

**Opening Speech at the Joint APT-ITU NGN Workshop
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Dear Khun Kraisorn Pornsutee, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Royal Kingdom of Thailand,
Mr. Amarendra Narayan, Executive Director of APT,
Dr. Bob Horton, ASTAP Chairman,
Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Director of Telecommunication Standardization Bureau of the ITU,
Distinguished speakers, delegates and participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, please allow me to appreciate the MICT in Royal Thai Government and SIPA for hosting and sponsoring this joint APT-ITU Workshop on Next Generation Network (NGN) in the city of angel, Bangkok. It is our great honor to jointly organize this Workshop here in Thailand this auspicious year, when all are celebrating the highly respected His Majesty King's 80th birthday. Our special gratitude also go to Mr. Kraisorn Pornsutee, Dr.Horton, Dr.Inoue, Mr. Yoichi Maeda, and Mr. Jaesup Lee for the kind acceptances of chairing the relevant sessions as well as Mr. Amarendra Narayan, Mr. Yamada, and the team at APT for the kind support and collaboration throughout the preparation. My appreciation is also extended to National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) who will kindly host the dinner today and TRUE for their support on wireless LAN access.

This workshop is very important and meaningful for ITU – its Asia-Pacific Region in particular - to initiate one of our Regional Initiatives, which were developed by the ITU State and Sector Members in the Asia-Pacific Region and adopted at the World Telecommunication Development Conference held in Doha last year, through active coordination by the APT, in addition to the main development programmes and global initiatives within the Telecommunication Development Sector of ITU.

The main objective of the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative on “**NGN Planning**” is to assist the developing countries in our region in smooth migration from existing networks into the NGN by studying specific questions as requested by Member States in order to develop guidelines on applying NGN planning methods and guidelines on selection of NGN planning software tools. In addition, this initiative is seeking to establish Global Network Planning initiative (GNPi) within ITU Development Sector as well as strengthen cooperation between ITU-D and ITU-T Sectors for appropriate planning and deployment of NGN in the Asia-Pacific Region.

In this regard, it is very grateful to have Mr. Malcolm Johnson, our newly elected Director and experts from the ITU-T Sector and many experts on standardisations from the ASTAP Forum in order to have strong support from the ITU-T Sector and valuable network of standardizations on this initiative. I am sure, this is one step towards to bridge the standardization gap on the NGN, which TSB Director stressed its importance during his speech and presentation several time during the ASTAP Forum.

As far as the specific goal for this joint Workshop in particular is concerned, we aim to provide you – i.e., member states and organizations - with a forum where to learn and share on such issues as follows, e.g.,

1. How to plan the NGN with what kind of strategies ?
2. How to deploy the NGN in short, mid and longer terms ?
3. How to liaise the work between ITU-T and ITU-D Sectors especially through Study Questions ?
4. How to design the NGN from operators' perspectives ?
5. What are the NGN planning tools from manufacturers' perspectives ? and
6. How to deploy the NGN especially in rural areas taking into account their circumstances ?

In fact, these are well reflected in the program itself through close coordination between APT and ITU as well as between ITU Asia-Pacific regional office and Headquarters in addition to the valuable inputs from all the speakers. Here, my thanks are extended to Mr. Passerini from our HQs and Mr. Carugi and Mr.Soto.

One of our main strategies for successful implementation of the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives especially on the NGN Planning in general and this Joint Workshop on NGN Planning in particular is '**Partnership**'. Therefore, this long-standing partnership with APT is extremely valuable and appreciable for optimizing resources and assisting member countries in the Asia-Pacific Region. We, ITU, also welcome partnership or cooperation with your organizations in the work of this initiative on NGN planning in order to foster the migration to NGNs and to assist developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region on this matter.

Last but not least, if I may seek your kind cooperation and support for more fruitful outcomes at the end of this workshop, please kindly bear in mind and focus on **producing practical recommendations** on each issue from your vast experiences on different background and expertise, especially taking into account the unique and different phases of development in our region - for instance, Japan and Republic of Korea on the one hand and 13 LDCs including the most island countries in the Pacific on the other.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable workshop and pleasant stay in Bangkok, Thailand, I do thank you very much for your participation and attention.