Opening speech at the ITU-T workshop "NGN and its Transport Networks"
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Mr. Matsui, President of ITU Association of Japan,
Mr. Matsumoto, Director-General for Technology Policy Coordination of MIC, Japan,
Mr. Inoue, Chief Technology Officer, NTT
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the ITU Association of Japan for inviting us to hold this workshop in the beautiful city of Kobe. I would also like to express my thanks to the Japanese Government and Japanese industry for their support for this event. I regret very much that I cannot personally participate because of my engagement with the ITU Council-2006, which started yesterday, 19 April.

In recent years, operators from around the globe have begun implementing NGN strategies and they will invest billions of dollars in the rollout of new Internet Protocol (IP) based networks. NGN standardization work is now well underway in the ITU-T and other SDOs. Following the creation of the Focus Group on NGN (FGNGN) in May 2004, there were intensive meetings, almost every two months. We saw strong growth in participation and in the number of contributions. Since October 2005, a new phase in this aggressive programme has started under the name the "ITU-T NGN-Global Standards Initiative (NGN-GSI)". ITU-T quickly organized the first NGN-GSI event in Geneva in January 2006. Experts from various ITU-T Study Groups met, holding many meetings to progress the work. The next NGN-GSI event will be held here in Kobe, Japan, immediately after this workshop, and the third one will be held in Geneva in July.

Now I would like to present here the group's achievements "ITU-T NGN FG Proceedings, Parts I and II, 2005", which include the deliverables agreed by the FGNGN at its last meeting mid-November 2005, together with background information on the creation of the FGNGN and information on the future direction of NGN work in ITU-T. I am pleased to present a free CD of these proceedings for each participant.

I recall a statement by industry leaders in 2001 that "There was a consensus that after the WTSA-2000, the ITU-T procedures are now very streamlined and efficient". The success of the FGNGN provides an excellent example of how the ITU can be very open, very dynamic, very transparent, very quick to act and react, and among many other benefits, a very low-cost place for industry and other members to work on global ICT standards. ITU-T has worked very hard during past months to strengthen its work on Home Networking, RFID, and very recently, in the middle of April, I announced the establishment of a Focus Group on IPTV (FG IPTV), following the extraordinary consensus view I received from the recent open consultation meeting on IPTV. This proves that ITU can pick up any important topic the market needs at any time.

ITU has worked very hard to improve its standardization environment since WTSA-2000. However, without the support of its Members, ITU would not have been able to achieve any of its past or recent success. ITU is very proud of, and highly appreciates, the important contribution of

the Japanese Members in ITU's standardization work. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage the Japanese ICT industry and Japanese experts to continue their valuable contributions to ITU's standardization work, which, I firmly believe, is beneficial to both ITU and Japanese industry.

Following the success of the NGN Focus Group and the establishment of the NGN Global Standards Initiative (NGN-GSI) in ITU-T, this ITU-T workshop will be an opportunity to share our progress with Japanese experts. At this workshop, we will review the status of the work, especially of Study Groups 13 and 15, identify current and future technology trends, and provide a framework for moving forward standardization work. This workshop will overview the architecture, performance and transport aspects of NGN as well as market drivers and challenges. Particular emphasis will be given to network technologies, standards that address architecture and performance aspects of NGN and transport network aspects to support NGN services. The strong team of speakers we have selected for you will provide you with up-to-date knowledge on ITU's work. I hope you enjoy their presentations.

To conclude my short speech, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Chair and the members of the steering committee, the chairs, moderators of sessions and speakers, as well as the TSB staff, for their excellent cooperation and hard work to bring this workshop to reality. I would also like to express my thanks to the Japanese industry members for their financial contributions to support this event. Once again, I would like to thank the host and the local Japanese supporting team for their remarkable hospitality and their enthusiastic and efficient support for this workshop.

I wish you all a successful meeting.

Thank you