

Opening remark

Delivered by H.E. Nguyen Thanh Hung

Vice Minister of Ministry of information and communications of Viet Nam

Global Standards Symposium (GSS)

Her Excellency (H.E.) Dr Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri, Minister of Communications,
South Africa,

Dr Hamadoun I. TOURE, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication
Union (ITU),

Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization
Bureau, International Telecommunication Union (ITU),

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, as Chairman of the Symposium, allow me to once again warmly welcome all the participants to the Global Standards Symposium, which is organized in Johannesburg, the beautiful city of South Africa. Secondly, on behalf of all the participants, I would like to express my sincere thanks to ITU and South Africa for their great efforts in preparation for this event. Under the ITU's coordination, we were all insiders of the preparing process that was extensively and considerately carried out by all regions. And today, we are all experiencing the warm welcome and favorable working conditions given by South Africa. I am confident that we will have active and efficient working days as repayment to efforts from the Organizing Committee.

Personally speaking, I am really honored to serve this symposium as a Chairman. I would like to sincerely thank all of you for the trust that you have in me. I understand in fact that is the trust and the affection you have towards my home country Viet Nam and its ICT industry. Together with other developing countries, Viet Nam is making effort to participate in and contribute more actively to ITU-T's activities. The fact that Viet Nam was selected for the Chairmanship demonstrates the interest and the encouragement from ICT Community to developing countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our Global Standards Symposium is the first significant symposium ever to be organized in conformity with a Resolution of Plenipotentiary Conference, the Resolution 122 of Plenipotentiary 2006 (PP-06). It demonstrates the importance of our symposium and the impact of global ICT standardization issues that we will discuss. In addition, it also indicates the requirement from PP-06 for our responsible participation in this symposium.

Our symposium is a very open one as only with open-minded spirit we can get constructive contributions from various stakeholders in order to enhance ITU's performances. We will discuss and exchange our views in the spirit of openness and sharing, in order to stimulate creative, innovative and devoted initiatives for ITU activities. The symposium is supposed to collect these initiatives and report to WTSA08 for consideration while determining the development of ICT standardization in the next 4 years. It's obvious that our responsibilities is high and the WTSA has also high expectation of what we will report on bridging the ICT standardization gap, strategic development issues as well as promotion of global cooperation in ICT standardization

Ladies and gentlemen,

This symposium takes place just one week after the World Standards Day (14 October) and I am so interested in the message of World Standards Day this year, which mentions the aspect of sustainable and intelligent development. We are proud to realize that the issues to be discussed here are in line with global standardization trends. Bridging development gap, environmental protection, and cooperation are the assurance for sustainable development, whereas the ICT industry is inherently intelligent, especially in the era of information society. By the way, I would like to reiterate the missions of ICT standardization which was stated by the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS):

- Standardization is defined as “one of the essential building blocks of the Information Society “(Declaration of Principles (WSIS, 2003), in paragraph 44)
- The core competences of the Union includes standards development and the dissemination of information and they are among factors of crucial importance for building the Information Society. (WSIS, Declaration of Principles, paragraph 64);

Ladies and gentlemen,

Nowadays, indeed, we can easily realize the rapid and diversified development of ICT applications in every aspect of social life. It’s difficult to imagine how our lives would be without popular information tools such as email, internet, webcam, messenger, or videoconference, IP telephony, IP TV, mobile TV, etc., which are controlling the global social-economic activities. We are approaching closer to the goal: “communication for everyone, everywhere at any time” and the further goal: “all activities go online”. All these achievements that we have are owing to standards and recommendations developed by SDOs, including ITU, assuring the

compatibility, interoperability and accessibility regardless of technology, network and service. In the context of increasingly diversified ICT applications, the coordination and cooperation between different standardization areas, various ICT standardization organizations are becoming more and more important.

Ladies and gentlemen,

All of the participants here must have learnt the recent striking news and shared with ITU's honour to have won the Primetime Emmy Award given by the US Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for its contributions to the television production industry through developing Video Coding standards, which are very useful and formally known as "ITU-T Recommendation H.264". And of course, we share the joy with co-winners ISO and IEC. Video coding standards are widely applied not only in movie industry but in mobile device production as well. That practice somewhat demonstrates how necessary it is to have a global standard system and how much economic benefit that cooperation in international standardisation can generate.

We also have to keep in mind that, ICT standardization indirectly impacts social-economic activities as the consequence of the increasingly extensive development of information technology itself. Standardization, therefore, should be considered from different aspects, such as commerce, development, society, environment. That means we would need more comprehensive and global solutions for ICT standardization and that requires new resources. A closer ties between ITU and non-standardization organizations is therefore necessary. And I expect that our symposium will recommend good solutions in this direction.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The issues on our agenda, including bridging standardization gap, ICT and climate change, global standards collaboration, are not simple at all. Coming up with some measures that could harmonize the interests of all parties is even more difficult. For this reason, I appeal all of the participants here for your efforts, creativity and cooperation, and I do hope that our determination for long, close and constructive cooperation will be the very first and most concrete outcome of this symposium. Since GSS is the first-ever high-level symposium, I think, we should also work on principles, orientation for the post-GSS activities at the level of each country, each SDO and also at the level of inter-SDOs.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is really a great luck for me to chair a symposium with the participation of world-class standardization experts. High-ranking leaders from standardization organizations present here are willing to share their enlightened wisdom and visions. Experienced moderators of sessions will certainly stimulate constructive and active contributions from speakers and participants. I would like to thank all of you in advance for your participation and devotions.

I wish this symposium a great success.

Thank you.

