

**ITU Regional Forum on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators: Measuring
the Information Society
& ITU-ASEAN Meeting on Establishing National ICT Statistics Portals
and Measuring ASEAN ICT Targets**

WELCOME REMARKS

Distinguished speakers and guests,

Dear colleagues,

ICT Stakeholders,

Ladies and gentlemen, Good morning.

It is a great honor for me to welcome you to the opening of this regional forum and to deliver these welcome remarks on behalf of the ASEAN and the Philippine TELSOM Leader, Usec Louis Napoleon Casambre, who was not, unfortunately, able to be with us here but is looking forward with keen interest to hearing the outcomes of this meeting.

I would like first, to congratulate the ITU and the ASEAN for co-organizing this regional forum, and to thank the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission of Thailand for hosting the twin-billed event.

Let me express my sincere appreciation to ITU-BDT and its Director, Mr Brahima Sanou for inviting me to join this gathering of ICT stakeholders today.

With a suite of topics for this regional forum focusing on measuring the Information Society and the ASEAN ICT Targets, we could appropriately call this event our **measurable moment**.

Colleagues,

Our measurable moment is an opportunity for telecommunications/ICT stakeholders to be updated and to share experiences on the regional progress in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in 2003 and 2005, including the ASEAN initiatives on ICT targets. Survey data collected in 2013 from

stakeholders, and publicly available data, suggest that there has been progress in the past decade towards achieving the WSIS objectives.

We also commend the synergies between the global and regional partners for their continuing collaborations on development programs and multi-sectoral initiatives that harness the potentials of ICTs in creating opportunities and addressing the challenges of the global community.

Large segments of the population have access to ICTs, in particular mobile phones and increasing number of public institutions are connected online than ever before. We need to reflect these developments in the most expeditious and systematic way.

Noting that further improvements in terms of broadband access, utilization of broadband, and local content creation, ITU and ASEAN established programs and coordination mechanisms are in best position to address the challenge and measure the progress of these undertakings.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This meeting has appropriately considered the important role of ICT portals, in providing efficient and effective platform of processing and presenting the ICT indicators and targets. The publicly made available data on the Internet medium provide us with a wealth of information to help us gain knowledge, opportunities and informed decisions in the different pursuits of the Information Society.

We are now at the threshold of further understanding the definitions and the standards of ICT measurements, including the regional targets to translate key goals into measurable targets and to identify areas to be measured, both in national and regional context.

Let me thank the national statisticians for your presence on this regional forum, which is a clear indication of your commitment to the establishment of schemes that will collect and present ICT statistics through national ICT statistics portals. ICT portals have become

effective platforms for coordination, knowledge and information sharing.

Having said that, significant strides in measuring our development goals have really been made. These developments bode well with our ongoing and future regional coordination and collaboration in ICT for development programs, particularly in addressing the new challenges and opportunities in the ICT ecosystem.

Colleagues,

Having set the contextual directions of this regional forum, please allow me to reiterate some of the important considerations on the outcomes of this event:

- 1) Highlight the importance of an international monitoring process and identify stakeholders to take a lead in any framework on ICT goals and targets.
- 2) Encourage the statistical community to provide technical support to guide the formulation of targets and indicators to produce

robust and reliable statistics for the development of relevant policies and programs.

3) ICT targets should be time-bound, concrete and measurable in order to track progress, identify shortcomings and evaluate existing policies.

In closing, I wish everyone will enjoy our measurable moment with insightful discussion of issues and exchange of information leading to a very productive four-day meeting.

Thank you.