Secretary General

WELCOME ADDRESS

His Excellency Mr. Toru Kunishige, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan,
Mr. Yoichi Maeda, Chairman of the APT Standardization Program (ASTAP),
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to you all.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the opening of the 31st APT Standardization Program Forum (ASTAP-31) here in Tokyo, Japan.

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and all delegates here, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Toru Kunishige, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan for his kind presence at this opening session of ASTAP-31. It is a great honour to us all.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan, for hosting this meeting and providing excellent facility.

I also would like to express my grateful thanks to the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, other Office Bearers, and all experts of ASTAP for your dedication and valuable support towards ASTAP activities.

Yesterday afternoon, the Industry Workshop on "Internet of Things" was held. The topics of the Workshop covered Smart City solution and projects, IoT application and service, emerging technology, and others. I would like to thank the Workshop Programme Committee, in particular, Ms. Yuki Naruse from NICT, Japan, for the untiring coordination for the workshop. I would also like to thank Dr Seungyun Lee from ETRI, Republic of Korea, Mr. Kaoru Kenyoshi from NICT, Japan, and all speakers for contributing in the Workshop.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am glad to note that this ASTAP-31 has more than 170 registered participants from 20 Member countries, 1 Associate Member, 22 Affiliate Members, ITU and other organizations. APT Secretariat has received over 95 input contributions and information documents.

ASTAP is one of the most important Work Programmes of the APT. It has produced several important recommendations, reports and guidelines with the assistance of technical experts from APT members. In recent years, ASTAP has made significant contributions to the work of ITU-T Study Groups and exchanged liaison statements with ITU-T Study Groups as well as with other standardization organizations.

At present, ASTAP has 32 ongoing Work Plans under its 3 Working Groups and 11 Expert Groups. These Work Plans cover a wide range of topics on Bridging the Standardization Gap, Internet of Things, Smart Cities, Green ICT, M2M communication, Future Transport Network Technology, Interoperability, Accessibility, Security, Seamless Access Communication, Multimedia Applications, etc. I have learnt that ASTAP would consider restructuring in order to provide more efficient outcomes. I really appreciate the initiative of the forum and believe that this would bring efficiency and benefits for the Asia-Pacific region.

For the future Industry Workshops, I would like to encourage the Workshop Committee to explore the topics for interest of Industry sectors.

The 42nd Session of the Management Committee of the APT (MC-42) held last year made several key decisions relevant to ASTAP. Among them are approval of new APT Recommendation on Specification of Information and Communication System using Vehicle during Disaster and revised ASTAP Working Methods. MC-42 also requested ASTAP to review the proposal of the APT Wireless Group (AWG) on the revision of criteria and approval process for APT Recommendation. MC-42 also requested ASTAP to review and provide feedback on the draft MoU between APT and ETSI. Details information will be provided in my report on the Outcomes of MC-42.

Yesterday, at the 1st meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-20, I had mention two important events of the APT for this year. I would like to once again reiterate at this ASTAP Forum.

Firstly, this year, APT celebrates its 40th anniversary. Since its establishment in 1979, APT has been continuing to promote and facilitate the development and growth of regional telecommunication and ICT sector. I would like to thank all APT members for the strong and constant support and cooperation from APT members.

Secondly, APT will organize the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 from 25 to 26 June in Singapore in commemoration of its 40th Anniversary. It is expected that the Ministers will adopt the Ministerial Statement which will provide high-level policy guidelines on the development of telecommunication and ICT in the Asia-Pacific region for the next five years.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before I conclude, I would like to once again extend my sincere thanks to Your Excellency Mr. Toru Kunishige, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan for your kind presence, and to the host, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan, for the excellent arrangements.

I also thank all ASTAP office bearers and all participants for making effort to attend and contribute to ASTAP-31. I assure you that the APT Secretariat will do our best to provide necessary support to all of you.

I wish you successful deliberations and look forward to fruitful outcomes of the Forum.

Thank you.