

“Girls in ICT Day Indonesia and Asia and the Pacific

Knowledge Sharing and Networking Session”

Regional Director of ITU Asia and the Pacific – Opening Remarks

Dr. Atsuko Okuda

Sunday, 21 May 2023

10:00 – 10:20 Bali time (GMT+8) time

Closing Remarks

Duration: 7 minutes

Distinguished Guests, and participants,

Good morning and welcome to the Girls in ICT Day Indonesia and Asia and the Pacific Knowledge Sharing and Networking Session.

It is an honor to welcome you all as we celebrate Girls in ICT Day Indonesia as part of the Masterclass of the Asian Media Summit 2023. Today is an important day for all of us to embark on an accelerated digital journey as we strive to empower girls and young women in Indonesia by promoting education and careers in Science, technology, engineering and mathematics, especially information and communication technology.

I am equally thrilled to welcome our two moderators, **Ms. Ni Ketut Abel Patricia** and **Ms. Ericin Amarta**. Both of them are students from the London School of Public Relations Bali. Alongside the participating female students from Bali, they will share their personal experience during today’s event.

I also welcome the 36 female students from various institutions in Bali, including **S-M-A 2 Kuta Selatan, Politeknik Negeri Bali**, and **The London School of Public Relations, Bali**. Thank you for your participation and contributions to this celebration.

Today’s event would not have been possible without the unwavering support and commitment from the **Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)** as our co-organizer, **Television of the Republic of Indonesia (TVRI)**, the **Ministry of Communication and Informatics Indonesia**, and the **Government of Australia**, represented by **DITRDCA** and **DFAT**.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is encouraging to learn that according to the 2022 data from the Indonesian Central Statistics Agency, 70.2% of Indonesian youth and adults aged 15-59 have skills in using Information and Communication Technology (ICT). This indicates a relatively high level of digital literacy in the country. Moreover, 11 provinces in Indonesia have surpassed the national average in terms of the percentage of people having ICT skills, with Jakarta leading at 91.8% and Bali at 77.1%.

Additionally, Indonesia has made progress in women's empowerment, as evidenced by the increase in the Gender Empowerment Index in 2022. This can be attributed to the higher representation of women in legislative bodies and the growing contribution of women as professional workers in the country. This achievement underscores the importance of promoting gender equality and empowering girls and young women in various sectors, including ICT. By investing in the digital skills development of girls and young women, Indonesia can foster an inclusive and thriving digital ecosystem, benefiting both individuals and the overall economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Digitally empowering girls and youth women is not something one organization can achieve and I am delighted to inform you of various collaboration and partnerships we established for this cause.

With the support of the **Ministry of Communication and Informatics Indonesia and UNICEF**, we have designed a session dedicated to the topic of online safety, based on the ITU Child Online Protection Guidelines. We will also provide a snapshot of girls' digital literacy in East Asia and the Pacific, as presented in the newly published UNICEF report, with a special focus on Indonesia and other countries in Southeast Asia.

Moreover, today's event is the first time we introduce a presentation on how broadcasting and digital technologies can create synergies for inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific, in partnership with **TVRI and the Ministry of ICT Samoa**.

Through these information sessions and panel discussions, featuring inspiring female leaders in ICT and broadcasting, we hope that you become interested to pursue careers in ICT, broadcasting, and other related fields and join us to co-create our future, which is digital.

I wish all the partners and participants a successful Knowledge Sharing and Networking Session in Indonesia today.

Thank you.