

**13th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS)
Leaders' Dialogue**

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OBSERVATIONS OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY

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It is my great privilege and pleasure to be invited here at the Leader's Dialogue during the 13th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium, which is an outstanding occasion to discuss new and emerging issues on ICT data and statistics.

The Asia-Pacific Telcommunity or APT is an intergovernmental organization of 38 Member States in the Asia-Pacific region. The APT also has a number of members from the industry. Our focuses are on promoting the expansion of telecommunication services and information infrastructure and the maximization of the benefits of information and telecommunications technology for the welfare of the people in the region; developing regional cooperation in areas of common interest; undertaking studies relating to developments in telecommunication and information infrastructure technology and policy and regulation in coordination with other international organizations; encouraging technology transfer, human resource development and the exchange of information for the balanced development of telecommunication services and information infrastructure within the region; and facilitating coordination within the region with regard to major issues pertaining to telecommunication services and information infrastructure with a view to strengthening the region's international position.

Each year the APT has organized a number of activities on its work programme. During the discussion at various APT events, APT Member administrations and industry members highlighted the impacts of emerging technologies or services. Among the emerging technologies and services, "Internet of Things (IoT)" and "Smart Cities" are commonly referred.

IoT is a global infrastructure for the information society, enabling advanced services by interconnecting things based on existing and evolving interoperable information and communication technologies.

The increasing availability of data collected and transmitted in real-time through ubiquitous network will undoubtedly lead the innovation in business and technology, and consequently spur the development of information society. IoT is expected to play a fundamental role in the fields of energy, transportation, health, agriculture, disaster management, public safety and home networks. Therefore, governments and industry are heavily investing on IoT infrastructure nowadays. In terms of investment, it is to be noted that radio-frequency identification (RFID) and ubiquitous sensor network (USN) facilitating the advent of IoT and the implementation of Internet Protocol version six (IPv6) may contribute to future development of IoT. It is likely that technology, especially IoT, develops faster than the

regulation. So it would be better to understand the characteristics of IoT which might be defined as to:

- **connect** any objects and gather information through sensors;
- **share** the gathered information in real-time;
- **process** and accumulate the shared information to be used; and
- **evolve** and transform the current business practice

The IoT is widely expected to play a key role in achieving sustainable development and tackling down the challenges of countries, cities and municipalities in the areas of, but not limited to, government services, transport and traffic management, energy, health care, water and waste. H.E. Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister of Singapore, which is one of APT Members, stated that:

*Our vision is for Singapore to be a Smart Nation – A nation where **people live meaningful and fulfilled lives, enabled seamlessly by technology, offering exciting opportunities for all.***

- Launch of Smart Nation, November 2014

The statement indicates how IoT and Smart City (or Smart Nation) shapes future development of the information society.

With the advent of the IoT, our society has evolved to hyper connected world which requires the different approaches to measure ICT sector. The current indicators included in the ‘World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators’ comprises: Demography(Economy); Fixed telephone network; Mobile cellular network; Fixed Internet; Wireless broadband; Tariffs; Traffic; Staff; Revenue; Investment; Household ICT access and individual use; and Broadcasting.

Recently, during the deliberation of Asia-Pacific Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum of the APT, so called ‘ADF’, APT members requested the statistics on sensors, especially in the areas of disaster management. However, the APT Secretariat was not able to acquire the figures so we plan to study on this topic next year. In this connection, the APT could collaborate with ITU by providing relevant information since APT itself is not an organization who deals with indicators or statistics directly.

In conclusion, I believe the existing indicators of the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators would be more useful if some more data could be added to accommodate the evolving needs in today’s hyper connected world, for instance: number of RFID or USN Sensors; number of IoT devices; and number of IPv6 enabled networks or devices.

Thank you.
