



Secretary General

### WELCOME ADDRESS

His Excellency, Mr. Pham Hong Hai, Vice Minister, Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC), Socialist Republic of Viet Nam,

Dr. Kohei Satoh, Chairman of APT Wireless Group,

Ms. Zhu Keer and Mr. Le Van Tuan, Vice-Chairmen of APT Wireless Group,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to all of you.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 23rd Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-23) in this beautiful coastal city of Da Nang, Viet Nam.

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and all participants here, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC), Viet Nam in particular the Radio Frequency Department for hosting this meeting.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Pham Hong Hai, Vice Minister of Information and Communications for his kind presence to preside over this opening ceremony to inaugurate the meeting. It is indeed a great honour for us all.

At this meeting, there are around 214 registered delegates from APT Members, Associate Members and Affiliate Members, ITU and other organizations. We have also received a considerable number of contributions for this meeting. I would like to sincerely thank all APT members, for making time for this meeting as well as for your contributions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like inform you that the 14th Session of the General Assembly of the APT (GA-14) held in November last year in Thailand adopted the Strategic Plan of the APT for of 2018-2020 which emphasizes five Strategic Pillars and identifies a number of strategic actions to be implemented by all APT work programmes.

The new Strategic Plan of the APT has given a lot of emphasis on developing the digital infrastructure and harnessing the benefits of new technologies. Taking into account the need to reduce the digital divide in the region, the Strategic Plan focuses on increasing broadband penetration particularly reaching to the underserved and unserved population to ensure affordability, quality of service with improved speed and coverage. Special focus is given to assisting APT Members to improve spectrum management practices to mitigate digital

infrastructure constraint relating to the use of spectrum. The Strategic Plan has also given directions to APT to continue its effort to foster the development and adoption of the latest telecommunication technologies.

As for AWG, since its inception, AWG has always been active in developing numerous tangible outcomes in order to implement the previous Strategic Plans of APT. I firmly believe that AWG would again contribute immeasurably to implement the new Strategic Plan for 2018-2020.

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

To recollect some of the significant past achievements of AWG, let me remind you that AWG-22 approved 7 new APT Reports, revised two existing APT Reports, 3 new Questionnaires and 6 Liaison Statements to APG-19 and ITU-R Study Groups. AWG-22 also decided to revise the name and terms of reference of the Task Group on Short Range Device (TG SRD). The new name Task Group on Internet of Thing (TG IoT) was approved and the Terms of Reference of the Task Group was widened to cover the various aspects of IoT.

Based on the work plan of AWG, AWG-23 may adopt 10 new APT Reports, revise a number of APT Reports and may develop a number of Liaison Statements. AWG-23 will also review the draft APT Recommendations, which were developed at AWG-21 and AWG-22 and were unable to get the sufficient number of endorsement from APT Members.

A few weeks back, the 3rd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-19 (APG19-3) was held in Perth, Australia. APG19-3 considered the liaison statement of AWG in relation to studies related to WRC-19 Agenda Items.

APG19-3 considered those studies and sent reply liaison statements to AWG for further studies. AWG-23 is expected to consider those liaison statements accordingly and continue studies based on the request from APG.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight and thank the unwavering efforts put in by the AWG Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and other office bearers for your dedication, expertise and commitment for the success of all AWG meetings.

At the same time, let me also applaud and commend the active participation of all delegates. I would like to request you all to continue your excellent efforts to maintain the position of AWG as a main regional platform for wireless technologies. As always, the APT Secretariat is committed to provide full assistance and support for your work.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to mention that the General Assembly last year also re-elected me the Secretary General of APT for the second term. I am greatly honoured and humbled that APT Members have put the trust in me once again.

I would like to assure you that I shall do my best as Secretary General of APT to enhance the activities of APT and uphold the interest of APT Members in the international arena.

Once again, I would like to sincerely thank His Excellency, Vice Minister Pham Hong Hai for being with us today and thank the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC), Viet Nam for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement.

I wish you all every success in your deliberations. And please do not forget to enjoy the cool breeze along the beautiful beaches and delicious seafood in Da Nang.

Thank you very much.