



Opening remarks

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ITU Regional Development Forum for the Asia Pacific Region
"NGN and Broadband: Opportunities and Challenges"
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Your Excellency, Sri Sultan, Hamengkubuwono x, Governor of Yogyakarta,
Dr. Basuki Yusuf, Director General of Post and Telecommunication, MCIT, Indonesia,
Distinguished chairmen, speakers, experts and participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning !

First of all, on behalf of ITU from all three Sectors, BDT Director in particular as well as on my behalf, I would like to convey our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Communications Information and Technology of Indonesia and personally its Director General, Dr. Basuki Yusuf and his team, as well as the Governor of Special Province Area of Yogyakarta, Excellency, Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono x, for the possibility and assurance extended to the ITU and all delegates gathered today here in the very historic and beautiful city of Yogyakarta.

It was in the early 1990s, when I first visited Yogyakarta for participating at another ITU meeting as a national delegate. Whilst my cherished memory of Indonesia, this unique and ancient city in particular, is still very vivid, I am very thankful to all the delegates for not only for your participations but also commitments for the successful Regional Development Forum at this very challenging time, although we have lost a few speakers. Taking into account the challenge, it is my greater pleasure to be able to open the ITU Regional Development Forum 2009 for the Asia Pacific Region on "NGN and Broadband: Opportunities and Challenges".

As you are aware of, Asia-Pacific region spans some of the world's most sophisticated telecommunications and ICT markets with the highest level of ICT penetration: e.g., economies such as the Republic of Korea, with a 80% broadband penetration in 2007 and Hong Kong, China, with 70%, are among the world's broadband leaders. Asia-Pacific region, with 42 percent of the world's mobile cellular subscriptions, 47 percent of the world's fixed telephone lines, 39 percent of the world's Internet users and 36 percent of the world's fixed broadband subscribers, China with 670 million mobile subscribers in March 2009 and India adding over 10 million mobile subscribers every

month, remains a leader for the ICT development in the world. Despite the achievements, Asia-Pacific region has tremendous variations across not only in terms of demography and culture but also the phases of developments and needs. In fact, our regional office itself covers 13 Least Developed Countries, 11 Small Island Developing States, 10 Low Income States, as well as the largest and least populous countries among some 40 Member States. The rapid growth of ICT, thus, has to meet with the challenge of providing connectivity to the vast geography and culturally diverse region of this biggest continent!

In the very diverse and dynamic Asia Pacific region, a large number of countries are in a state of transition towards IP-based Next Generation Networks (NGN) with challenges from convergence loom large, whereas another significantly large group is making constant endeavours to put the basic regulatory frameworks in place. As the network is being developed and converged, so the network security became an emerging issue from the small island countries in the Pacific to the Republic of Korea with the world number one for the fixed broadband with increasing mobile broadband: For examples, number hijacking had damaged financial loss and images of countries in Cook Islands and Solomon Islands as well as the recent cyber attacks had paralyzed 26 websites of governments and other important agencies worldwide including the Republic of Korea.

That is why cybersecurity is one of our strategic priorities for the ITU as a whole with numerous initiatives globally and regionally such as 'Child Online Protection (COP)', 'International Multilateral partnership Against Cyber Treats (IMPACT)', and planned Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (Pacific CERT). Also, several Resolutions have been adopted at the ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-2008) such as Res. 50 'Cybersecurity', Res. 52 'Countering and Combating Spam', and Res. 58 'National Computer Incident Response Teams'. I am sure that our colleagues from ITU-T and ITU-R Sectors will explain more details at the relevant sessions from this Forum.

