



**ITU-ACMA International Training Program 2014
Convergent Regulation Through First Principles Thinking**

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Mr Chris Chapman, Chairman, ACMA
Heads of Regulatory Authorities,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to the ACMA-ITU International Training Program (ITP) 2014.

First of all, I would like to thank you all for such an enthusiastic response to the ITP-2014. This is the 8th ITP since 2006. On behalf of ITU, all participants and on my behalf, I would like to convey our sincere gratitude to the ACMA for co-organizing and hosting this training program. Our appreciation also goes to the Department of Communications, Government of Australia, for its financial support.

As some of you have attended and contributed, we have just finished the Asia-Pacific Regulators' Roundtable (RR) which was attended by 16 heads/board members represented by 24 countries that discussed on the needs and ways

of regulating in a networked society i.e., beyond mere convergence of telecommunication, broadcasting and information technology.

The purpose of the ITP is to share the experiences of regulatory practices in the Asia-Pacific region, the host country inter alia, as it has been initiated and hosted by Australia for many years and then was rotated to India in 2012 and Republic of Korea in 2013. This year it has returned back to Australia and in this lovely city of Sydney.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This year's theme for ITP is **“Convergent Regulation through First Principles Thinking”**

This largely flows from the changing and expanding role of the ICT sector. Till recently, we used to be a sector responsible for communication, and now we have become the driving force that brings efficiencies and effectiveness to all sectors of the society in attaining their sector specific objectives using ICTs.

This has been made possible by ownership and highest level attention paid by the leaderships for the role that ICT plays for achieving socio economic development, for instances, i-strategy in Japan, Intelligent Nation in Singapore, Digital Economy in Australia, smart Thailand, National Broadband Initiative in Malaysia, Digital Bangladesh, and many more.

But at the same time, it enhances the risks that we expose ourselves. The infrastructure and the services are now considered “critical” with broadband increasingly becoming leaders mandate and citizen's fundamental right.

While a necessary driver of growth, managing ICT is a double edged sword! ICT can be a good servant but a bad master, meaning that the impact of abuse of this tool in an ICT embedded society also has wide ranging impact on social, cultural, economic and safety dimensions of individuals and nations. Some examples of implications are as follows:

- The same network saving lives through e-health and disaster communications can also take those through cyber-attacks and cyber bullies;
- The same application providing health services and universal education has the potential to expose them to inappropriate contents;

- The lack of interoperability of multiple devices through multiple platforms can create great dissatisfaction;
- The complexity of service delivery makes consumer protection extremely difficult to administer and enforce; and
- The both sides of coin: i.e., privacy vs. security.

Ladies and gentlemen,

What does it mean for regulation?

We are now entering the fourth generation of regulation; following the past eras of regulating monopoly, introducing competition and managing competition. Although I said this during the Roundtable but for the benefit of those who have just joined today, would like to restate

“The fourth-generation regulators differ from previous generations of regulators in the emphasis they place on the pursuit of government social and economic policy goals, as well as on the need for improved consumer protection and access to broadband networks. The digital ecosystem enabled by smart phones, high-speed networks, convergence, cloud computing, over-the-top services and massive data manipulation (i.e., “big data”), as well as the “Internet of things” – all of these trends and innovations provide challenges and opportunities to advance regulatory practices and goals. Through effective cooperation among all stakeholders – and with the right balance of regulation – regulators can combat the negative activities occurring in the digital ecosystem and maximize the immense benefits it can bring to people around the world.”

The fourth generation of regulation is not evolutionary but radical. While continuing our existing mandate of moving this sector through infrastructure and appropriate enabling environments, the ICT stakeholders need to step out of their comfort zone and think about public policies like how we can remove hunger and improve health? How can we create more skills and jobs? How can we use it for better governance and commerce? What are the areas where we need to proactively support our fellow regulators in other sectors, nationally and internationally so that they can harness the full benefit with confidence? How do we address challenges that are beyond national jurisdiction?

Like you also, I have so many unanswered questions in my mind and I am sure that the experts – i.e., speakers or even you all with extensive experiences in your own countries - will be able to answer many of these queries!

In training like this, we can not only learn regulatory initiatives and experiences from the host country but also there is a unique opportunity to learn from experiences from each other, while I encourage you to interact and network with each other as much as possible.

While I have the floor, I take this opportunity to invite you to two of our forthcoming global events i.e. 4th ITU Green Standards Week (Beijing, 22-26 September) that will focus on Green ICT standards including smart sustainable city and to the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference-2014 that will be held at Busan, Republic of Korea (20 October – 7 November, 2014).

Dear Participants,

I express my gratitude to all the speakers from ACMA, Department Of Communications, other agencies from Australia and from our Regulators including Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, New Zealand and our colleagues from APNIC who would make this training an exciting experience for all!

My colleagues from the ITU and our hosts ACMA are here with you for the remaining days to serve you better for the enjoyable stay at Sydney as well as for the successful training.

Finally, I would like to thank you all, especially the participants for taking their time to join this training and I wish you all a very interactive, enjoyable and successful training!

I Thank You = ITU !