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Mr. Yoshio Utsumi, Secretary-General of ITU Mr. Houlin Zhao, Director, TSB Place des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 20 Switzerland

Dear Mr. Utsumi, Dear Mr. Zhao,

On behalf of the ITU Association of Japan (ITU-AJ), I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to you and the TSB on the occasion of the  $50^{\text{th}}$  Anniversary of CCITT/ITU-T.

We are all thankful to the CCITT/ITU-T for playing a key role in the development of telecommunications during these fifty years. It has also been a pleasure for us to be able to assist the CCITT/ITU-T in holding its meetings in Japan. Most recently, we had the pleasure of serving as the local secretariat for the NGN Workshop held in Kobe, Japan in April of this year, which attracted more than four hundred participants. We will also be hosting ITU-T Study Group 9 meeting in Tokyo this coming October.

We have in our Association people who are or who have been participating in the standardization activities of CCITT/ITU-T. I am glad to see that many of the Recommendations they have developed are utilized in the latest pieces of equipment and systems.

I hope, and I am sure that ITU-T will continue to be the center of excellence in the development of telecommunications in the years to come. Finally, I would like to add that ITU-AJ is also committed to assisting the ITU in fulfilling its roles.

Yours sincerely,

Hiroshi Matsui President ITU Association of Japan