

OPENING REMARKS
by
Secretary General
Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
at
ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Development Forum 2017
Bali, 20 March 2017

Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director of Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU,
Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, Regional Director of ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific,
Mr. Douglas Broderick, United Nations Resident Coordinator Indonesia,
Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of Asia Pacific Telecommunity,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the Government of the Republic Indonesia, I would like to welcome you all to the ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Development Forum 2017 that is jointly organized by International Telecommunication Union and Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Republic of Indonesia.

Theme of this forum, ICTs for Sustainable Development in Asia-Pacific, aims to provide a platform for high level dialogue among decision makers of ITU Member States, Sector Members, and Academia in the Asia-Pacific Region. Also, it aims to share each Members' experiences, needs, and advice, enhance partnership opportunities, and provide proposals and recommendations to contribute to Telecommunication Development Bureau's (BDT) important works in the Asia-Pacific region for the period 2017-2018. I am hopeful that such proposal and recommendations can further serve as a catalyst for ITU-D's future works in contributing to the attainment of Connect 2020 goals, bridging digital divide, and UN's Sustainable Development Goals in Asia Pacific's Member States.

Through this interesting and comprehensive theme, I am hopeful that

participants will be able to share their country's experiences, initiatives, good practices, and lessons learned, as well as present potential areas of ICT development within their country, as valuable insights for all participants to contribute to their country's national strategic ICT plans.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Indonesia is committed to support ITU's goals to proliferation of access to connectivity, bridging digital divide, and Regional Initiatives. Indonesia continues to develop connectivity to its outermost, border, and remote areas through the Palapa Ring project, Indonesia's fiber optic backbone, which has already begun construction for Western and Central Indonesia region, and Eastern Indonesia will also construction begin this March. Indonesia also views that the enhanced connectivity will also entail ease of access to information, which must be regulated to ensure that false information or 'hoax' is curbed in cyber space. Indonesia has recently revised its Information and Electronic Transaction Law to reflect that the creation, transmission, distribution, and storage of negative content such as, terrorism, inappropriate, irrelevant and false information or 'hoax' will be lawfully punished.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Having appreciated the works carried out by ITU-D Asia Pacific to achieve Dubai Action Plan WTDC-14 objectives and outputs in these recent years, I believe that any remaining works from the past RDF Asia Pacific 2016 in Philippines, with regards to the Dubai Action Plan and Regional Initiatives, will find closure prior to setting possibly new WTDC-17 Action Plan. It is also important that we continue to forge key projects and partnerships to achieve the remaining objectives of the five Asia Pacific Regional Initiatives adopted by WTDC-14, and the upcoming Asia Pacific Regional initiatives which will be determined during WTDC-17 in Argentina. I am also hopeful that discussions during this RDF will be meaningful and beneficial for participants' knowledge and insight in telecommunications/ICT development, and that by the end of this forum, participants would be able to draw their own understanding and conclusion to advance the development of their country's telecommunications/ICT.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Last but not least, I wish you a delightful stay in Bali, the Island of Paradise or Island of Gods, as it is called by Indonesians and take the time to enjoy and absorb its breathtaking views, landmarks, and cuisines during your stay here. This island has so much to offer you and I hope you will get the chance to experience its rich culture.

Lastly, I would like to officially open the ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia Pacific 2017 by the sounding of the gong, and thank you.