Let me further touch upon the theme of this RDF on *NGN and Broadband: Opportunities and Challenges*. As many of you are the very pioneers or experts to shape the future information society, ones have been envisaging a society where it is possible to seamlessly connect "anytime, anywhere, by anything and anyone" and to exchange a wide range of information by means of accessible, affordable and user friendly devices and services. In such an interconnected or interdependent global society, which we all negatively experienced from the recent financial recession, people will be able to share knowledge and information positively also, which will help them achieve their full potential in promoting sustainable development and improving the quality of life. It will support the design and realization of a people-centered information society, where the secure and reliable flow of information will be ensured.

To realize this ubiquitous society together by all stakeholders, our office is also under the designing a partnership project on 'ICT for Universal Framework and Universal Design for Universal Access & Service and Universal Usability - i.e., I4U' in order to prepare for the proposed Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives starting from 2011 to 2014,

once being approved at the World Telecommunication Development Conference to be held in India, May and June 2010.

With the use of new technologies such as NGN and broadband, the society would have the potential to assist in achieving Millennium Development Goals and to help resolve pressing global issues such as poverty and hunger, education, gender equality, child mortality and protection, healthcare, environmental sustainability or climate change, security, disaster prevention and human right. For instance, advanced knowledge can be acquired anywhere by using the Internet or mobile communications; advanced e-health can be made available through satellite communications in remote areas; and information on disasters can be gathered using sensors and conveyed immediately via networks. On the other hand, it is necessary to address the concerns and barriers regarding ICT usage such as the digital divide as well as accessibility, standardization, compatibility, interoperability, privacy and availability of sufficient spectrum bandwidths and harmonization.

However, technologies alone can not address all the issues, needs and concerns, which can be different at country by country. Here, appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks may be the critical enabler for facing or overcoming the current economic challenges as well as realizing the information society: i.e., setting the vision of countries and introducing transparent regulations with proper legal and technical enforcement mechanisms by skilled human resources subject to the different development phases of each country. For instance, the Australian government has recently announced its ambitious 43 billion dollars' national broadband network initiative, which would be able to deliver a commercial return. Also, the next generation networks (NGN) particularly through international standards *inter alia* such as ITU-T Recommendations may lower the capital cost of deployment in the core network and also offer the opportunity for developing countries to jump several generations of technologies

Having recognized the significant impacts of NGN in the current and future ICT networks, "NGN Planning Migration and Applications" was adopted as one of Asia-Pacific regional initiatives at World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC, Doha, 2006) in order to assist our member countries - developing countries in particular - in smooth migration from the existing networks into the next generation network. To meet the objective of the specific initiative, our ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Office has been undertaking case studies, organizing several workshops, forums, and seminars through close collaborations with other Sectors within the ITU like this Forum as well as external partners like Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Institute of Development (ABID), and conducting various trainings through our Asia-Pacific Centre of Excellence Networks, especially the Pusan National University Node.

Dear delegates,

Having said all, please allow me to highlight one of the uniqueness for this Regional Development Forum in the ITU starting from the last year. As you could have noticed from the Agenda, this Forum has been prepared by lots of efforts from our colleagues

at Headquarters, Asia-Pacific Regional and Area offices in close collaboration among all three Sectors - i.e., ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D - in addition to the host country teams. Thus, my thanks go to our teams in the ITU and the host governments at both Jakarta and Yogyakarta.

It is also worth noting that this Forum is designed by the mixture of professionals in various fields from the regulators, operators, service providers, vendors to independent experts to provide 360 degrees of overview and discussions on NGN and broadband including in depth implications of market challenges and opportunities especially during this financial crisis.

Most of all, it is very you all delegates who should deserve my best gratitude, since we wouldn't be able to open this important RDF in the Republic of Indonesia, Yogyakarta in particular, without your efforts and participations with trusts and commitments despite the inhumane and barbaric terrorist attacks.

Wishing you to share and learn all about the NGN and broadband through this opportunity, last but not the least, I look forward to your active engagement in and contribution to the Forum and its outcomes for shaping more secured and better cyber world to all.

Thank you very much for your kind attention and hope you all to enjoy not only the RDF-2009 but also this historic city of Yogyakarta.