



**Welcome Address**

**By**

**Ms. Areewan Haorangsi**  
**Secretary General, APT**

**Your Excellency Keiichi Koshimizu, Parliamentary Vice Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication (MIC), Japan**

**Mr. Leong Keng Thai, Chairman of the APT Policy and Regulatory Forum,**

**Mr. Charles Chew, Ms. Seonmin Mina Jun and Mrs. Tharalika Livera, Vice Chairmen of the APT Policy and Regulatory Forum**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 16th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum here in Tokyo, Japan.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Your Excellency Keiichi Koshimizu, Parliamentary Vice Minister of MIC, Japan, for graciously agreeing to give the Inaugural Address at this meeting. It is a great honour for us that Your Excellency has taken time from your busy schedule to be with us today.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Japan, in particular, MIC, for hosting this important Forum and for the excellent coordination and arrangement.

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF) is one of the most important events of the work programmes of the APT. It brings together high-level policy makers and regulators in Asia-Pacific region to discuss and share views on policy and regulatory issues in telecommunications and ICT that are of common interest to the region considering the worldwide trends in the telecommunication/ICT sector. The Forum also engages the industry to contribute to the discussion on policy and regulatory issues that are shaping the future of telecommunications.

This year, PRF has a special Roundtable on ICT Policy and Regulatory Trends and Updates. High level representatives of the government and ICT industry are invited to address global

trends in ICT policy and regulatory challenges, national measures to address those trends, and the key priorities in ICT policy and the country. Also we will hear the challenges being faced by the policy and regulatory regime and the industry that need support from policy makers and regulators.

The 39th Session of the Management Committee of the APT last year made some decisions that are relevant to PRF. Hence the outcomes of MC-39 will be presented for your information and further action.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September last year adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Agenda is a plan of action that contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economics, social and environment. To acknowledge this Agenda, our programme includes a presentation on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 from ICT's perspectives.

The programme for this year also includes a number of interesting presentations on IMT-2020, IoT, Digital Inclusion, and OTT from APT members and sharing of international experts' views on some of the new technology development and challenges for policy and regulation. In addition, the panel discussion will address on nurturing OTT business as a growth engine versus regulating OTT to level playing field. I wish to encourage all participants to contribute to the session.

I also encourage you to provide your thoughts for the preparation of the new Strategic Plan of the APT 2018-2020 when we discuss the item at the closing session.

I would also like to highlight that in the afternoon of the last day, there will be a site visit which is kindly arranged by MIC Japan, NEC and Fujitsu. I hope you find the site visit useful.

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere thanks one more time to MIC Japan for hosting this important forum.

I wish you a successful meeting and enjoy your time in Japan.

Thank you very much.

---