



Secretary General

**WELCOME ADDRESS**

Honourable Jimmy Miringoro, Minister for Communications and Information Technology,  
Papua New Guinea,

Mr. Charles Punaha, Chairman of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17,

Mr. Mutsuharu Nakajima, Vice-Chair of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17,

Distinguished Delegates and Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17 in Port Moresby, the capital city of Papua New Guinea.

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and all participants here, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to Honourable Jimmy Miringoro, Minister for Communications and Information Technology for accepting to deliver an inaugural address at this opening session. It is a great honour for us all.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) for hosting this important meeting and for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality extended to us all.

This is the second APT event in Papua New Guinea and I am very glad to be back again.

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The World Telecommunications Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17) will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 9 to 20 October this year. APT's preparation process for the Conference in the form of regional preparatory meetings started last August in Singapore.

The 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17 last year established the structure of the Group and selected the office bearers of the Group. This year, there are three (3) more meetings of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17.

Apart from this Second Meeting in Papua New Guinea, the Third and the Fourth Meetings of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17 are scheduled to be held in Bangkok, Thailand and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in June and August, respectively.

These meetings provide platform for cooperation and harmonization of regional concerns that are vital to our Members that need to be addressed in the World Conference to foster the development of telecommunications and ICTs, and develop regional common proposals for submission to the World Conference. As Asia-Pacific is the most stretched region in the world with many diverse countries, it is expected that the APT proposals to the Conference will be able to generate sufficient stimulus to materialize the inputs by region for worldwide improvements.

APT preparatory process is a Member-driven activity of APT and proposals discussed are based on the contributions from the Members. I am very glad to see a number of contributions from APT Members for this meeting. I hope the same level of cooperation, active participation and high spirit for consolidation will continue in this preparatory cycle to lead us towards achievement of our region at WTDC-17.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to mention that this Second Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17 has another focus. Since the ITU Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17 for Asia and the Pacific (RPM-ASP) is scheduled to take place in Bali, Indonesia from 21 to 23 March 2017, it is our intention to have this meeting before the RPM-ASP.

This meeting in Port Moresby is also encouraged to identify the issues of regional concern and suggestions to prepare our views to submit to the RPM in Bali. The APT views are expected to contribute to the preparation of ITU for the draft strategic Plan, Action Plan and Declaration for WTDC-17. Our further development of the Preliminary APT Common Proposals will be made during the last two meetings of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17.

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, may I once again extend my sincere gratitude to Honourable Jimmy Miringtoro, Minister for Communications and Information Technology of Papua New Guinea, for being with us today. My special thanks go to our host, the National Information and Communication Technology Authority (NICTA) for the excellent facilities and preparation.

Lastly, I sincerely thank you all, the distinguished delegates, office bearers of the APT WTDC-17 and all participants for attending this important meeting.

I wish you all very successful deliberations.

Thank you.