



**Ms. Areewan Haorangsi**  
**Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)**

**WELCOME ADDRESS**

Mr. Gabriel LIM, Co-Managing Director, Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA), and CE-designate, Info-Communications Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA)

Mr. Narendra K. Yadav, Chairman of APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum (ADF),

Ms. Charuda Luanglath, Vice Chairman of ADF,

His Excellency Inacio Freitas Moreira, Vice Minister of Public Works, Transport and Communication of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste,

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

Distinguished Delegates and Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 13th APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum (ADF-13) here in Singapore.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation, on behalf of all participants here, to Mr. Gabriel LIM, Co-Managing Director of IDA, and CE-designate of IMDA for your presence to give the inaugural address at this meeting.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA), soon to be the Info-Communications Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA) for hosting this important forum with the tireless devotion of IDA officials.

I would also like to thank the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan, for the continuous support in funding the projects under the HRD Programme for Exchange of ICT Researchers and Engineers and ICT Development Programme for Supporting ICT Pilot Projects in Rural Areas, which are known as EBC-J2 and EBC-J3, respectively.

My grateful thanks also go to the Government of the Republic of Korea for funding the project to facilitate ICT Application in the Asia-Pacific under EBC-K since last year.

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to inform you that I have invited representatives from the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to attend this meeting to observe the activities of the APT.

It is also a great honour today to have His Excellency Inacio Freitas Moreira, Vice Minister of Public Works, Transport and Communication of Timor Leste to be with us. I have a firm belief that the ADF-13 will provide a good understanding for His Excellency on a part of the works of the APT.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum known as ADF is the key activity of the APT to address telecommunications and ICT development issues for developing countries. It is the platform where policy makers, regulators and other relevant officials come together for a dialogue on issues of common concern with special attention on the rural areas. It is a platform that provides an opportunity to identify the specific issues that hinder the development of the telecommunication networks in rural areas and to discuss the appropriate use of new technologies available for rural telecommunications. This is the platform to discuss and share information on the best practices and experiences on ICT development issues.

This year, the ADF will discuss such topics as the Way to Overcome Digital Divide; Stimulating ICT Business and Industry by Innovation, Startup and SMEs; Increasing Access and Connectivity, in particular Rural Areas; Best Practices, Experiences, and Challenges in ICT Development within the Region.

In addition, a special training course on “Weighing the Benefits of Universal Service Funds” will be conducted by the contribution from GSMA. The training course will look at the record of Universal Service Funds (USFs) in achieving their objectives and consider alternative approaches to connecting the unconnected. I hope all of you will find this training useful.

We will also have presentations on the achievements of ICT projects funded by the Extra-Budgetary Contributions, both from Japan and Republic of Korea. I am very pleased to observe that many of these projects have become great success stories in the Asia-Pacific region. Through these projects, the APT can closely assist our Members in achieving concrete outcome and creating real impacts on the development of the telecommunication/ICT sector in the region. The APT therefore wishes to continue and expand these projects together with the donor administrations and organizations.

At this ADF, we have invited the World Bank and the Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan’s ICT and Postal Services (JICT) to present their ways of facilitating investment for ICT Infrastructure and application. I very much hope that all delegations would find these presentations useful and could make use of the opportunity to network and discuss with them for further collaborations.

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, allow me once again to express my sincere gratitude to our host, the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement.

On behalf of the APT Secretariat, I assure you that we will do our best to provide support to all participants that require assistance during the meeting. Please do not hesitate to ask us for any assistance that you may need.

I wish you all a fruitful discussion and successful meeting.

Thank you.