

## Welcome Remarks

Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)  
at ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Development Forum 2015  
21-22 August 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

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**Mrs Songporn Komolsuradej, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and  
Communication Technology, Thailand**

**Mr. Brahim Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT),  
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

**Excellencies,**

**Honourable Guests,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning!

It is indeed my great pleasure and honour to be here to say a few words at the “ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Development Forum 2015” in Bangkok, Thailand.

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) especially the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for inviting the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) to participate in this important event. This confirms the closed cooperation between the ITU and the APT in the area of ICT development in the Asia-Pacific region.

I also wish to thank the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Thailand for graciously hosting this year’s Forum. Your excellent arrangement and hospitality has always been impressive and memorable.

**Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

According to the ICT Figures released by the ITU at the end of 2014, there are around 3 billion Internet users all over the world. Around 45 percent of the world’s Internet users are from the Asia-Pacific region. One-third of the population in Asia and the Pacific are online.

The Asia-Pacific tops other regions in the number of fixed broadband subscription with 45 percent are from our region. 3.6 billion out of 7 billion of mobile cellular subscriptions in the world are also from the Asia-Pacific.

Despite all these figures, there is still disparity in broadband penetration and ICT development within the region.

Looking at the agenda of the RDF this year, the Forum will touch on key aspects of ICT development outlined in Connect Asia-Pacific Summit 2013 and the ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives (2015-2018) in the context of Smartly Digital Asia-Pacific appropriately. I am delighted and at the same time excited to see the rich programme of the RDF. I am certain that the discussion during the next two days will help stimulate fresh ideas and initiatives for our region.

The theme of the RDF 2015 is “Smartly Digital Asia-Pacific”. The APT also shares the vision of building Smartly Digital Asia-Pacific for economic prosperity and societal well-being of our people through ICT. On behalf the management of the APT, I reassure our continuous cooperation and support to the ITU in the journey towards smartly digital Asia-Pacific.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Please allow me to illustrate the cooperation between the APT and the ITU in the area of ICT development.

Through our preparatory process, the APT continues to play role in coordinating issues of regional interest and submission of regional contributions to the ITU Conferences such as the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conferences which address the issues around ICT Development, in particular.

At the regional level, the APT has also collaborated closely with the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

For this year, in June, the APT organized the 8<sup>th</sup> APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific back-to-back with the Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2015 & Pacific ICT Officials' Meeting, which were organized by the University of the South Pacific and the ITU in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

Later in July, the APT organized a training course on Radio Spectrum Management and Services in Fiji, which was held back-to-back with the Pacific Regional Seminar on Spectrum Management and Terrestrial TV Broadcast in Pacific organized by the ITU.

These are a few examples of successful collaboration between the APT and ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. I would like to thank Mr. Ioane Koroivuki and his team at the ITU Regional Office in Bangkok for the genuine intention to work hand in hand with us.

We would like to further strengthen our collaboration to synergize our effort and create impactful outcomes for the Asia-Pacific. We hope to see more collaborative activities in the future.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Along the line with the ICT development activities of ITU, I would like to bring to your attention that the APT will be organizing the 12th Asia-Pacific Telecommunication and ICT Development Forum or ADF during 22-24 September 2015, in Macao, China. The ADF will focus on topics that are essential and urgent issues for ICT development especially in developing countries, such as facilitating investment for the establishment of ICT

infrastructure; sustainable development through improving accessibility and affordability of ICT services; and sharing of best practices, practical experiences and projects in these fields. The ITU has also indicated the participation in this ADF. And I would like to invite distinguished delegates who are interested to attend the event.

**Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to take this opportunity to extend to the ITU once again the congratulation on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the ITU. The APT members had organized the celebration during the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the APT Policy and Regulatory Forum in Singapore early this month and sent the Congratulatory Message from APT members to the ITU.

Lastly, may I once again express my sincere appreciation to the ITU and the Ministry of ICT Thailand for organizing and hosting this RDF.

With those few words, I would like to conclude by extending a warm welcome to all of you and wishing you a successful meeting and fruitful deliberation.

Thank you.

since this year is the I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the ITU on the 150th anniversary.