



WELCOME REMARKS
By
Mrs. Songporn Komolsuradej
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of ICT Thailand
For
ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Development Forum 2015
21-22 AUGUST 2015, BANGKOK, THAILAND

Mr. Brahim Sanou, Director of Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU,
Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of Asia-Pacific Telecommunity,
Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, Regional Director of ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific,
Distinguished delegates and participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is an honour for me to be with you today and to welcome you to the ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Development Forum 2015 which is jointly organized by ITU and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology of Thailand, and supported by the Australian Government.

First of all, I on behalf of the Thai Government and the Ministry of ICT in particular, would like to thank ITU for its trust and the opportunity for Thailand to host this important event. The theme of the forum **“Smartly Digital Asia-Pacific”** can trace back to the year of 2013 when Thailand hosted the **“Connect Asia-Pacific Summit”** whereby

about 625 participants from 37 ITU Asia-Pacific Member States including Heads of State and ministers attended. The Summit adopted the “Leaders’ Vision” and “Summit Communiqué” focusing on Asia-Pacific 2020: Smartly DIGITAL. The outcome of that summit also contributed to the World Telecommunication Development Conference or WTDC-2014 which was held in Dubai.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Development Forum 2015 today therefore is a good opportunity to review the development progress as regards the outcome of the 2013 Summit and especially the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives under the Dubai Action Plan adopted at the WTDC-2014.

I am glad to see a lot of familiar faces and a number of country delegates together with representatives from various organizations in both public and private sectors are gathered today and will discuss opportunities and challenges we are facing in ICT development in the Asia-Pacific region in particular. I am very impressed with the forum programme which was well designed to addresses key topics and issues and to meet the needs of member countries including Thailand especially that the country is in its transition towards making and promoting sustainable digital economy and society. Hence I am confident that we will benefit from these intensive discussions in the next two days.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In this conclusion, let me once again welcome you to the forum and to the country of smiles. I hope you will enjoy your stay in Bangkok and have some time to explore the city while I look forward to seeing fruitful outcome of the forum.

Thank you.