraordinary milestone it is: at 150 years, ITU is one of the most eminent international organisations in history and its global significance continues to grow. ITU is also one of the founders of the APT, with UNESCAP in 1979. It is our pleasure to have the opportunity at this PRF to commemorate such an auspicious occasion for ITU and I look forward to the speech by the ITU Regional Director for Asia and Pacific, Mr. Ioane Koroivuki celebrating this milestone later in the programme.

**Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Over the next 3 days, we will have the opportunity to share experiences and ideas, to explore some of the key policy and regulatory issues in ICT today and to foster the collaboration and cooperation that will help us to move ahead together as a region.

I would like once again to thank our hosts in Singapore for their kind hospitality in making this event possible, and to thank all those who have contributed to our programme for giving of their time to be here and to prepare their presentations. I very much look forward to the discussions that will follow and to meeting you over the course of the Forum.

I wish you a very successful Forum and hope that you will also find some time while you are here to explore the beauty of Singapore as well.

Thank you.