Opening Remarks
by
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Ambassador and Permanent Representative-*Designate*
of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, WTO, and
other international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland
on behalf of
the Minister for Communications and Informations Technology of
the Republic of Indonesia
at
the Opening Ceremony of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) for World Telecommunication Development
Conference 2017 (WTDC-17)
Bali, 21 March 2017

Mrs. Farida Dwi Cahyarini, Secretary General of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Indonesia,

Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director of Telecommunication Development Bureau of the ITU,

Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, ITU Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific,

Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi waba'rakatuh
A very good morning to you all.

Let me begin by extending, on behalf of the Government of Indonesia, our warmest welcome to you all to Bali, the island of Paradise, and our high appreciation for attending this "ITU Regional Preparatory Meeting for World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017".

It is indeed a great pleasure for Indonesia to co-host this important event, along with ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and ITU Area Office Jakarta. It is certainly not the first event that we have jointly hosted, and hopefully it will pave the way for more collaborations between Indonesia and ITU in the future with a view to fostering ICT development in the region.

Allow me now to deliver this remarks on behalf of the Minister for Communications and Informations Technology of the Republic of Indonesia.

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we are all well aware, ICT expands vast opportunities and provides convenience to our daily life. And with the rapid growing of technology that remains ahead of the policy, we are continously challenged to match our responses with the emerging ICT issues.

Collective efforts, therefore, has to be our greatest modality.

The development of telecommunication infrastructure and networks alone can no longer suffice to the rapid pace of technological advances of our time.

In building a nation's digital landscape, we, in our view, need to prioritize on creating a holistic ecosystem consisting of: spectrum frequencies; telecommunication infrastructure; information and communication technologies; content applications; and strategic policies.

Those components are all intertwined and inseparable, and the developments of each of those components are equally important to contribute in pursuing Indonesia's vision to be the largest digital economy in the Southeast Asia by the year of 2020.

In order to pursue the above vision, Indonesian ICT regulators have started developing an enabling environment for the digital economy.

Indonesia sees digital economy as a practical, effective and scalable mean to address wealth and income disparities, by empowering domestic Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector through digital connectivity and technical capabilities.

Indonesia also views that digital economy could create an enabling platform to strengthen financial inclusion, promote and sustain shared economy, also harness improvement in the levels of economical and functional productivity. These elements are crucial in our efforts to enhance the overall standard of living of its intended beneficiaries.

As concrete steps in strengthening our digital economy, Indonesia endeavors to not only build and develop infrastructure and services, but also policy and regulatory environment that promote development and capacity building for all stakeholders.

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the last quarter of 2015, the Government of Indonesia has put digital economy as one of its priorities and accentuates the significance of e-commerce towards developing its digital economy and national economy.

This priority has been reflected at the highest level of our administration, and set forth in the Fourteenth President's Economy Policy Package on e-Commerce aimed to positively shape regulatory framework of this industry.

In this regard, Indonesia, under the leadership of the Ministry of Communications and IT, has outlined strategic and crucial components to develop a digital economy and ecosystem through implementation of several projects, among others, are:

- **First,** creating 1.000 technopreneurs by the year of 2020;
- **Second,** providing 1 million free dot ID domain name for 1 year to SMEs, schools, and villages;
- **Third**, providing internet literacy capacity building for 350.000 fishermen and farmers as well as 1 million SMEs to promote their products on the online markets; and
- **Fourth,** developing national digital signature system, namely SiVION, to support online identity and securing electronic transactions with a view to building confidence in the use of ICTs.

By implementing the aforementioned e-Commerce roadmap, Indonesia projects the industry to expedite up to $130 billion value of business transactions by the year of 2020, equal to 1.710 trillion Indonesian Rupiah.

The growth of telecommunication services and the use of Internets pose challenges for Indonesia in managing the uses of our spectrum frequencies, which has surpassed our nation's capabilities to provide telecommunication infrastructure.

Notwithstanding the archipelagic nature of our country, Indonesia has launched Palapa Ring Project. It is Indonesia's largest fiber optic backbone project that connect Indonesia's main islands all over Western, Central, and Eastern Indonesia.

This backbone infrastructure will be connected to Indonesia's first-ever government owned, multi-functional satellite, which will enhance and strengthen communication amongst cross-cutting strategic government sectors, such as national security and defense, maritime navigation, telecommunication, and education.

It is indeed our fervent hope that those efforts can increase digital access and provide more economic opportunities in order to further enhance prosperity for all Indonesian people.

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I believe that our ultimate aim is crystal clear. We have to enhance the capacity of the developing world in bridging the digital divide and use ICT as a solution as well as a tool to increase human development and achievements.

Yet, if it falls in the wrong hands, it could be an instrument of crimes and discord.

We believe that not only Indonesia, but also many countries are confronted by this paradox that can be counterproductive to our efforts in achieving progress and development.

Therefore, the development of digital economy and ICT should lies under the foundation of secure and ethical cyber space for all its users.

In this context, Indonesia's efforts in developing our digital economy does not merely about the issue of technology and infrastructures, but also regarding management of the content in the virtual world.

Indonesia is committed to continuously encourage ethical and responsible behavior of any means of telecommunications, and particularly, has developed measures in combating negative online content concerning cyber terrorism, misinformation, the spread of irrelevant or false information, and cyber pornography.

We hope and believe that our efforts in strengthening our information resilience needs can contribute positively to the rate of economic growth.

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Indonesia fervently hope that this Regional Preparatory Meeting will produce fruitful outcome and recommendations from the Asia Pacific region as valuable inputs towards the upcoming WTDC to be held in Buenos Aires in October 2017.

We certainly wish that this Meeting can perpetuate the works and outcomes of the previous RPM Asia Pacific 2013 in Cambodia, which highlighted crucial recommendations for future ITU-D priority areas, and works, namely in the field of cyber security; infrastructure; emergency telecommunications; enabling environment; and also future study group questions and ITU-D working methods.

I am also hopeful that this deliberation will facilitate further development of all ITU member States' in the sector of telecommunications, ICT developmcent, and digital economy.

Let me conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation to all the Organizing Committee from the MCIT Indonesia as well as for the ITU's team for excellent preparation of this Meeting.

We wish you a memorable and pleasant stay in Indonesia, and hope that you will also have time to explore and immerse yourself in the beauty and culture of Bali.

I now hereby declare this Meeting officially open.

Thank you.