**International Telecommunication Union
Telecommunication Development Bureau**

# Pacific Radiocommunication Workshop 2018 (PRW-18)

#  **4 – 6 September 2018, Honiara, Solomon Islands**

**Opening Remarks**

ITU

Respected

* Mr **XXXXXXXXXX,** Ministry of Communication and Aviation of Solomon Islands
* Mr **XXXXXXXXXX,**

**Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) it is my great pleasure and privilege in addressing you during the opening of the first Pacific Radiocommunication Workshop 2018 (PRW-18), here in Honiara.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Ministry of Communication and Aviation of Solomon Islands for hosting the event and Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA), for the support in organization of this key event that indeed backs up the activities of ITU Regional office of Asia-Pacific to achieve the expected output of Regional Initiative 3 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan finalized during WTDC-17. We have designed this sub-Regional event as a platform for exchange of views and sharing of ideas between ITU members administrations and industry for efficient and harmonized utilization of Spectrum resource in the region and beyond.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

As you all are aware, today wireless technology drives the development of information, communication services, education, health and capacity building among others. This rapid evolution of wireless services depends on one crucial national asset – the radio spectrum. But as you choose waves for service delivery you start to have unique challenges associated with sharing the limited available spectrum resource. The difficult questions of **How, to whom and for what** applications the spectrum may be allocated start to arise, and as the competition for some preferred frequency bands increases the issues of economic aspect of spectrum management needs brainstorming.

Consequently SMART management of Radio Frequency spectrum Internationally, Regionally and even nationally has now become one of the most demanding, if not challenging, issue. With the fast paced technology drift, Administrations and regulators are always found working overtime on issues related to:

* *Spectrum Policy and regulatory framework*
* *Spectrum Economics*
* *Spectrum re-farming*
* *Spectrum Monitoring and Cross-border RF Interference Management etc.*

**Distinguished Guests**

As the demand for the implementation of wireless broadband and the delivery of service begins, some very unique challenges associated with the sharing of this limited available spectrum resource begins to surface. The difficult questions of how, which and what applications spectrum will be allocated for demands answers. So how do we manage this resource so critically needed for the next generation of communication technology? this same spectrum which is also shared for other uses? but are just as equally important to us all, such as: (i) Defense and public protection, (ii) Aeronautical and maritime communications; (iii) Earth exploration, meteorology and scientific research; (iv) Global positioning and tracking; (v) Television and sound broadcasting; (vi) Satellite and radio-relays; (vii) Critical Communications, and (viii) Medical and industrial applications. **Distinguished participants**

Managing and monitoring RF spectrum therefore in this modern age of wireless communication is so important for the Asia Pacific Region. It is well recognized that WRC decisions taken also contribute to the development of technology, where devices and systems are made available globally, based on standards adopted by the ITU and benefiting from global economies of scale. This is the more reason why WRC processes are so important in addressing allocations to services in a particular frequency band, in enhancing allocations and promoting and also protecting investments.

In the last five years, radio interface specifications adopted by ITU for IMT in anticipation of the upcoming generation of broadband mobile systems defined requirements in terms of quality, speed, spectrum efficiency, and the evaluation of technologies to meet these requirements. These specifications, if I may add, are now used in a growing number of countries, in particular in the Asia Pacific, to deliver state of the art wireless broadband. Since 2014, ITU studies have followed a similar path in defining the next generation of IMT, IMT 2020, the ITU umbrella for 5G.

In addition to all this, the ITU, as the specialized agency for ICTs in the United Nations system, is continuing in its efforts to assist administrations – especially least developing countries – through direct country assistances in developing national frequency management plans, and addressing national frequency allocation tables and making available publications that include, amongst others, the ‘ITU Handbooks’ on

• *National Spectrum Management*

• *Spectrum Monitoring*

• *Computer Aided Techniques for Spectrum Management*

• *Recommendations and reports of the ITU Study Groups*

Whilst the publications are useful resources for understanding the concepts, supplementary trainings and seminars are also conducted to build capacity and prepare relevant material to link Spectrum Management concepts and real life practical applications.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

The building of capacity and development of expertise in the area of spectrum management is an identified requirement to address existing skill gaps. In recognition of this, ITU has been working on its Spectrum Management Training Program (SMTP), which is amongst the series of educational products provided under the ITU Academy, guided by the needs and priorities of the ITU membership. Currently we ITU is engaged in updating SMTP course material to align it with modern trends and requirements.

In addition ITU regional office has been arranging a number of trainings under the auspices of its Center of Excellence programs. Earlier in April this year we arranged a week long training covering issues related to:

* Big data in Spectrum Monitoring,
* Space Radio Monitoring,
* IoT and IMT RF planning,
* UAV based RF monitoring

I am happy to inform you that we in addition to country specific actions ad projects, ITU would arrange further such trainings and workshops in future as well.

**Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In conclusion, I would like to encourage all stakeholders to join ITU in its efforts of implementation of the actions related to the spectrum management defined by the World Telecommunication Development Conference and in this context. I wish everyone a productive workshop and look forward to interesting discussions over the next 3 days.

Thank you.